

# Willow Park News

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WILLOW PARK SCHOOL

Dream. Believe. Exceed

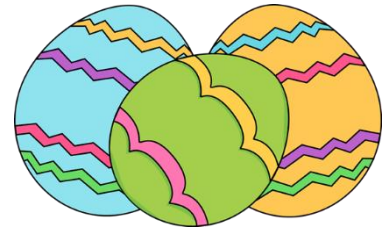
## April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another school term has finished and what an amazing spring term it has been! The children have worked incredibly hard to make progress, create wonderful friendships and flourish.

There are many highlights from this half-term including our nature walk to the church, fire fighters visiting and letting us explore the fire engine, increasing our Makaton skills and children communicating more in the way that best suits them! We are all looking forward to the summer term and all the amazing learning and activities planned.

Over the Easter holidays, we will be sending home some fun learning to complete. We recognise that holidays can be busy and not always the most restful. We appreciate any learning that can be completed and would enjoy seeing what the children get up to over the holidays. Please do continue to read with your child daily as this is so important.



## Dates for your Diary

Please mark these important dates in your calendars.

- **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April:** School closes at 3pm for the Easter Holidays.
- **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April:** School opens for the summer term.

## Reminders

- Please remember to send your child into school with their **Reading books every Monday and shared learning journals at the beginning of every half-term.**
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is crucial for student success. If your child is absent, please
- notify the school as soon as possible everyday your child is absent.
- **Shared learning:** Every half-term we will send home some learning that can be completed at home. We do not expect that all of them are completed but it would be lovely to see what you and your child are learning at home. We also encourage daily reading with your child.
- **Clothing and nappies:** Please make sure that you child is coming to school with enough
- nappies/pants and spare clothes for the day, we enjoy lots of messy and outdoor play so spare clothes are essential. **Please make sure all items of clothing are named!** As the weather will start to warm up, please dress your child accordingly and remember sun cream if appropriate.

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### Our Key Learning

At Willow Park, we continue to strive for excellence in all areas of education. This week in our classroom, we've had an exciting and busy time learning different subjects!



In **Phonics**, we have introduced a new Phonics Scheme called Monster Phonics. Children have been enjoying environmental sounds, body percussion and using instruments to make rhythmic sounds. Some of our children have started to learning letter sounds and grouping classroom items in the right groups based on the sound they start with.

When your child is ready to hear and say the initial sounds in words, it is absolutely vital that they learn the **pure sounds** of the letters and not the letters of the alphabet to begin with. This will enable them to develop their reading and writing skills later. [Click here for a video that can help you and your child understand pure sounds](#)

In **Maths**, we have been exploring shapes, continuing our counting practice and making patterns. Children have been matching shapes with the shapes puzzles, finding shapes all over the classroom and sorting those shapes into the right groups. We have continued counting and making repeating patterns during all our continuous provision times.

We've had lots of exciting and enriched learning opportunities this half-term. Rugby **Fire Brigade** brought their fire engine to school and let us explore. The children enjoyed sitting in the truck, putting on a fire fighters' helmets and saying hello to the Fire Fighters.



All the children and staff really enjoyed the **walk to the church**. Every child walked so well and had a wonderful time exploring the church and all the nature we could spot!



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### Intensive Interaction

Intensive Interaction is a communication-based approach designed for children who struggle with conventional communication. It focuses on building social communication through sensory engagement, non-verbal cues, and shared moments of interaction. The approach encourages spontaneous communication by mimicking sounds, gestures, and expressions, helping individuals connect with others in meaningful ways.



At home, parents can support intensive interaction by creating a rich, engaging environment where communication is encouraged. Simple activities like playing games, using facial expressions, and mimicking sounds or actions can help promote interaction. Parents can use eye contact, physical touch, or sounds to encourage their child's response, ensuring that communication remains a natural, relaxed experience. Consistent, patient, and responsive interactions build trust and enhance the child's communication skills over time. The key is maintaining a focus on the child's cues and ensuring that every interaction feels enjoyable and meaningful.

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### In Other News

After Easter we will have a slightly new staff structure. Kim Preston will be 'moving upstairs' to focus on her Director responsibilities and we are delighted to announce the appointment of Joel Baldwin as full-time Head teacher.

- Alex will be continuing as school Principal and will be working closely with Joel on all aspects of school leadership.
- Joel will be the first port of call for parents if they can't make contact with their child's Key Worker or Jayne. The best method of contacting the school is on WhatsApp to the school mobile on 07380 956651
- Jayne will be the class teacher from Monday to Wednesday
- Joel will be the class teacher on Thursdays and Fridays

Wishing you all a Happy Easter,

**The Team at Willow Park School**