

Welcome to Nursery!

Willow Primary School

September 2025





Dear Parents and Carers,

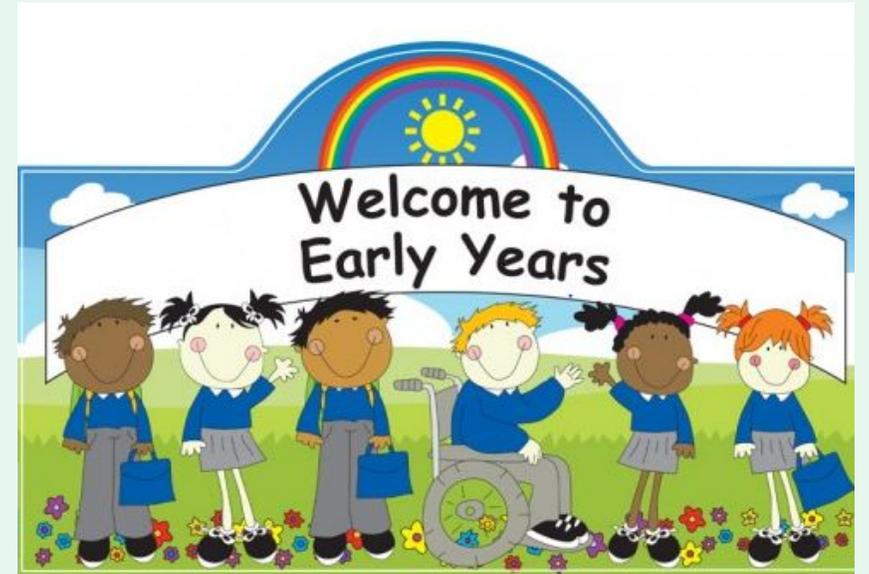
Welcome to Willow Primary School!

In Early Years, we strive to work in partnership with you to provide experiences and learning opportunities that will enrich and stimulate your child's development.

We operate an open door policy so feel free to talk to us about your child as we work together to provide a secure and caring environment, one where your child will flourish.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Marish Academy Trust.

Willow EYFS Team



Our EYFS Staff

Mrs Alves – EYFS Assistant Headteacher

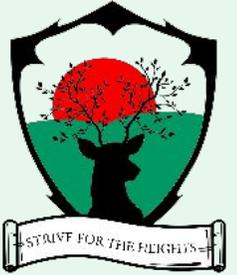
Mrs Stack – Nursery Team Leader

Mrs Ndlovu – Nursery Lead EYFS Practitioner

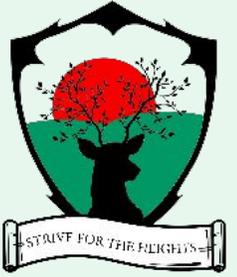
Mrs Aziz - EYFS Practitioner

Miss Rajput - EYFS Practitioner

Mrs Biddlecombe – PPA teacher



Our Curriculum



At Marish Academy Trust, we believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is crucial in securing solid foundations that children are going to continue to build upon. It is our intent that the children who enter our EYFS develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally, whilst embedding a positive attitude towards school and their learning. We aim to support the children in their exploration of the world in a secure and stimulating environment. With all this in mind, we begin each new year by looking at the individual needs of our children. Taking into account their different starting points, we carefully develop our flexible EYFS curriculum which enables them to follow the path of their own learning journey, one that is suitable for their unique needs and stages of development.

Children will be encouraged to become independent learners who:

- ✓ communicate with others
- ✓ develop language
- ✓ co-operate and share
- ✓ express feelings and emotions
- ✓ fantasise and use their imagination
- ✓ investigate and explore
- ✓ develop physical skills



Children in both our Nursery and Reception classes will follow the EYFS curriculum, which has seven main areas of learning. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Prime Areas

- *Communication and Language*
- *Physical Development*
- *Personal, Social and Emotional Development*

Specific Areas

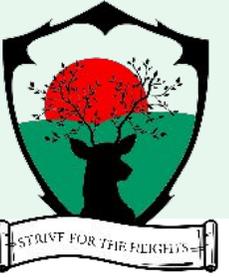
- *Literacy*
- *Mathematics*
- *Understanding of the World*
- *Expressive Arts and Design*

The teaching of these areas is practical and playful with support and challenge from adults in whole class sessions, small group sessions, individual sessions, as well as active engagement during free-flow continuous provision activities.





Characteristics of Effective Learning



At the heart of the EYFS curriculum are the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning'. At Marish Academy Trust, we strive to develop these key characteristics in order to give children the skills they will continue to draw upon throughout their development. Three characteristics of effective learning are:

- *playing and exploring*
- *active learning*
- *creating and thinking critically*

Playing and exploring

- finding out and exploring
- using what they know in their play
- being willing to have a go

Active learning

- being involved and concentrating
- keeping on trying
- enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically

- having their own ideas
- using what they already know to learn new things
- choosing ways to do things and finding new ways

The Importance of Play



Play is an important part of a child's education. It provides opportunities for:

- ✓ *new experiences*
- ✓ *learning in a meaningful context*
- ✓ *actives styles of learning*
- ✓ *problem solving*
- ✓ *investigating*
- ✓ *self-expression*



At Willow, the EYFS team will provide a range of open-ended play experiences that enable your child to expand their knowledge and skills in order to support their individual learning and development.

What will your child be learning?



Each term, we will focus on a different topic. You will be notified of these via termly curriculum letters and the school website.

Phonics – Focus on Phase 1 which concentrates on developing children’s speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. Children will become attuned to the sounds around them which in turn will help them begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.

Developing early writing – Focus on mark making, developing fine motor control and building strength in the hand muscles.

Developing early maths – Maths lessons are delivered in a fun and practical way with a focus on understanding basic number and shape skills.

Preparing Your Child for School



Growing independence

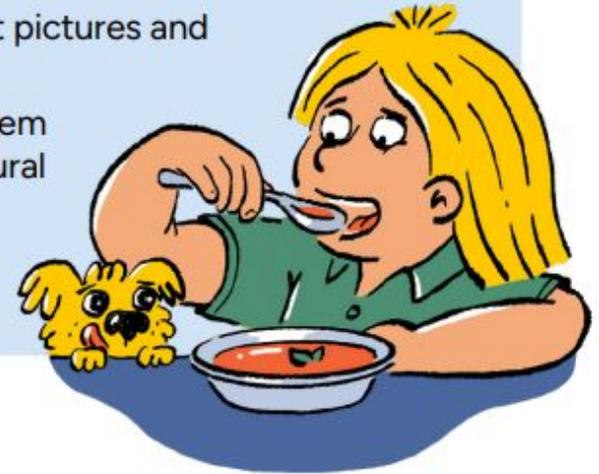


Taking care of themselves

- ✓ Putting on/taking off their coat and shoes
- ✓ Using the toilet and washing their hands
- ✓ Getting dressed with little help, e.g. after using the toilet or doing PE
- ✓ Using cutlery (e.g. fork and spoon, chopsticks) and drinking from an open cup
- ✓ Spending time away from you, learning they can be looked after by caring adults

Play, creativity and curiosity

- ✓ Taking part in imaginative play (e.g. role play)
- ✓ Drawing, painting, colouring and sticking
- ✓ Sharing story books, looking at pictures and talking about the characters
- ✓ Exploring the world around them (e.g. looking closely at the natural world, playing safely with objects at home)



Preparing Your Child for School



Building relationships and communicating



Being with others

- ✓ Practising sharing and taking turns with toys
- ✓ Talking to them about **how** they are feeling and **why**
- ✓ Looking at story books together and speaking about what characters are feeling is a good way to do this
- ✓ Beginning to recognise what others are feeling, e.g. understanding if a friend is sad
- ✓ Encouraging them to set boundaries for themselves and others (e.g. knowing how to say 'no')

Communication and language

- ✓ Singing along with songs and nursery rhymes
- ✓ Talking happily to others about activities, experiences and the world around them
- ✓ Showing they need help by speaking clearly (in basic English or sign language)
- ✓ Recognising the pattern of their name (so they can find it on their coat peg or jacket)

Listening and engaging

- ✓ Paying attention for short periods of time
- ✓ Listening to and following simple instructions
- ✓ Carrying on with a task even when it's difficult and bouncing back if things go wrong



Preparing Your Child for School



Physical development

Getting moving for at least three hours a day

- ✓ Walking up and down steps (one foot at a time, using the wall for support)
- ✓ Climbing, running, jumping and playing
- ✓ Catching a large ball (most of the time)
- ✓ Doing simple puzzles and craft activities, strengthening their grip with cutting and sticking



Preparing Your Child for School



Healthy routines

- ✓ Going to bed around the same time each night, waking up in time to get ready for school
- ✓ Limiting screen time to the recommended daily amounts (see advice)
- ✓ Eating a healthy diet and trying new foods
- ✓ Brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day (you'll need to supervise this until they are at least 7)



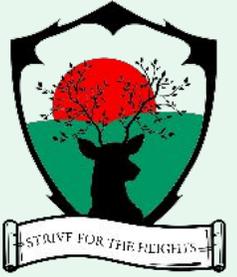


Put your phone away - Have quality interactions with your child.



Limit screen time- Replace with family time, outdoor play, real life experiences and reading.

Toilet Training



Some children attending Nursery may still be learning to use the toilet. Our staff have a wealth of knowledge and experience and are willing to support you through this time.

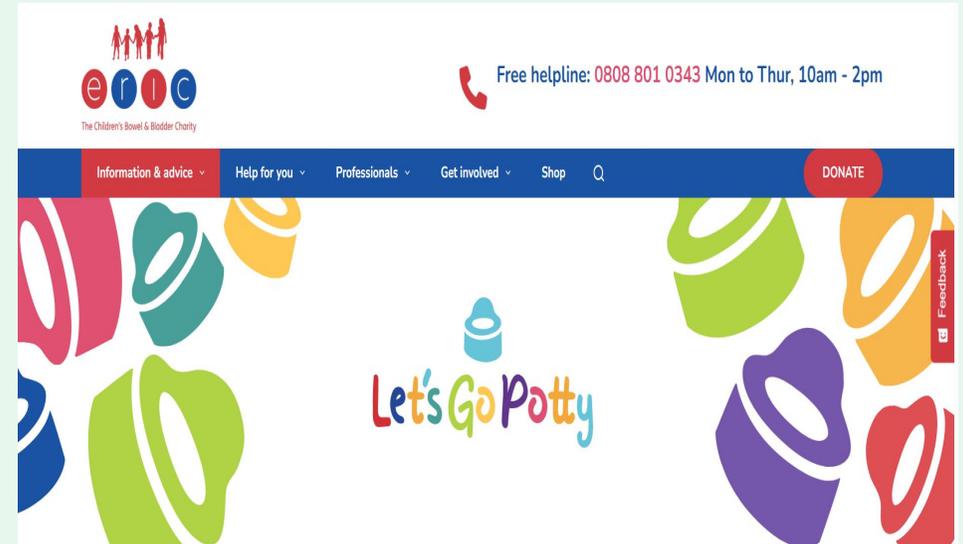
Using a potty is a new skill for your child to learn. It is best to take it slowly and go at your child's pace. Being patient with them will help them get it right, even if you sometimes feel frustrated.

Children are able to control their bladder and bowels when they are physically ready and when they want to be clean and dry. Every child is different, so it is best not to compare your child with others.

- By age 2, some children will be dry during the day
- By age 3, 9 out of 10 children are dry most days – even then, all children have the odd accident, especially when they are excited, upset or absorbed in something else
- By age 4, most children are reliably dry during the day

It usually takes a little longer for children to learn to stay dry throughout the night. Although most learn between the ages of three and five, up to one in five children aged five sometimes wet the bed.

If your nursery child is still training, please make sure they have spare nappies/wipes/pull ups/pants/knickers/spare clothes each day in their bag – **the nursery do not have their own supply.**



https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/?gad_source=1&gclid_campaignid=9113691281&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIjeP2tf2njQMVIopQBhOdHAGKEAAY

Promoting Good Behaviour



- We have **three 'diamond rules'** that we apply as part of our behaviour system

1. *Follow instructions straightaway*
2. *Show good manners at all times*
3. *Care for everyone and everything*

- In EYFS, we use a visual chart to promote good behaviour. Children will begin on the sunshine and cloud. As they demonstrate good behaviour, they will move to the sunshine and then the rainbow. If they display negative behaviour, children will move to the rain cloud and then the thunder cloud. It is very rare for children to move down to the thunder cloud.





Class Dojo

Communication, engagement, and social-emotional learning

all in one place



- ❖ Class Dojo connects teacher, pupils and their families to build classroom communities. It allows us to encourage our young people for any skill or value whether it is working hard, being kind to others and following our diamonds rules.
- ❖ It can help to engage families by sharing photos and videos of wonderful classroom moments or other achievements, instant messaging and events notification.
- ❖ Families can access Class Dojo from any device whether it is downloading the app on a mobile phone or tablet or using a laptop or PC. Just search 'Class Dojo' in your Internet browser or app store.
- ❖ You will be sent login details and guidance from the class teachers in September.
- ❖ You do not need to pay for Class Dojo. You can access all communication for free.

On the first day...

- Children should be dropped at the nursery classroom door. Enter the Early Years gates and follow the path around the building to the final door. Staff will be on hand to direct you.
- We ask parents to leave your child with staff at the door and not to come into the classroom. This helps the children settle more quickly.
- At home time, parents should wait outside their child's classroom. As the teacher sees you, they will call your child to come out. This process may be a bit slow in September but will speed up once staff become more familiar with all the parents. Thank you in advance for your patience with this.



Early Years Entrance



Nursery Day Timings

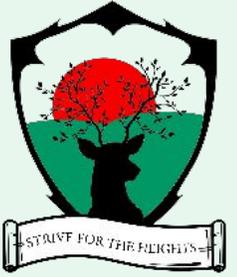


Morning Session

8:00am – 11:00am

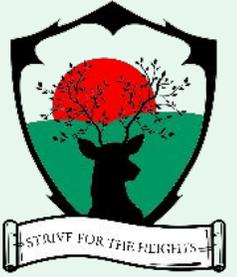
Afternoon Session

12:00pm – 3:00pm





ParentPay



Willow Primary School is a cashless school.

ALL parents **MUST** create a ParentPay account. You will need this account to pay for trips and school experiences. You will be given a login to set up a ParentPay account in September.

Healthy Eating



At Willow Primary School, we encourage all children to have a healthy lunchbox. Examples of foods to include are:

- Sandwich
- Fruits
- Yogurts



Please do not include fizzy drinks or chocolate.

For more information and ideas on healthy foods, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

We are a **no nut school**. We have several children with nut allergies and therefore we ask that you do not send any form of nuts into school with your child.



All children will have access to fruit and milk during the day.

Pupil Premium



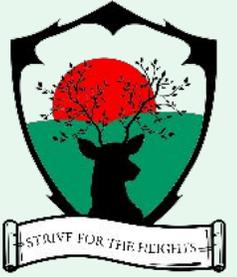
- **What is the Early Years Pupil Premium?**

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is additional funding given to early years providers to improve the education they provide to some 3 and 4-year-olds.

We ask parents to complete an application for EYPP to see if they are eligible.

Please speak to the office for more details.

Nursery Uniform



We encourage all our Nursery children to wear our school uniform as we feel it promotes a sense of belonging, however, it is not compulsory. The Nursery uniform is as follows:

- *Navy jogging bottoms/leggings*

No trousers with belts please.

- *White t-shirt and a green sweatshirt*
- *Children should wear 'easy' shoes that they can take off and put on by themselves. Shoes should be appropriate for indoor and outdoor play and safe enough for running and climbing etc. i.e. no long boots or flip flops. Velcro shoes are ideal!*

Please provide your child with a bag that they bring to school EVERY DAY.
Please ensure they have the following in the bag:

- *Spare pants/knickers*
- *Spare socks*
- *Spare trousers/top*
- *Wipes/nappies (if they are still toilet training)*

Unfortunately, the Nursery do not have enough spare clothes and children can get very messy and sometimes wet when playing and having fun!

**ALL SPARE CLOTHES AND BAGS
SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELLED
WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME**





Medicines & Allergies



Medicines

We will administer medication for chronic illness such as asthma providing it is prescribed by a GP. All medicines must go through the front office so we can ensure the correct paperwork is completed. Please do not send medication into the classroom with your child. You must notify the office and the class teacher.

Asthma

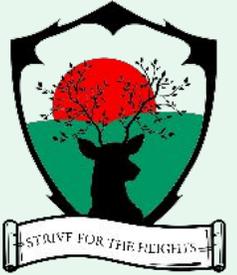
If your child has asthma, we ask that you send an inhaler into school. These must be in the box with the prescription label displaying your child's name. We will notify you when your child's inhaler is out of date.

Allergies

Should your child have any allergies/special dietary requirements, it is essential that you share the information with school staff ASAP so as they can ensure that your child does not come into contact with anything that may cause them to be unwell. Severe allergies that may need medication e.g. anaphylaxis, EpiPen etc. should be confirmed by the doctor and a care plan given to the school.

Unfortunately, your child will not be able to start Nursery until we receive all medications that your child has been prescribed – these should be handed into the school office.

First Aid



From time to time accidents will happen, your child may fall or bump or simply just need some TLC!

Should this occur, you will be notified via an email from Medical Tracker.

In the event of a bumped head, you will receive a courtesy call during the session to advise you on the incident.

All accidents are recorded on our Medical Tracker online system.



Attendance



Good attendance is linked to good progress at school. It is important you bring your child to school every day.

National average attendance is 95%. You will be notified if your child's attendance drops below this.

There will obviously be occasions when your child will be absent i.e. illness and we appreciate there are times when this cannot be avoided. Should such incident occur, please notify the school office as soon as possible to explain the absence. A quick and easy way to report absence is via the Studybugs app. You will be provided with login details when your child starts. The school register can then be marked accordingly.

We do not authorise holidays during term time.

Please note: If your child suffers from sickness/diarrhoea they will have to remain at home for 48 hours following the last period of illness.





**We look forward to welcoming you all to
Willow Primary School!**

