

# Willow Primary School Newsletter

Issue 87 - February 2026

## Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Another busy and exciting term has flown by, filled with lots of enriching activities and memorable experiences for the children.

Our Maths live lessons were a great success, and we received very positive feedback from parents. We have carefully listened to your suggestions and are pleased to share that we will be planning more live sessions for parents to attend. These sessions will give you the opportunity to see the strategies we use in school, so you can mirror them at home and further support your child's learning. Please look out for messages on Class Dojo to sign up.



This term has also included some fantastic experiences beyond the classroom. Year 5 enjoyed a meaningful visit to the temple, our Reception children had an exciting visit from the fire brigade, and some of our pupils proudly represented the school in a sports competition—where they competed brilliantly and won against other teams. We are incredibly proud of their teamwork and determination.

It has also been wonderful to see the children so positively engaged with the new games purchased for lunchtimes, funded through PTA events. Thank you for your continued support—these contributions really do enhance the children's school experience.

We hope you all have a lovely and restful half term. Please continue to encourage your child to read every day. Reading regularly builds confidence, improves vocabulary, supports writing skills, and strengthens understanding across all subjects. Most importantly, it helps children develop a lifelong love of learning.

Enjoy the break and stay safe,  
Mrs Quadir

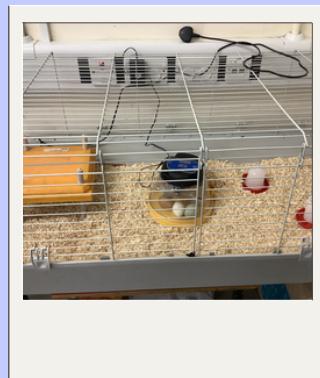
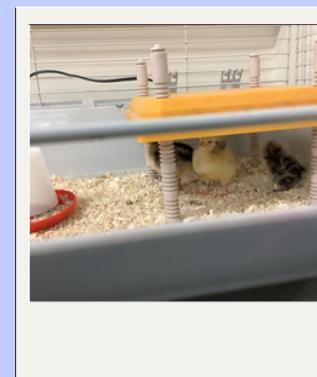
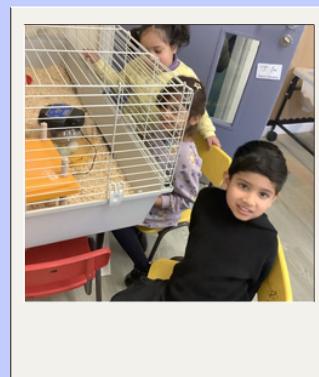
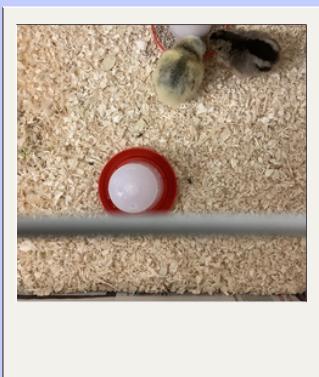
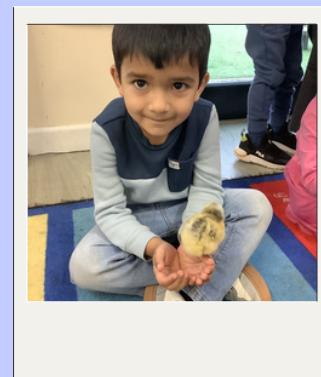
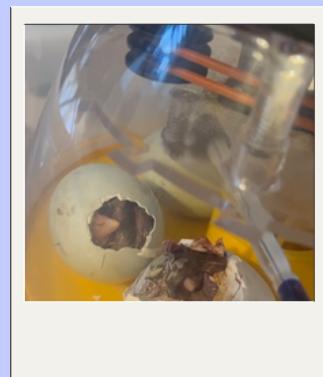
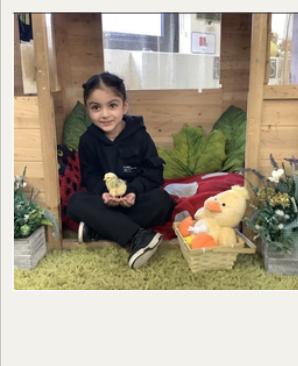
## Our Value Winners

As the half term draws to a close, we have enjoyed a busy and rewarding few weeks filled with learning, achievement and memorable moments. A special highlight was our school values celebration, where six children were recognised for truly living our values by being motivational, aspirational, resilient, inclusive, successful and hope-filled. Well done to our very deserving winners – we are incredibly proud of you all!



## Our Learning

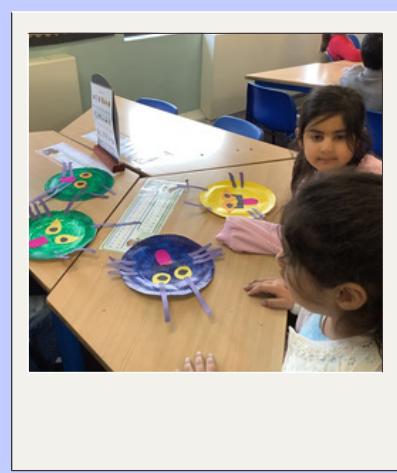
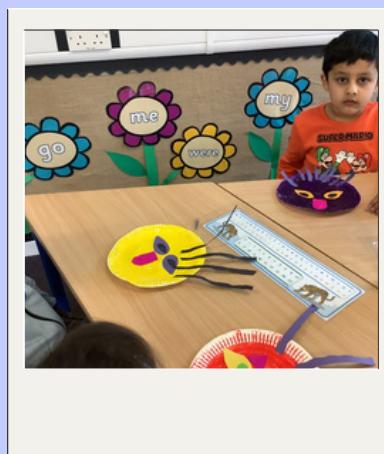
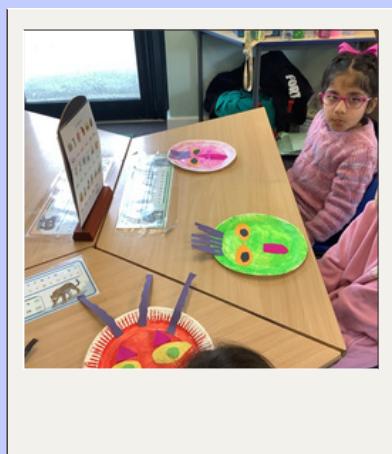
The **nursery** has had a fantastic two weeks learning about the life cycle of a chick. It has been a wonderful experience for the children to observe the chicks as they hatched and began to grow. They have shown great interest and excitement throughout, and it has been lovely to see them using such kind and caring hands when holding the chicks.



## Our Learning

In Art this term, **Year 1** explored Native American masks as inspiration for their creative work. The children looked closely at the shapes, patterns and bold colours used in traditional designs, and discussed how artists use line, colour and symbols to communicate meaning.

They then designed and created their own masks, carefully cutting, colouring and assembling their pieces. The pupils showed fantastic creativity and concentration, and were very proud of their finished artwork.



## Our Learning

This week, **Year 3** have been inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy. The children explored his work and used natural materials such as leaves, sticks, and stones to create their own prints. They showed fantastic creativity and curiosity as they experimented with different shapes, textures, and colours.

It was lovely to see the children so engaged in their learning, carefully selecting materials and proudly sharing their creations with their friends. The classroom was full of excitement, and the final prints looked wonderful. Well done, Year 3, for your brilliant artistic effort!



## Our Learning

This week, **Year 3** have been busy investigating soil as part of their Science learning. The children explored different types of soil up close, using magnifying glasses to carefully observe what it looked like and what it contained. They showed fantastic curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and making exciting discoveries as they worked together.

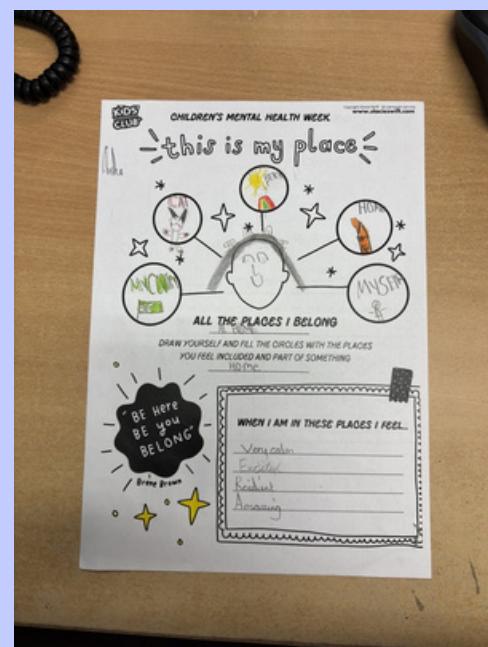
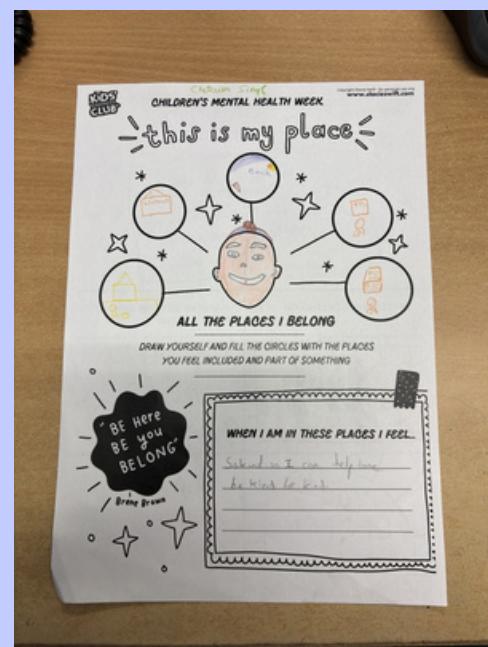
It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic, taking on the role of young scientists. They demonstrated excellent teamwork and observation skills, and thoroughly enjoyed exploring the natural world. Well done, Year 3, for your brilliant scientific thinking and investigation!



## Mental Health Week

This week, our school has been taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. Children across the school have explored the importance of recognising their feelings, supporting one another, and understanding that everyone belongs and is valued.

**Year 4** engaged brilliantly with the activities, showing thoughtful reflection and kindness as they discussed wellbeing and how to look after themselves and others. It was wonderful to see such mature conversations and a strong sense of respect and empathy. Well done to all of our children for embracing this important week so positively.

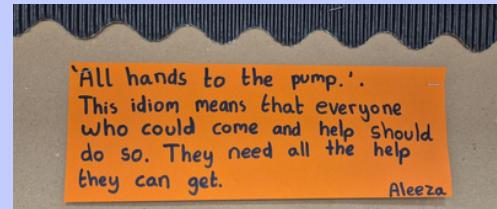
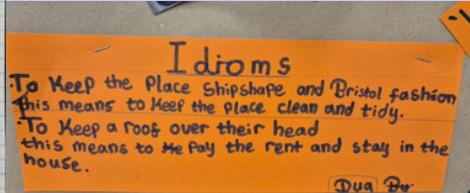
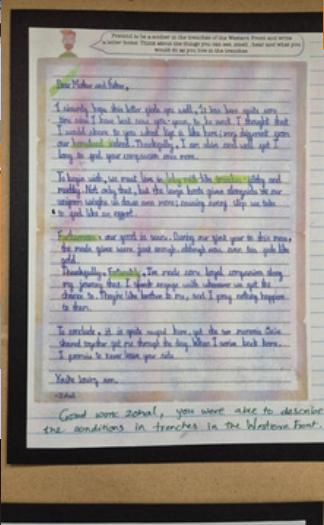
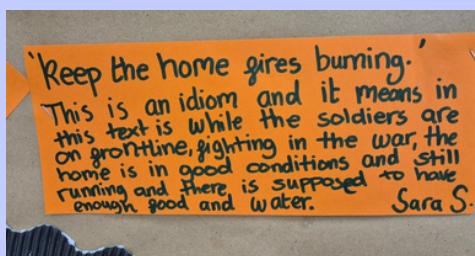


## Our Learning

**Year 6** have been fully immersed in their World War I unit through their class text, Stay Where You Are and Then Leave. Children have explored life in the trenches and the experiences of soldiers, showing excellent maturity and empathy in their discussions.

In writing, pupils have produced powerful letters from the perspective of soldiers on the Western Front, using rich description and historical detail. They have also explored wartime idioms such as “Keep the home fires burning,” showing a strong understanding of how language reflects life during the war.

We are very proud of the effort, thought, and care Year 6 have shown throughout this unit.



## Nurture Update

Our Nurture Group at Willow had a wonderful time making their own smoothies using fresh fruit kindly provided by Lidl. The children enjoyed choosing their ingredients, preparing the fruit, and creating their own delicious combinations.

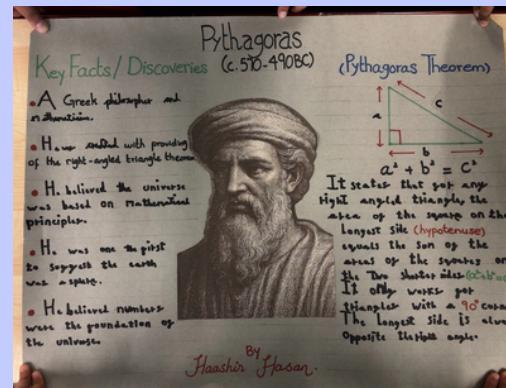
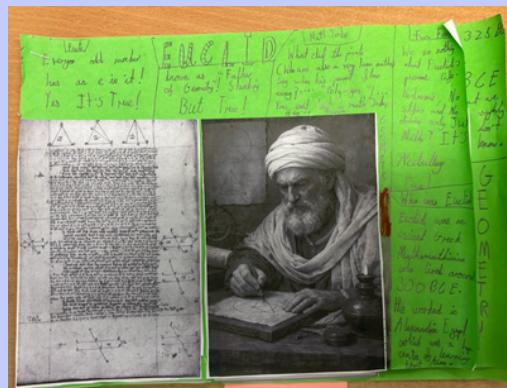
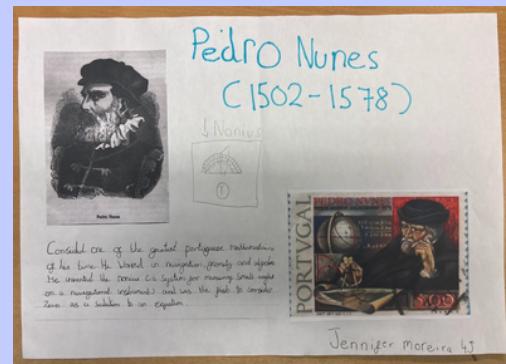
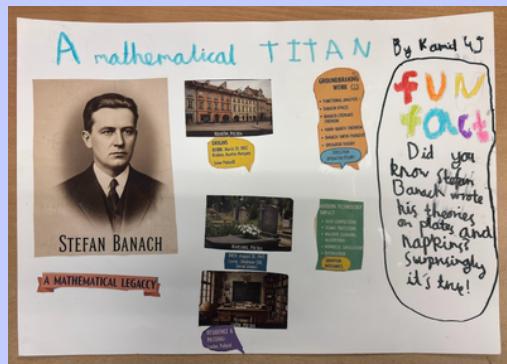
It was a lovely opportunity to build independence, try new foods, and enjoy a shared experience together.



## Great Mathematicians

As part of **Maths Week**, children have been working hard on their Great Mathematician posters, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and creativity shine through. They explored the lives and achievements of influential mathematicians, presenting their learning with care and pride.

The finished posters look fantastic, and it is clear how much effort the children have put into their work. Well done to everyone who took part – you should be very proud of yourselves!



The winners of the Great Mathematician Poster competition are:

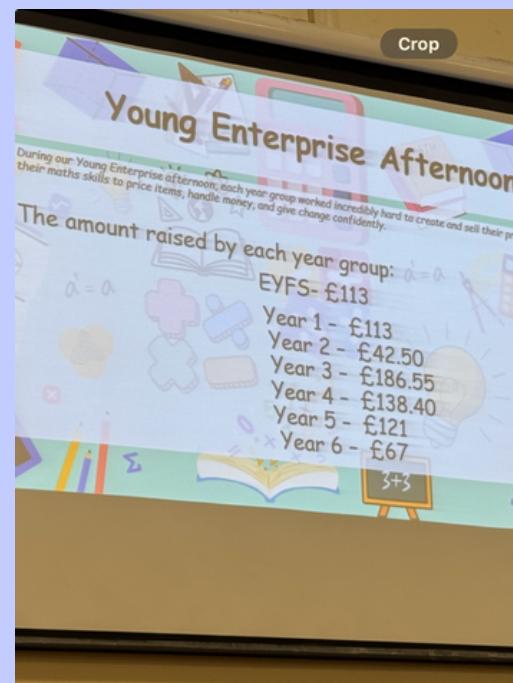
- Insha of 1H
- Jasmyn of 1K
- Inaya of 1K
- Amanat of 2DS
- Devishi of 3B
- Abeeha of 3B
- Matthew of 3K
- Nagulan of 4BG
- Haashir of 4J
- Willow of 5M
- Anaya of 5H
- Aryan of 6H
- Thaneshka of 6B
- Rosa-Mae of Willow Tree

## Willow Primary Goes Entrepreneurial!

On Friday 6th February, the whole school took part in a **Young Enterprise afternoon** to learn about financial literacy. Pupils worked creatively and collaboratively to plan, make, and present a range of products, while also developing an understanding of money management and entrepreneurship. They decided what to cook and made sandwiches, muffin pizzas, smoothies, fruit kebabs with a chocolate fountain, cupcakes, and even friendship bracelets using recycled materials.

The winning year group will keep the prize money and decide collectively how to spend it on their class, giving them hands-on experience of teamwork and decision-making. **Congratulations to Year 3!**

It was a fantastic opportunity for children to build confidence, resilience, and practical life skills while having fun.



## Back to School, Back to Maths!

As part of Maths Week, parents were invited to join live maths lessons to see how maths is taught at Willow Primary. They experienced interactive activities, problem-solving, and creative approaches to learning, gaining a real insight into classroom practice.

Parents provided positive feedback, highlighting how engaging and inspiring the lessons were, and how much their children enjoy maths.

“Thanks for the opportunity today. It was helpful and very much appreciated”

“Everything was good. The method of teaching maths was brilliant. Miss Sasson’s teaching is appreciated.”

“Very informative and happy to take part in this”

It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate learning, showcase our teaching approaches, and strengthen home-school connections.



## Willow Team Triumph!

On 5th February, our Willow team took part in a basketball festival in Reading... and won all five matches!

The children showed amazing teamwork, skill, and determination throughout the day.

Well done to the Willow team for representing our school so brilliantly!



## Our Sportpersonship

On 12th February, the Willow team took part in the Berkshire Hockey Tournament, the largest school tournament in the county. The team experienced a mix of results, including some losses, draws, and a fantastic win against Castleview, our friendly partners who cheered us on throughout. The players supported each other and showed great determination and teamwork.

Special thanks to the Berkshire Hockey Association for their support.



## Our Sportpersonship

Our **Year 1 & 2** gymnastics team achieved a historic 1st place at the Beechwood competition – improving on last year's silver to bring home gold this year! 🌟

Our **Year 3 & 4** team also performed brilliantly, finishing 4th against strong competition. 🤸

We are incredibly proud of all our gymnasts for representing Marish so brilliantly. ❤️



## Attendance Statistics

### Our attendance..

Reception: 90.11%

Year 1: 91.84%

Year 2: 91.36%

Year 3: 94.66%

Year 4: 94.24%

Year 5: 93.44%

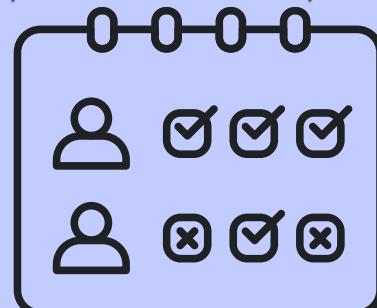
Year 6: 95.42%

Our target is 96%



**Attendance Matters**

Every student. Every day.



Let's see which year groups meet our target next half term!



### Below 90%: Serious Concern

Far too much time missed. Big impact on learning. Serious impact on academic success. This must improve.



### 95-90%: Cause for Concern

Negatively affecting academic success. Some gaps appearing. Let's aim higher.



### 96-100%: WELL DONE!

Achieving full potential. Excellent effort! You're smashing it!

## Language of the Month



### International Language of the Month – Maltese

#### Facts about Malta:

- **Population:** 515,000 people live in Malta (2021)
- **Capital:** Valletta (the metropolitan area houses about 220,000 inhabitants)
- **Name:** Republic of Malta (*Repubblika ta' Malta*)
- **Government:** parliamentary republic
- **Official Languages:** Maltese and English
- **Religion:** more than 90% are Christians
- **Literacy:** 95% of the population over 15 years of age can read and write
- **Currency:** 1 Euro = 100 cents
- **National Symbols:** Maltese Cross (eight pointed cross) and the national colours are red and white
- **National Day:** 21 September (Independence Day)
- **National Anthem:** 'L-Innu Malti', means in English: Anthem of Malta, is written in form of a prayer
- **History:** The islands are inhabited for over 7,000 years and was ruled by many different powers among them the Romans, the Greeks, Arabs, Normans and the British. In 1813 Malta became a British colony and reached independence from Britain in 1964 and became a republic three years later.

#### Now let's learn a few phrases:

**Bonġu:** Good morning  
**Bonswa:** Good evening  
**Il-lejl it-tajjeb:** Good night  
**Iva / Le:** Yes / No  
**Grazzi:** Thank you  
**Jekk jogħġbok:** Please  
**Skużani:** Sorry / Excuse me  
**Kif inti?:** How are you?  
**Jien orrajt/tajjeb:** I'm okay/good  
**X'jismek?:** What is your name?  
**Xisimni...** My name is...  
**Ċaw / Ċaw ġaw:** Bye / Bye-bye  
**Habib / Habiba:** Friend (male/female)  
**Mela:** Yes, of course / So  
**Bombai:** Cool! / Great!  
**Aral:** Look!  
**Ejjal:** Come on! / Let's go!  
**Għandi pjaċir:** Nice to meet you  
1 - wieħed  
2 - tnejn  
3 - tlieta  
4 - erbgha  
5 - hamso

Maltese is the official language of the island nation of Malta. It's also one of the official languages of the European Union. Maltese sounds a bit like the ancient Phoenician language, which was spoken around the Mediterranean Sea long ago. Just like English, Maltese is written using the Latin alphabet. This language has taken many words from Sicilian, Italian and English. About 393,000 people speak Maltese, and most of them live in Malta.



## Parent Notices

### A REMINDER ABOUT SAFE AND RESPECTFUL PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

We would like to remind all families about the importance of safe, sensible and respectful behaviour during pick-up and drop-off times.

For everyone's safety, please ensure that:

- Pavements are kept clear and not used for parking, so that children, pushchairs and families who cannot step into the road can pass safely.
- Local residents' driveways are not blocked and the surrounding community is respected.
- Rubbish is taken home and not left in the local area.

**We also ask that all adults speak to one another in a calm, polite and respectful manner at all times. As a school community, we are role models for our children, and they look to us to demonstrate kindness, patience and understanding.**

**Our school serves many children with additional needs, including those who may move unpredictably or require the safety of the pavement at all times. Please be mindful of this and show consideration to all families.**

**Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our school community safe, welcoming and supportive for everyone.**

## Active Lifestyles

### Crush and Squirt's Turtle Travel

Whoa dude! It's time to catch a wave like Crush and Squirt, can you make it onto the right current?

Players: 1 or more

Where to play? Indoors or outdoors

#### How to play

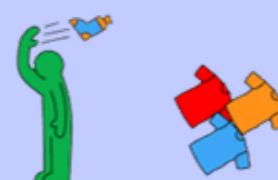
1. To get started you will need to make a Squirt-style turtle by filling up socks then tying them up. Use old newspaper, other socks or anything soft and light.



2. Lay out a T-shirt each on the floor, as this will be the current.



3. Everyone takes it in turns to be like Crush. Facing backwards, throw your turtle over your shoulder, aiming to land it on the current.



4. If you miss, you have to "paddle" on the current to get it back by crawling on your hands and knees.



5. Keep going until your turtle lands perfectly. If it's too easy, move your T-shirt further away!



## Active Lifestyles

### Mini apple and banana muffins recipe

Muffins are very easy to make, and they're perfect for breakfast or a snack on the go. You can freeze them too, so you don't have to eat them all at once!

Prep: 20 mins

Cook: 25 mins

Makes 12

#### Ingredients

- 150g plain flour
- 1.5 teaspoons baking powder
- 50g caster sugar
- 100ml semi-skimmed milk
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract (optional)
- 40g lower-fat spread, melted
- 1 medium apple, peeled, cored and chopped
- 1 medium banana, mashed

#### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C (fan 180C, gas mark 6). Put 12 paper cases into a bun tray.
2. Sift the flour and baking powder into a mixing bowl, then stir in the sugar.
3. Information:
4. If you like, add half a teaspoon of ground mixed spice or ground cinnamon to the flour and sugar mixture.
5. Put the milk, egg, vanilla extract and melted spread in a jug and beat together with a whisk. Add the wet mix to the dry ingredients, then add the apple and mashed banana. Stir until just combined. Do not overmix.
6. Spoon the mixture into the paper cases and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until the muffins have risen and turned golden. Carefully remove the muffins in their paper cases from the bun try, and leave to cool on a wire rack.
7. Information:
8. To freeze, make sure the muffins have completely cooled then pop them in a freezer bag. Make sure to squeeze out as much air from the bag as possible!



## Some Useful Information

**BERKSHIRE CRICKET**

**CHANCE TO SHINE STREET**

# **FREE WEEKLY CRICKET SESSIONS IN SLOUGH!**

**MONDAYS (AGES 8-15)**  
**SINGH SABHA SPORTS CENTRE**  
**4:30PM - 6PM**

**MONDAYS (GIRLS ONLY)**  
**THE CENTRE, SLOUGH**  
**5PM - 6PM**

**WEDNESDAYS (GIRLS ONLY)**  
**SLOUGH & ETON SCHOOL**  
**5PM - 6PM**

**WEDNESDAYS (AGES 8+)**  
**SLOUGH & ETON SCHOOL**  
**6PM - 8PM**

**SUNDAYS (AGES 8-15)**  
**THE Langley ACADEMY**  
**8:30AM - 10:00AM**

**SCAN TO SIGN UP OR VISIT:**  
**[WWW.BERKSHIRECRICKET.ORG/STREET-CRICKET](http://WWW.BERKSHIRECRICKET.ORG/STREET-CRICKET)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
**MUNIR.UMER@BERKSHIRECRICKET.ORG  
07312109561**

## Some Useful Information

**The Year of the Fire Horse – Family Fun Day**

Celebrating Chinese New Year 2026

17 February 1000 – 1400



We are delighted to be again working alongside the local **Busy Buttons** CORE charity, who designed and created The Dream Horse, a sustainability initiative commissioned by Ascot Racecourse in collaboration with four local schools (Heathermount, Manor Green, Arbour Vale & Forest Bridge).

More than 80 young people helped to craft the beautiful structure which was made using recycled materials from the racecourse. It was on display during Royal Ascot and throughout the summer of 2025 at Ascot, showcasing sustainability, creativity and community to thousands of spectators. The installation will be on show throughout half-term within the Learning Centre at the Castle.

You and your family are invited to The Castle's Learning Centre on 17 February (1000 – 1400) to a day of arts, crafts, dressing up and you can even take part in a treasure hunt. Families can also bring a packed lunch to enjoy onsite to make a day of it! There is no charge – FREE EVENT.

So come along and get all 'equestrian' with your creativity! Book a space using the following link – <https://tickets.rct.uk/products/11/6761>

Please note that there is no access to the Water Castle on this day as it is closed.





**Let's Play**  
FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN DAYS**

SWIMMING, MULTI-SPORTS, ARTS & CRAFTS, BOUNCY CASTLE, PERFORMING ARTS, GAMING, LASER TAG, NERF WARS, LEGO BUILDING & MUCH MORE!

**OPEN EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY**



**Windsor Leisure Centre**  
Clewer Avenue, Stovell Road, Windsor, SL4 5JB  
9.00am – 4.00pm  
Early drop off from 8am, late pick-up until 5pm

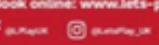
OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 1) – 12  
**FROM £29.50 PER DAY!**

Discounts for siblings - please see booking page for details.

We accept **Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered**  
Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & a Reusable Drinks Bottle.



Scan the QR code for more information, call 01344 508008 or email [info@lets-play.org.uk](mailto:info@lets-play.org.uk)  
Book online: [www.lets-play.org.uk](http://www.lets-play.org.uk)





**Online information sessions for parents of children with SEND, young people with SEND, and professionals**

**Monday 23 February 2026**  
**11am-12noon or 6-7pm.**

This session will focus on Mediation and Appeals.

To book, email: [SENDIASS@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASS@slough.gov.uk)  
(please specify AM or PM session)  
or via [www.sloughsendiass.org.uk](http://www.sloughsendiass.org.uk)



**Coming to Curve Venue, Slough**

**Comedy Club 4 Kids**



**BILAL ZAFAR**  
**SUNJAI ARIF**

**'The perfect way to entertain the whole family'**  
Three Weeks

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS OFFER (4 people) £40**

**Ages 5+ years and their grown ups!**

**Thursday 19 February at 2pm**  
**E12 Standard | £10 Under 16s**

**curvevenue.uk**  
01753 303 035

**Slough**  
Borough Council  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



## Some Useful Information



### ENERGY EFFICIENT COOKERY COURSE

DELICIOUS & HEALTHY FOOD  
EXPERT & SUPPORTIVE TUITION  
ADVICE ON SAVING ENERGY

TUESDAYS 24 FEB - 31 MARCH  
10.30 - 12.30

A FREE SIX WEEK COOKERY COURSE

PREPARING & SHARING DELICIOUS & HEALTHY DISHES USING LESS ENERGY.  
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LOW ENERGY DEVICES LIKE INDUCTION HOT PLATES,  
AIR FRYERS & PRESSURE COOKERS

THIS COURSE IS FREE  
PLACES ARE LIMITED  
TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE CONTACT:  
[OFFICE@COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK](mailto:OFFICE@COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK)  
07766526217  
OR BOOK VIA [EVENTBRITE](#)

BOOKING FEE IS REFUNDED ON ATTENDANCE  
AND STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE  
RECEIVE A £20 GIFT VOUCHER

THE COURSE TAKES PLACE AT  
**THE BYRON CENTRE**  
BYRON HOUSE, LONGWOOD AVE, LANGLEY



## Lidl Workshop

Following on from our recent Lidl workshop, please see the following coupon for free fresh fruit. You can scan the QR code to access this.

**A Lidl something from us**

Your child has taken part in a **Lidl Foodies workshop** at school, so here's a little something towards buying more of the fresh fruit they've been exploring. This coupon is for your use only, can't be shared, and is valid for one-time use only. Once it's gone, it's gone - so don't miss out!



Scanning the code will take you to the coupon sign up form. Enter your email to receive your code for use in the Lidl Plus app.

Subject to availability: 7,000 coupons available. Coupons can be redeemed in the Lidl Plus app 02/02/2026 - 01/05/2026. Coupons valid for 14 days after being entered into the app. 1 coupon per account. Full coupon T&Cs apply, see 'Coupons for You' in the Lidl Plus app for more information. 18+, GB residents, Lidl app required. Full T&Cs apply: <https://www.lidl.co.uk/c/lidl-plus-terms-of-use/s/0025414?hidebanner=true>

**Lidl Foodies** 

[www.nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives/lidl-foodies/](http://www.nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives/lidl-foodies/)

