

Willow Wood Community Nursery & Primary School



Acting Headteacher: Ms Katie Ullein

- Nursery for 3 & 4 year olds
- Breakfast Club from 08:00 £1



WHERE PUPILS FLOURISH

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Newsletter 11th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

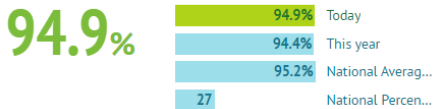


A big congratulations to our 'Strive for 5' Raffle winner Faith! A worthy winner of a new tablet!

Well done for reading at home at least 5 times a week!

Attendance update:

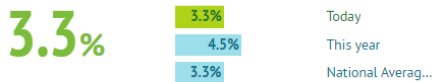
Whole School Attendance



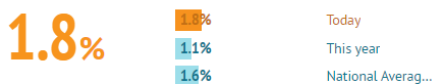
Statutory Attendance



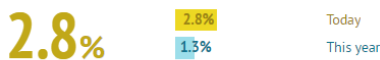
Authorised Absent



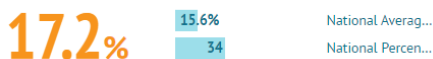
Unauthorised Absent



Late



Persistent Absentees (DfE Whole Year)



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.
 Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Whole school attendance has stayed the same compared to last Monday at 94.9% but overall this year it has gone up a tiny bit again to 94.4%. Amazing! Last week we had 1 class with 100% attendance for the week, so a big well done to Seedlings, our Nursery class for having the best class attendance!

Please be reminded that punctuality is just as important as attendance, school starts at 8:45am and the register closes at 9:15am, any children arriving after the register has closed will result in an unauthorised U mark. Under the new attendance laws, when children receive 10 or more unauthorised marks, schools can refer them to the local authority for a fixed penalty.

All Schools in Winsford belong to the Winsford Education Partnership (WEP). Attendance across WEP schools is managed using a staged approach (see table below). When a child's attendance falls below the expected 96 %, Parents will be contacted for support. Parents of children whose Attendance falls below 94% may be invited into school for a meeting with Mrs Colenso, our Family Support and Attendance Officer.

Green group	No Concern. This child has an attendance of between 96%-100%	A minimum attendance of 97% equates to one school week absent	No action
Yellow group	Concern This child has an attendance of less than 96% but above 94%	School attendance of 95% equates to 10 missed school days per year or 50 lessons in one year.	Attendance needs to improve – school will send out Attendance letter 1.
Amber group	Risk of Underachievement This child has an attendance of less than 94% but above 92%	School attendance of 93% equates to three school weeks missed in one academic year or 75 lessons in one year.	Less than 94% will mean school monitors attendance more closely. A stage 2 attendance letter will be sent out and parents will be contacted by Mrs Colenso. asked to attend an attendance meeting with Mrs Colenso, where an attendance action plan will be put into place.
Purple group	Severe Risk of Underachievement This child has an attendance of less than 92%	A child with attendance of 90% will have missed four school weeks or 100 lessons.	Attendance has fallen below 92% and is now a serious concern. Attendance letter 2 is issued and Parents asked to attend an attendance meeting with Mrs Colenso, where an attendance action plan will be put into place and reviewed every 4 weeks. School will monitor attendance weekly and consult with the Education Welfare Officer from the Local authority about concerns. Medical evidence for illness may be required to authorise any future illness.
Red group	Extreme Risk of Underachievement child has an attendance of between 0% - 89.9%	Family at risk of referral to out	A Stage 3 parental meeting at the school is arranged with Mrs Ullein and Mrs Colenso. At this meeting, support, as well as referral to Local Authority is discussed for potential fixed penalty monitoring. Medical evidence for illness will be required to authorise any future illness.

We are still striving to be above 96% for whole school attendance, so please **only keep your children at home if they are really poorly**. Thank you for getting your children to school on time and ready to learn!

Reminders

- The school office hours are 8.15am – 4pm. Please leave a message on the answerphone if you call outside of these hours and we will get back to you.
- If phoning up to report a pupil absence. Please leave these on the absence answer machine, which is option 1. There is no need to speak to office staff to report a pupil absent, these messages get checked regularly. You can also record a pupil absence on the School Spider App.
- Parent reminder to keep your School Grid account in credit at all times. Meals need to be paid for in advance. Office staff are having to chase on a daily basis, accounts that are on stop due to no payment when a child has a lunch ordered. Easiest way to avoid this, is to top up £13.90 every Monday for a week of meals, this is £2.78 a day. School Grid is the parent's responsibility and not the schools.
- The **school photographer will be in school on Thursday 28th November 2024**. Photographs are for children in all years. The pictures taken will be for children attending Willow Wood Primary School only and any siblings they have in Willow Wood. On this occasion, photos WILL NOT be open to younger or older siblings who do not attend the school. Please ensure your child attends in full school uniform that day.

Important Dates to Remember

- **Friday 15th November** – Children in Need – Dress as a super hero!
- **Thursday 28th November** – School photographs – full uniform
- **Friday 6th December** - Christmas crafts -Y1-Y6 PM
- **Monday 9th December** – Christmas crafts – EYFS AM
- **Tuesday 10th December** – Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Northwich Pantomime visit.
- **Thursday 12th December** – Save the Children Christmas Jumper day
- **Wednesday 18th December** - Christmas Lunch
- **Thursday 19th December** – Class Christmas parties – PM
- **Christmas Nativity Dates TBC**

Parents evenings

Parents evenings will take place this week on **Monday 11th**, **Tuesday 12th** and **Wednesday 13th November** 3:30-6pm. Appointments are live on school spider for you to book a slot to meet with your child's teacher. If you need any help booking a slot please see your child's class teacher.

Pupil Spotlight

Nancy was chosen by the opposition manager during her match last weekend as 'player of the match'.
Congratulations Nancy!



Children in Need

This year for Children in Need their motto is to make life lighter for children and empowering them to be the best they can be! So we are going to have a school full of superheroes for the day! On Friday 15th November your child can come to school dressed as a superhero and bring a donation of a £1 to go to Children in Need.



Parental Involvement

- **Little Willows** Mother & Toddler group each Thursday in the Sunshine Building hall.
- **Next SEND Parents Coffee & Chat** - Tuesday 3rd December
- **Next PTA Meeting** – Monday 9th December 9am

PTA Christmas Bauble Decorating Competition

From Monday 18th November your child will be able to pay £1 to take part in the PTA Christmas Bauble Decorating Competition.

Bring a £1 to your child's teacher, they will then receive a blank bauble that they can take home and decorate. Decorate one side and put name and class on the other side. When decorated return to school to be displayed on the Christmas tree in the hall. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for EYFS, KS1 and KS2.



EYFS 1st place will get a toy, KS1 1st place will get a craft bundle and KS2 1st place will be a gaming voucher.

Closing date Friday 13th December. Winners will be announced during the last week of term.

Calling all Asda shoppers...

You may have seen that Asda have launched 'Cashpots for Schools' which is running until the end of November Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our school & also donate £1 for every person who opts in. This won't affect your individual cashpot.

There are 19 days left to add to our cashpot, can we make it to £500?

We are now up to an amazing £456! Thank you to all the Asda shoppers!

Residential reminders

Year group	Residential to	Total cost	Deposit	Final payment
Y2	Tattenhall Date: 13 th -14 th May '25 1 night	£122 £61 (pupil premium)	£40 by 29 th Nov '24	£82 £21 (pupil premium) By 21 st Feb '25
Y3/4/5/6	Gulliver's World Date: 5 th -6 th June 1 night	£115 £57.50 (pupil premium)	£35 by 15 th Nov '24	£80 £22.50 (pupil premium) By 26 th April '25

Trips reminders

Trip	Year group	Date of trip	Cost	Needs to be paid by
Chester Zoo	Year 5/6	22/11/2024	£14 / PP £7	08/11/2024
Ice Cream Farm	Reception	05/12/2024	£16 / PP £8	21/11/2024
Panto	Year 3,4,5 & 6	10/12/2024	£16/ PP £8	26/11/2024
Jodrell Bank	Year 5/6	21/01/2025	£19 / PP £9.50	07/01/2025

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Your child may be able to get free school meals/pupil premium if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

The criteria also applies if your child is adopted or under a special guardianship order.

Please speak to the school office if you need any help with applying or have any questions.

It is important that you register, even if your child currently receives Universal Free Infant School Meals as there is additional funding (Pupil Premium) that school can apply for <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Finally

Please keep reading at home with your child each night for them to be in with a chance of winning a tablet in the next 'Strive for 5' raffle!

Warm regards,
Katie Ullein
Acting Head Teacher

