

Willow Wood Community Nursery & Primary School



Acting Headteacher: Ms Katie Ullein

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

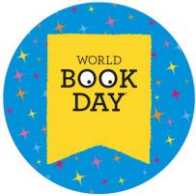


WHERE PUPILS FLOURISH

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Newsletter 25th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



World Book Day is coming up on Thursday 6th March. This year, we'll be running a Bedtime Story themed World Book Day where **children are invited to come into school in their pyjamas/comfy clothes and bring in a favourite book to share with their classmates.** We will spend the day celebrating the joy and comfort that reading can bring and sharing book recommendations with each other. If you have already bought an outfit for your child, they can of course come dressed up in their outfit.

Attendance update:

Whole school Attendance today	90.8%	
Whole school Attendance last Monday	92.9%	
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 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 compared to last Monday has gone down to 90.8% and overall so far this year it has gone up slightly to 92.8%.

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 **Cherry & Elm class with 99.5%** so a big well done to all of Y4 for being our attendance superstars!

In assembly on Friday we will be celebrating all the children with 96-99% attendance as well as all the children who have improved their attendance by more than 3%!

Reminders

- **Parents evenings will take place next week on the 3rd, 4th & 5th of March – appointments will be available on school spider from Wednesday 26th February.**
- 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.

OFSTED

You may have seen in the press last week that OFSTED have set out some new proposals that they are consulting on. The following link takes you to their press release.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-sets-out-proposals-for-fairer-education-inspections-and-new-more-detailed-report-cards> You can then use the following link to contribute to the consultation by sharing your views. [Improving the way Ofsted inspects education - GOV.UK](#)

Parental Involvement

- **Parents evenings** will take place next week on the 3rd, 4th & 5th of March – appointments will be available on school spider from Wednesday 26th February.
- **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 3rd March 9am – Sunshine building.

PTA

A big thank you to all the families that attended our first PTA film night. The children had a fabulous time and the PTA raised a total of £235 in profit from the event! Thank you to all the PTA members who helped organise the film night.

Residential reminders

Final payments for these residentials 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 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

Dates for your diary

- The Chester Zoo trip for Reception, Y1 & Y2 has been re-arranged for Thursday 27th February.
- World Book Day is on Thursday 6th March.

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

We will be pulling our next 'Strive for 5' raffle on Friday in assembly for all the children who have been reading at home every night! Please keep reading at home with your child each night, to ensure they have as many 'Strive for 5' raffle tickets as possible!

Warmest wishes,
Katie Ullein
Acting Head Teacher

