

Willow Park News

Page 1 of 6

3rd October - Autumn 1 2025



Willow Park School
Curious Engaged Flourishing

A Great Start...

It's been a great start to the school year. As well as Debbie joining the Teaching Assistant Team, we've welcomed new children to the class and they have settled really well.

Our learning spaces have been redesigned to better support sensory regulation, engagement, and independence. The new timetable reflects a more structured and balanced day, with clear routines and opportunities for therapeutic input. Children have adapted to these improvements excellently.

Children are free to explore all areas of our learning space, following their own interests and curiosity. Our staff are specially trained to join in with their play and learning, gently guiding them while **keeping each child's individual goals in mind, as set out in their EHCPs**. Learning starts with the child, and our adults adapt their support to help them take the next steps in a way that feels natural and engaging.



Alex
Principal



Joel
Head teacher



Jayne
Class teacher



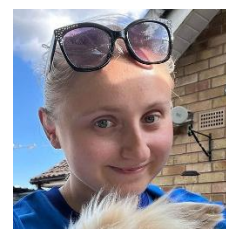
Sam
Teaching Assistant



Nicky
Teaching Assistant



Kirsty
Teaching Assistant



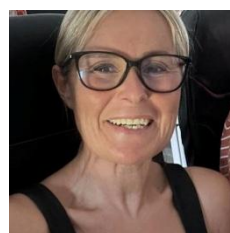
Chloe
Teaching Assistant



Karina
Teaching Assistant



Debbie
Teaching Assistant



Wendy
Volunteer

Willow Park News

Page 2 of 6

3rd October – Autumn 1 2025



Willow Park School
Curious Engaged Flourishing

Immunisations

Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership contacted us in the summer to let us know that they will be coming to do flu immunisations at Willow Park on Thursday 23rd October. Please look out for an email and/or letter from them in which you will be asked to consent or deny consent for your child to receive a flu immunisation.

Dates for your Diary

- **Friday 10th October** – World Mental Health Day
- **Thursday 23rd October** – Flu Immunisations
- **Friday 24th October** – Last day of Autumn Term 1
- **Monday 27th to Friday 31st October** – HALF TERM BREAK

- **Mon 3rd November** – Children return to school for Autumn term 2
- **Topic for Autumn 2 – Shops**
- **Friday 7th November** – Rugby Market and Soft Play Trip for some of the pupils
- **10th - 14th November** – Anti-Bullying Week
- **11th November** – Remembrance Day
- **13th November** – World Kindness Day
- **21st November** – Children in Need Day
- **21st November** – Flu immunisations (details to follow)
- **Weds 26th November** – Parents' Stay and Play at Willow Park (details to follow)
- **1st – 4th December** – 'I am Unique' week
- **Tues 2nd & Weds 3rd December** – Parents' consultation meetings with Joel and Jayne (a chance to catch up on our child's progress in school and to ask questions) – appointment time will be organised with you in advance.
- **Friday 19th December** – Last day of the Autumn term

- **Monday 5th January 2026** – Spring term begins

Willow Park News

Page 3 of 6

3rd October - Autumn 1 2025

Year's Term Dates

Term Dates 2025/26 (pupils in school)

Autumn Term 1 - Thursday 4 September 2025 - Friday 24 October 2025

Autumn Term 2 - Monday 3 November 2025 - Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 1 - Monday 5 January 2026 - Friday 13 February 2026

Spring Term 2 - Monday 23 February 2026 - Friday 27 March 2026

Summer Term 1 - Monday 13 April 2026 - Friday 22 May 2026

Summer Term 2 - Monday 1 June 2026 - Thursday 16 July 2026

See www.willowparkschool.warwickshire.sch.uk/term-dates

where you can always find our term dates

Attendance so far this year

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. As we have a small cohort of children, statistics about attendance at Willow Park are not hugely reliable. However, we track attendance carefully and support families when attendance falls below expected levels. **The minimum attendance percentage we aim for each year is 96%.**

This means that in order to meet that target, **your child should be absent no more than 7 school days** over the whole school year.

Please remember it is **not within the law for parents to keep their children of school because they have other children at home with different school holiday dates**. Such absences will be recorded as unauthorized and the local authority will be informed. It must be noted that the vast majority of parents at Willow Park ensure that their children attend regularly. **Thank you** 😊

5 of our pupils have 100% attendance this year so far. That's awesome 😊

So far this year **Attendance at Willow Park**

88.05%

Willow Park News

Page 4 of 6

3rd October - Autumn 1 2025



Reminders

- Please send your child in with appropriate clothing for the weather. **Please send in wellies for our walks out and about.**
- Please send in a water bottle/drink that your child will drink from.
- Please ensure that we have **spare clothes** for your child, in case they get wet having fun in the water.
- **Reading books** should be sent in to school every Monday; they will come home to you on a Wednesday.
- **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 your 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. All clothing must be named.

Sensology at Home – A Guide for Parents

At Willow Park School, Sensology sessions are designed to help children develop sensory awareness, engagement, and emotional regulation. By incorporating structured sensory activities, children build confidence and focus in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. Parents can support these experiences at home by creating simple and consistent sensory routines that encourage exploration without pressure.

Getting Started: Creating a Sensory Routine

Just like in school, consistency is key when implementing Sensology at home. Here's how to set up a familiar and engaging routine:

1. Start with a Relaxing Song – Use the same song at the beginning of each session to signal the start of the activity and create predictability.
2. Introduce Sensory Exploration – Gradually incorporate visual, auditory, tactile, and scent-based experiences to encourage natural curiosity.
3. Encourage Interaction – Model excitement and engagement, but allow your child to explore at their own pace.
4. End Positively – Use bubbles or a familiar closing song to reinforce enjoyment and self-confidence.

Willow Park News

Page 5 of 6

3rd October – Autumn 1 2025



Sensory Activities to Try at Home

1. Visual Stimulation

- Soft, changing lights – Try using LED colour-changing lamps, fairy lights, or lava lamps to capture attention and provide calming sensory input.
- Bubble-filled bottles – Create sensory bottles by filling clear containers with water, glitter, and beads for soothing movement effects.
- Shadow play – Use torchlights to create fun shapes, encouraging exploration and visual focus.

2. Auditory Exploration

- Music and rhythm – Play calming instrumental music or sing simple, structured songs to build anticipation and focus.
- Household sounds – Experiment with everyday noises like running water, tapping objects, or playing gentle chimes to promote auditory awareness.
- Whisper games – Whispering fun phrases and encouraging your child to listen can strengthen sound discrimination.

3. Tactile Engagement

- Textured mats or fabrics – Provide smooth, rough, soft, and bumpy objects for hands-on exploration.
- Sensory play trays – Fill shallow trays with rice, sand, or fabric scraps to stimulate touch and encourage discovery.
- Hand massages – Using lotion or soft brushes, gently massage your child's hands to promote relaxation and sensory awareness.

4. Smell-Based Activities

- Scented bubbles – Try blowing bubbles infused with mild vanilla or citrus extracts to engage the sense of smell.
- Aromatherapy bags – Fill small fabric pouches with lavender, cinnamon sticks, or dried orange peels for calming scents.
- Cooking with aromas – Engage children in baking or food preparation that uses natural scents like cocoa, cinnamon, or fresh herbs.

Willow Park News

Page 6 of 6

3rd October – Autumn 1 2025



Keeping Sensology Fun and Meaningful

- Make it a regular routine – Setting predictable sensory sessions helps children feel comfortable and engaged.
- Follow their interests – If your child enjoys a certain texture, sound, or colour, explore more activities related to that preference.
- Encourage but don't force – Allow exploration at their own pace, reinforcing enthusiasm without pressure.
- Celebrate participation – Use positive language and gestures to reinforce confidence and enjoyment.

Sensology at home can be an enjoyable way for children to develop sensory awareness, emotional regulation, and curiosity in a familiar environment. By integrating small, simple activities into everyday life, parents can help create meaningful and engaging sensory experiences that mirror the techniques used at Willow Park School

Food Vouchers

As you are aware, our Directors (Kim and Olly) have committed to providing parents with supermarket vouchers (from the parents' chosen supermarket) on a termly basis. As we don't have catering facilities on site, the vouchers are designed to help parents with the cost of providing their child with a packed lunch each school day.

Vouchers this year will be sent home to parents, through Kim in the following weeks:

- Autumn term vouchers: Week beginning 20th October
- Spring term vouchers: Week beginning 9th February
- Summer term vouchers: Week beginning 18th May

If you have any questions or queries about food vouchers, please contact Kim by email at kpreston@willowparkschool.warwickshire.sch.uk



Wishing you all the best in the coming weeks - from the team at Willow Park 😊

School Landline 01788 524683

Joel and Staff Mobile 07380 956651

Alex's Mobile 07380 749082