

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is Children's Mental Health Week 2025.



The theme for 2025 is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself, with the aim to equip and empower children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. We want children and young people to discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop.



Attendance update:

Whole school Attendance today	90.2%	↓
Whole school Attendance last Monday	92.6%	
Whole school attendance so far this year.	92.8%	→

### 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'.

Whole school attendance compared to last Monday has gone down to 90.2% and overall so far this year it has stayed at 92.8%.

This week, Parents of children who have received unauthorised absences will receive letters on the school spider. Although we recognise that some children experience difficulty attending school due to anxiety, attendance at school may serve to help with the underlying issue as much as being away from school might exacerbate it, and a prolonged period of absence may heighten their anxiety about attending in the future. Schools can only authorize absences for physical illness.

If your child is experiencing difficulty attending school, for whatever reason, it is important that you continue to try to bring them to school each day. School staff are here to support them with challenging transitions. In the first instance, please speak to your child's class teacher about what you are experiencing. If you would like further information and advice on how to support your child attending school, please contact the Family Support Team in school.

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!

## Attendance Superstars

Last week the class with the best attendance was **Elm class with 99%** so a big well done to Y4 Elm for being our attendance superstars!

## 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.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 9am – Sunshine building.

## PTA

The next PTA event will be a **Film Night on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**. The film for Reception/Y1/Y2 will be Gnomeo and Juliet and the film for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 will be Up! The films will start at 3pm and children will need picking up at 4:30pm. The cost will be £2.50 each including a drink and a snack.

## Student Spotlight

Last week many of the classes celebrated Chinese New Year. This year it is the year of the snake. The Nursery children had a lovely time immersing themselves into the culture by trying some food and attempting to use chop sticks to pick up small toys!



## Residential reminders

Final payments for these residential are now open on school spider, for anyone wanting to spread the cost.

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

The Chester Zoo trip for Reception, Y1 & Y2 has been re-arranged for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

## 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, to ensure they have as many 'Strive for 5' raffle tickets as possible in the next raffle!

Warmest wishes,  
Katie Ullein  
Acting Head Teacher

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