Willow Primary School Newsletter

Issue 96 - November 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy three weeks at Willow since we returned from half-term. Year 2 visited The Curve in Slough, Year 5 explored Windsor Castle, and Year 6 joined pupils from Pippins for a trip to the Natural History Museum. Back at school, we marked Remembrance Day and welcomed Toscana Strings. Year 3 stepped back in time at their Stone Age workshop, imagining how people kept warm, found food and made tools thousands of years ago.

Thank you to everyone who donated teddies or took part in our Kindness Day teddy tombola. Together, we raised £100!

Next week, we look forward to seeing you at Parents' Evening, online on Monday 23 November and in person on Thursday 26 November. It's a chance to hear how your child is getting on, ask questions and talk about their next steps.

As we head into December, we hope you'll join us for our Winter Fete on Friday 4 December. Every year group will also take to the stage for their Christmas assembly, and we're especially looking forward to seeing our youngest performers in Reception step into the spotlight and bring a little Christmas magic to the stage.

We hope all our families who celebrated Diwali had a lovely time, and we send our warmest wishes to those preparing to celebrate Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday.

-Mrs Kumar

🧸 Year 1 Take a Trip Down Toy Memory Lane! 🚂✨

Our wonderful Year 1 children took a trip back in time during their exciting Toys from the Past workshop! The children had a fantastic time discovering how toys have changed over the years, comparing the toys their parents and grandparents might have played with to the ones we enjoy today. They even had the opportunity to handle and explore traditional toys, bringing their History learning to life!

It was lovely to see so many curious faces as the children investigated the toys, shared their ideas and discovered what childhood might have looked like many years ago. We are so proud of the enthusiasm and curiosity our little Willow historians showed throughout the workshop. What a brilliant day of learning, exploring and playing! 💙🌟













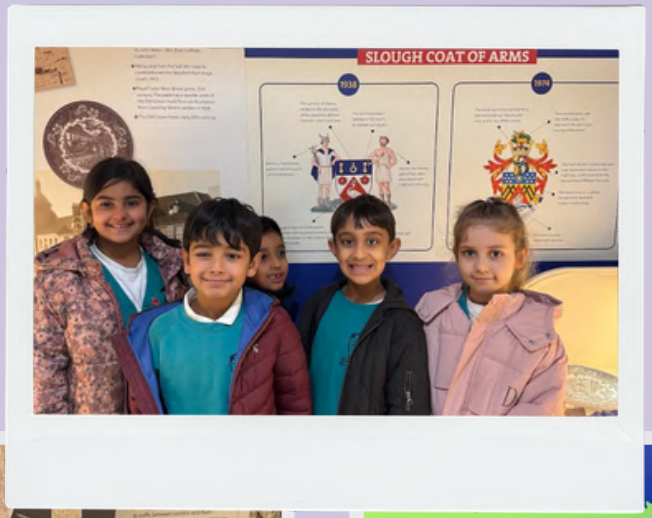




📚 Year 2's Brilliant Book Adventure at The Curve! 📖✨

Our wonderful Year 2 children enjoyed a fantastic afternoon exploring The Curve Library in Slough! From discovering exciting new stories to exploring the shelves and cosy reading pods, our little Willow bookworms had a brilliant time immersing themselves in the wonderful world of books. It was lovely to see so much curiosity and enthusiasm as the children discovered the joy of reading for pleasure!

We are incredibly proud of how sensibly and respectfully Year 2 represented Willow throughout their visit. Their fantastic behaviour and love of learning made the afternoon even more special. What a wonderful adventure filled with books, imagination and discovery! 💙🌟







🎁 Year 3 Think Outside the Box! 📦✨

Our brilliant Year 3 children have been busy becoming little Willow designers and engineers!

🌟 In Design and Technology, they carefully folded nets and added structural supports to build strong, sturdy jack-in-the-boxes. There was plenty of creativity, concentration and clever problem-solving as their designs started taking shape!

We are so proud of our budding inventors and cannot wait to see their finished creations. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 3! 💙🎨







🌈 Year 4's Big Ideas for a Better Willow! 💡✨

Our brilliant Year 4 children have been putting their thinking caps on and dreaming up ways to make our wonderful Willow community even better! 💙 Focusing on our playground and lunchtimes, the children shared some fantastic ideas to make playtimes more enjoyable for everyone, including cosy reading areas, colouring spaces and benches for relaxing with friends!

We absolutely love seeing our young Willow changemakers sharing their ideas and thinking about how to make our school a happier, more welcoming place for everyone. Big ideas from our little superstars! 🌟💖







👑 Year 5 Have a Royally Wonderful Time at Windsor Castle! 🏰✨

Our fabulous Year 5 children swapped their classrooms for a little royal magic on their wonderful trip to Windsor Castle! 👑 From exploring the magnificent castle grounds to watching the King's Guard march, our little Willow historians were full of excitement as they discovered the fascinating history of this incredible royal landmark!

There were big smiles, curious minds and plenty of magical memories made along the way! We are so proud of our Year 5 superstars for their fantastic enthusiasm and love of learning.

What a royally brilliant adventure for our Willow family! 💙🌟

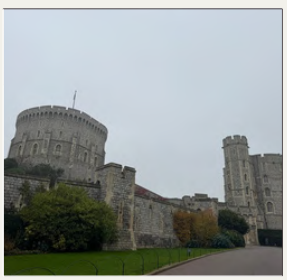












🦖 Year 6's Roarsome Day of Discovery! 🧬✨

Our wonderful Year 6 children had a fantastic adventure at the Natural History Museum, where they stepped into a world of fascinating discoveries! As part of their Science learning on Evolution and Inheritance, the children took part in an exciting workshop exploring how living things have changed and adapted over millions of years. It was a brilliant opportunity to see their classroom learning come to life and discover more about the incredible natural world around us.

From exploring scientific ideas to asking thoughtful questions, our young Willow scientists showed fantastic curiosity and enthusiasm throughout their visit. We are so proud of the way Year 6 embraced this wonderful learning experience and represented Willow so brilliantly. What a dinosaur-sized day of discovery! 🦕💙🌟

















🧸 200 Teddies, £100 Raised and a Whole Lot of Kindness! 💖✨

What a wonderful way to celebrate World Kindness Day at Willow! Our amazing Kindness Ambassadors helped find loving new homes for an incredible 200 teddy bears, spreading smiles and happiness throughout our school community. Even better, together we raised a fantastic £100 for 52 Lives, a wonderful charity dedicated to making a difference through kindness! 🧸💕

Our brilliant School Council would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, carers and children who took part and generously donated to this worthy cause. We are so proud of our Willow family for coming together and showing just how powerful a little kindness can be. What a fantastic achievement! 💙🌈



🎻 Strings, Smiles and Wonderful Music at Willow! 🎶✨

What a lovely musical treat we had at Willow as we welcomed Tuscana Strings for a special concert! The children had the wonderful opportunity to enjoy live string music, experiencing the beautiful sounds of the instruments and the magic of a musical performance.

It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate music and inspire our young Willow learners. We hope the concert has encouraged some budding musicians to discover their own love of music! A huge thank you to Tuscana Strings for sharing their talents with us and making the occasion so special.

📸 Want to see more? Head over to our Instagram @WillowPrimarySchool for more photos and videos from this wonderful concert! 💙🎼✨

















E-Safety: Think Before You Tap!

Imagine coming home from school and seeing a message in the football group chat. Someone's making fun of a friend for missing a goal, and others are adding laughing emojis. What would you do?

Some children call this 'roasting'. A joke can feel very different when you're the person everyone is laughing at.

- **Check together.** If your child uses WhatsApp or another messaging app, take a few minutes to look at their group chats together. Ask who's in the chat and what people are sharing.
- **Pause before you reply.** Ask your child, "How would you feel if that message was about you?" Remind them that they can choose to leave a hurtful message without replying, reacting or forwarding it.
- **Tell an adult.** If your child sees someone being picked on, encourage them to show you or another adult they trust. You can also speak to your child's class teacher.



🎄 The Willow Winter Fête Is Almost Here! 🎅✨

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Willow, and we are so excited to invite our wonderful Willow families to our Winter Fête on Friday 4th December, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm! 🎁❄️ We cannot wait to bring our school community together for a lovely afternoon of festive fun and Christmas cheer!

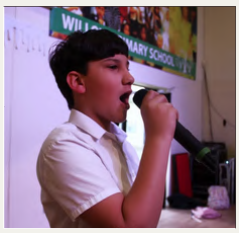
⏰ Please remember that school will finish early on this day, with staggered collection times for each year group. There will also be no afternoon Nursery session or Wombats after-school club.

📩 Please check the information shared on ClassDojo and email for your child's collection time and further details. We look forward to seeing you there! 💙🎄



📸 Follow the Fun at Willow Primary School!




We are proud to regularly share snapshots of learning, celebrations, and everyday school life with our families and wider community via Instagram.

Follow us to see more:

@MarishAcademyTrust

@WillowPrimarySchool





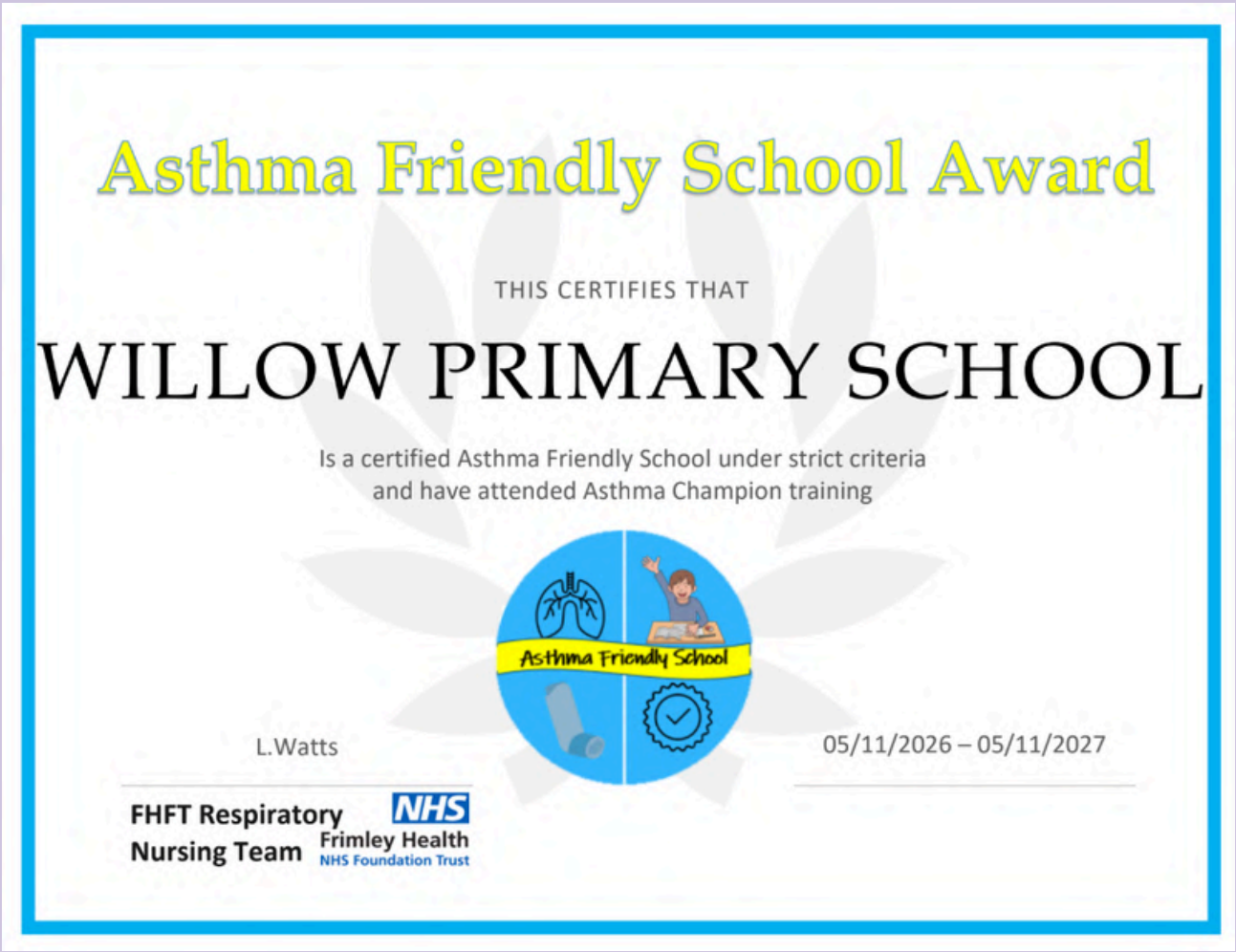


💙 Willow Celebrates Asthma Friendly School Status! 🌟

We are delighted to announce that Willow Primary School has officially been awarded Asthma Friendly School status! 🎉 This wonderful achievement recognises our commitment to keeping every child safe, healthy and supported, particularly those living with asthma. From ensuring quick access to inhalers to providing specialist staff training, we are incredibly proud of the work our Willow team has put into achieving this recognition!

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff, including our Asthma Lead, Mrs Quadir, and Asthma Champion, Mrs Hussain, for helping us maintain a safe and caring environment for all our children. 💙

📩 For more information about our Asthma Friendly School status, please read the letter shared with parents and carers on ClassDojo.



Attendance Statistics

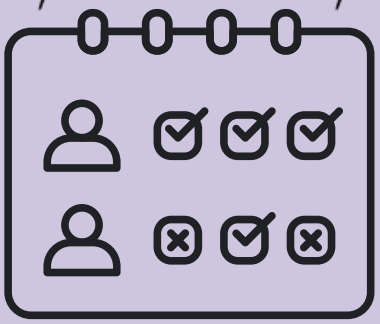
Our attendance..

- Reception: 94.58%
- Year 1: 94.87%
- Year 2: 93.95% OH NO!
- Year 3: 95.14%
- Year 4: 97.55% Well Done
- Year 5: 95.21%
- Year 6: 92.24%

Our target is 96%

Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.





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!

Parent Notices

Timings of the School Day

Soft start is from 8:15am to 8:30am for all year groups except Nursery.

Willow Tree: Doors open 8:15am to 8:45am and then at 3:00pm
Nursery: 8:00 – 11:00am and 12:00pm – 3:00pm
Reception: 8:30am – 3:15pm
Year 1 and Year 2: 8:30am – 3:15pm
Year 3 and Year 4: 8:30am – 3:25pm
Year 5 and Year 6: 8:30am – 3:25pm

Ensure that you drop your child off at the designated entrance. Do not leave them unsupervised on the school grounds.

Fees for Nursery, Breakfast club and Meerkats

Wombats	£2.40 Before 4pm	£6 After 4pm
Breakfast Club	£3.30 for 7am-7:30am	£1.20 from 7:30am
Late collection	£5 per 15 minutes	-

If you would like your child to attend Breakfast club or Meerkats you will need to apply for a space. For more information or an application form, enquire at the school office.

Please note, there is a different payment schedule for Pupil Premium/ Free School Meal pupils. Please contact the office before applying.

All pupils must be booked in advance otherwise they will not be allowed to attend. If your child attends Wombats without a booking you will be charged the late fee. Children must not attend Breakfast Club without a booking as numbers are limited. Please book a week in advance.

You are required to sign your child in to Breakfast Club and out of Wombats each day.

Parent Notices

Playground Fundraising Initiative

We are excited to share that both schools will be fundraising throughout the year to support the purchase of new playground equipment. A variety of events will be held across the year to help us reach this goal. We look forward to your support and involvement in these upcoming activities.

School Lunches

Please remember to book your child's school lunches in advance through ParentPay.

If you do not have a ParentPay login or are having trouble accessing your account, please speak to the school office, who will be happy to help.

Polite Reminder to Parents and Carers

We kindly request that no dogs (or any other pets) are brought onto the school premises, even if they are being carried.

Please also ensure that bikes and scooters are not ridden anywhere within the school grounds. There have been a few concerns raised about near accidents involving pedestrians. When leaving bikes in the designated bike area, please make sure they are securely locked.

Additionally, we ask all parents and carers to be considerate of our neighbours during drop-off and pick-up times. Please park responsibly and drive calmly and safely around the school.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone.









Willow School Uniform

Our Willow school uniform is:



- Green Sweatshirt or cardigan
- Navy blue trousers, shorts or skirt
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Black sensible shoes (no boots, high heels or platforms)
- (Nursery – the above with dark coloured jogging bottoms)
- PE Kit – plain white T-Shirt (round neck or polo), navy/black shorts.
- A dark tracksuit (plain or with a small logo) to wear over the PE Kit for outdoor lessons in cold weather. Trainers/plimsolls are needed for all PE lessons.

All items of clothing must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

The only jewellery allowed is one small stud in each ear, a watch and that which is a specific religious requirement. These must all be removed for PE. The child must take full responsibility for looking after these items. the school will accept no responsibility for their loss or damage.

PE and Games – PE is not an optional subject, it is a part of the national curriculum.

Swimming in KS2 – Swimming is not an optional subject. A letter with swimming costume requirements will be sent when your child is in year 4.

🌟 Come and Join Our Willow Family! 🌟

Are you looking for an exciting new opportunity? Would you love to be part of a friendly, welcoming and supportive school community where every day brings something new?

Here at Willow Primary School, we are passionate about making a difference to the lives of our children, and we're looking for enthusiastic, caring and dedicated people to join our wonderful team!

We currently have some exciting vacancies available across the school, and we would love to hear from anyone who shares our passion for helping children learn, grow and shine! 🌈

Whether you're looking for your next career opportunity or know someone who would be a fantastic addition to our Willow family, please help us spread the word!

You can find our current vacancies, along with job descriptions, person specifications and application forms, on the Marish Academy Trust vacancies portal: https://marishacademytrust.co.uk/?page_id=3772?utm=sparkmail.app

💚 Come and be part of something special. We can't wait to welcome some new faces to our Willow family!

Important Pupil Premium notice

Did you know that your child could be helping to bring extra funding into school?

If your family receives certain benefits, your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium. This funding helps us provide additional support, resources and enrichment opportunities that benefit children throughout their time at school. It also means that core funding can be used for some of those items which school otherwise, struggles to afford, such as air conditioning.

Even if your child does not have school meals, or you are unsure whether you qualify, we encourage you to check, as the school and your child will still benefit. The application is quick, confidential and could make a real difference to your child's education.

If you think you may be eligible, or would like help completing an application, please contact the school office. We're always happy to help.

Thank you for taking a few moments to check your eligibility and for your continued support.

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.

What's On?

December Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via Zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Raising Self-Esteem	30 Nov 10am
Introduction to OCD	30 Nov 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	7 Dec 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	7 Dec 7pm
Improving Family Communication	8 Dec 10am
What is ACT?	8 Dec 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	14 Dec 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	14 Dec7pm
Understanding Anger	15 Dec 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	15 Dec 7pm

FACE is having a facelift!

From January 2027, we're making FACE even better!

Look forward to **more topics,** more **free sessions on our YouTube channel,** and **24/7 access to recordings** of our parent talks for families with a FACE School Membership.

More choice, more flexibility, more support – whenever you need it!