

# 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 3rd March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Science Week is Coming! 🚀

Get ready for an exciting Science Week! From 7<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, we will explore the wonders of science through fun experiments, hands-on activities, and fascinating discoveries.

This year's theme, Change and Adapt, will inspire curiosity and creativity as we dive into topics like Animal adaptations and Antibody adventures.

Get ready for a week full of learning and fun! ✨

### Attendance update:

|   |       |  |
|---|-------|--|
| Whole school Attendance today             | 93.6% |  |
| Whole school Attendance last Monday       | 90.8% |  |
| Whole school attendance so far this year. | 92.7% |  |

### 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'.

Fabulous! Whole school attendance compared to last Monday has gone up 3% to 93.6% and overall so far this year it has gone down slightly to 92.7%.

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 **Palm with 99.5%** so a big well done to Y2 for being our attendance superstars!

Well done to all the children with 96-99% attendance and all the children who had improved their attendance by over 3% - how fantastic! They all received a certificard and sticker in assembly as a big well done!

## World Book Day



World Book Day is 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.

## 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.

## 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

- **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 24th March 9am – Sunshine building.

## PTA

Our next PTA event will be Easter Bingo!! It will be on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April in the Rainbow building Hall, doors open at 5:30, eyes down at 6pm.

Last year everyone had a fabulous time and went away with some amazing chocolate hampers and big Easter eggs! We will be having a non-uniform day Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, please bring an Easter egg or bar of chocolate for the bingo evening.



## 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<br>Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> May '25<br>1 night  | £122<br>£61 (pupil premium)    | £40 by<br>29 <sup>th</sup> Nov '24 | £82<br>£21 (pupil premium)<br>By 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb '25      |
| Y3/4/5/6   | Gulliver's World<br>Date: 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> June<br>1 night | £115<br>£57.50 (pupil premium) | £35 by<br>15 <sup>th</sup> Nov '24 | £80<br>£22.50 (pupil premium)<br>By 26 <sup>th</sup> April '25 |

## Dates for your diary

- **World Book Day** - Thursday 6th March.
- **Easter Bingo** - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

## 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



A big congratulations to Harry on being our 'Strive for 5' winner this half term!

Please keep reading at home with your child at least 5 times each week to make sure they get as many raffle tickets as they can for our next 'Strive for 5' raffle!



Warmest wishes,  
Katie Ullin  
Acting Head Teacher

