

# 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 17th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



This week is Neurodiversity Celebration Week!

What is Neurodiversity?

When it comes to inclusion, neurodiversity refers to a world where neurological differences are recognised and respected as all other human variations.

Depending on how our brains are wired we think, move, process information and communicate in different ways. Many people in our community use neurodiversity as an umbrella term used to describe alternative thinking styles such as Dyslexia, DCD (Dyspraxia), Dyscalculia, Autism and ADHD. But regardless of labels, neurodiversity is about recognising those who think differently. And no matter what the world can benefit from different thinkers!

Attendance update:

Whole school Attendance today	90.9%	
Whole school Attendance last Monday	93.2%	
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 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'.

Whole school attendance compared to last Monday has dropped to 90.9% and overall so far this year it has stayed at 92.8%.

Willow Wood Community Nursery and Primary School places great emphasis upon every child achieving their full potential. It is important therefore that every child attends the school regularly and participates in the schooling that is offered if they are to make good progress and benefit from the opportunities that school offers.

It is expected that parents/carers support their child by complying with the law which imposes a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their son/daughters are properly educated.

When a child has a high level of irregular attendance due to illness, we will contact Parents to discuss the measures that have been taken, ie. visiting the GP. When a child's attendance falls below 90 %, to enable us to authorise any future absences due to illness medical evidence may be required.

This can be in the form of:

- Copy of prescription relating to the illness
- A dated note from the GP's receptionist confirming your visit to the GP
- A medical appointment card
- Evidence of medicine prescribed by the GP

If you are unsure whether your child is too unwell to attend school, please consult the information from the NHS in the link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please remember that Parents must contact school every day to inform us of the reasons for absence.

## Attendance Superstars

Last week the class with the best attendance was again Fir Cones with an amazing 100% attendance! So a big well done to them for being our attendance superstars! They received another £10 book token to buy new books to have in their classroom!

## World Down Syndrome Day

What is World Down Syndrome Day?

World Down Syndrome Day is on 21 March every year. It is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The goal is to help people understand and support those with Down syndrome better.

The date being the 21st day of the 3rd month was chosen to represent the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome. #WorldDownSyndromeDay



We are selling Gingerbread socks this week for international down syndrome day. The biscuits are £1, please give the money to your child's class teacher and they will be delivered to the classroom.

## 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 Non Uniform Day

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.

Non-uniform day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, please bring an Easter egg or a 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 Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> May '25 1 night	£122 £61 (pupil premium)	£40 by 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov '24	£82 £21 (pupil premium) By 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb '25
Y3/4/5/6	Gulliver's World Date: 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> June 1 night	£115 £57.50 (pupil premium)	£35 by 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov '24	£80 £22.50 (pupil premium) By 26 <sup>th</sup> April '25

## Dates for your diary

- **Non-uniform Day – bring an Easter egg or bar of chocolate** – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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

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 Ullein  
Acting Head Teacher

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