

# 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 16th December 2024

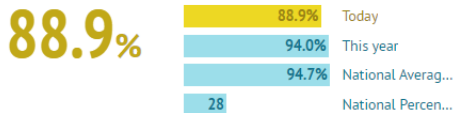
### Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely festive couple of weeks we have had! The KS2 singing in the church was beautiful and the KS1 and EYFS nativities were a sight to behold, with some absolutely stunning singing and amazing acting! There wasn't a dry eye in the house!

Please be reminded that school finishes at 2pm on Friday this week and we have an INSET day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, so we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 8:45am.

### Attendance update:

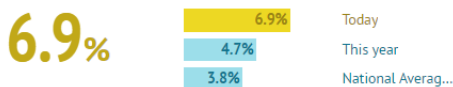
#### Whole School Attendance



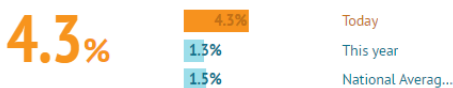
#### Statutory Attendance



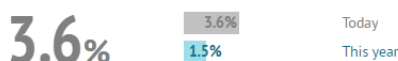
#### Authorised Absent



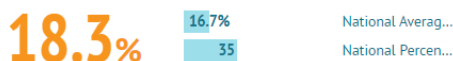
#### Unauthorised Absent



#### 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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'.

Unfortunately, whole school attendance today has dropped again to 88.9%, that is down 2% compared to last Monday and overall this year it has gone down a tiny bit to 94%. This is mostly due to children going on holidays in term time. The new attendance rules from the DfE state fixed penalty notices are to be given to parents who take children on holiday in term time. So please only book holidays outside of term time. Last week the class with the best attendance was our Lilac class with 97.8% so a big well done to Lilac for having the best 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.

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.

## Christmas Dates

Date	Christmas Activity.
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Singing & Mince Pies round the Christmas tree – 11:15am In the Nursery classroom
Monday 16th December	Y1 & Y2 Christmas Performance – 9:30am In Rainbow Hall
Monday 16th December	Reception Christmas Performance – 2pm In Rainbow Hall
Tuesday 17th December	Reception Christmas Performance – 9:30am In Rainbow Hall
Tuesday 17th December	Y1 & Y2 Christmas Performance – 2pm In Rainbow Hall
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Lunch - Order on School Grid asap

## Parental Involvement

- **Little Willows** Mother & Toddler group each Thursday in the Sunshine Building hall.
- **Next SEND Parents Coffee & Chat** - TBC – Everyone welcome, time for parents to come together and chat.
- **Next PTA Meeting** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 9am – Sunshine building.

## PTA

### Christmas Hamper Raffle

The PTA are running a raffle for 2 hampers, a Meat Hamper and a Christmas Hamper. Tickets are £2 and will be for sale on the playground at the end of each day this week as well as during nativities this week.

## Residential reminders

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

## Trips reminders

Trip	Year group	Date of trip	Cost	Needs to be paid by
Panto	Years 3,4,5 and 6	10/12/2024	£16/ PP £8	26/11/24
Chester Zoo	Rec, Year 1 and 2	24/01/24	£8 / PP £4	14/01/24
Jodrell Bank	Years 5/6	21/01/24	£19/ PP £9.50	07/01/24

## 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

As we wrap up another exciting term, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful children, dedicated teachers, and supportive families.

We wish you all a joyful and restful holiday filled with laughter, love, and cherished memories.

Thank you for being a part of our school family! We look forward to seeing everyone back, recharged and ready for new adventures in the new year!

Warmest wishes,  
Katie Ullein  
Acting Head Teacher

