



Head of Academy's Message

Whole School Attendance: 97%

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term. This has been a really great start to 2024 at Willow Green and it has been wonderful to speak to so many parents and carers about the exciting year ahead for us all. The children have also come back in really good spirits and with a great outlook for 2024. We started the week with my assembly by introducing our focus for this term which is 'Dreams and Goals'. This links perfectly with our ASPIRE ethos and the children talked brilliantly about their dreams and goals for the short, medium and long term future. We also discussed the ingredients of success and the personal qualities required to be successful. The children devised their own set of 'rules' including resilience and teamwork.

Young Voices

On Tuesday evening, our talented young voices choir went on our annual visit to Sheffield Arena to perform with schools from across the country in this inspirational event. Our children (and staff) sung their hearts out and absolutely loved being involved in the event. All of the children did Willow Green proud and the parents and staff had a brilliant evening. Thank you to all of the staff who have prepared the children over the past few months and made this experience possible.

Safer Internet Day, 6th February.

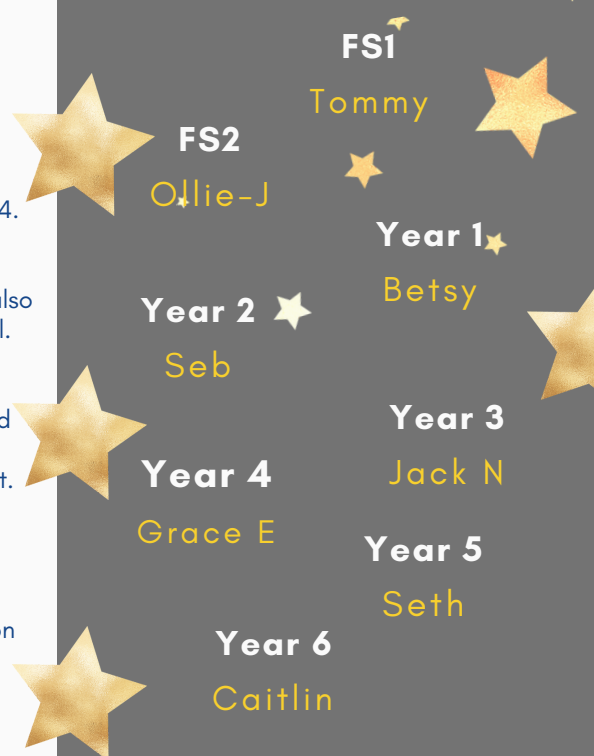
Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year it focuses on an online issue or theme that speaks to the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. Created in consultation with young people across the UK, this year Safer Internet Day will be focusing on change online, this includes covering:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology
- Using the internet to make change for the better
- The changes young people want to see online
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline.

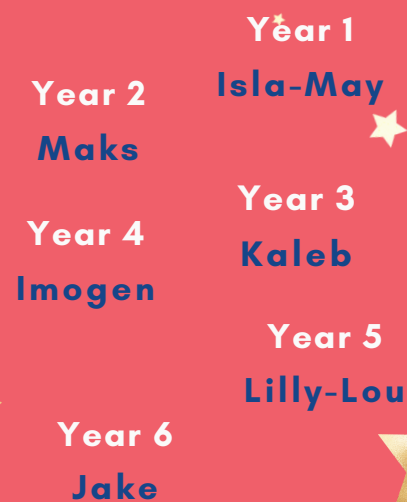
In the run up to Safer internet day at Willow Green we will be prioritising e-safety as a theme across school with a focus on 'Online Reputations' as part of our PSHE and computing curriculum. We will also be sharing lots of information with parents over the coming weeks about how you can support your children in with regards to a range of e-safety topics. As usual there is a link on this news letter and on our website and we will be keeping you updated via Class Dojo.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend
Mr Parkinson

WGA Golden Stars



English Stars



Maths Champions





EYFS

Weekly Attendance: 97%

EY MAKATON SIGNERS OF THE WEEK: FS1 - Lucas FS2 - Maya

Children in Early Years this week made fresh fruit smoothies using exotic fruits (linking to our FS2 key text), they used adjectives in full sentences to describe the colour, texture, taste or smell of the fruits we used. They then shared their ideas and thoughts with their friends, listening intently to each other and being respectful by engaging in eye contact and waiting their turn to talk. Some children even had questions to ask their friends, such as 'why did you like it?' In FS2 maths, we have been focussing on zero and the composition of this number, we have been practising 10 and understanding one more than zero and writing this number. In Talk for writing, we have been discussing and exploring our new text 'Coming to England'. We have enjoyed sharing ideas of what we think will happen next and then linking this to our own experiences. FS1 have also started our new T4W story "We're going on a bear hunt" and we are focussing on prepositions such as "over" as this is used throughout the text.

Year 1

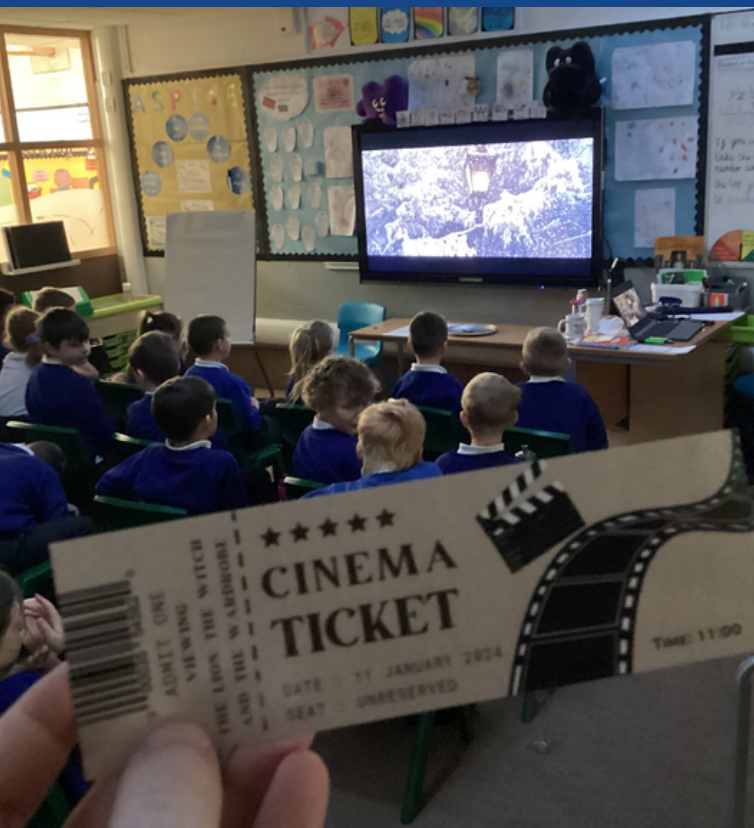
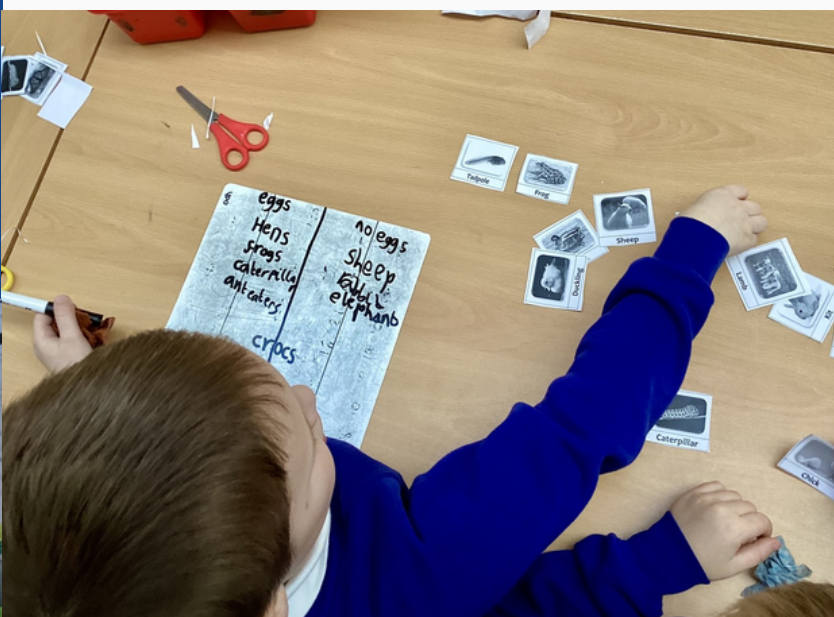
Weekly Attendance: 97%

Year One have had a wonderful start to the new year by beginning their new topic all about dinosaurs! During the term, we will investigate the question would you like a dinosaur's life? We have started by thinking about our bodies and our senses before we go onto thinking about animals and dinosaurs. This week, we investigated all the parts of our bodies and labelled them on a huge diagram! This weekend, play a game of Simon Says and see how many body parts the children can identify. Simon says touch your ankle! Later in the week, we went on to learn on about our five senses and completed an investigation to answer the question, which sense is more important? We used our senses to identify coco, lemon, spicy crisps, cotton wool and a dinosaur and found that all the senses worked together to help us identify the objects.

Year 2

Weekly Attendance: 98%

We have welcomed in the New Year by beginning our brand new units! In Science, we have been beginning our animals including humans learning by looking closely at the lifecycle of a butterfly. In History, we began our investigation into castles and their features. We completed our non fiction writing unit and started learning the story of Peter Pan!



Year 3

Weekly Attendance: 95%

We've hit the ground running in Year 3 this half term. In history we've started our brand new topic, 'Would you want to be a Victorian miner?' We've already had some really interesting conversations about how mining has impacted our local area. In science, we have started thinking about the difference between light and dark as well as what is a natural or unnatural light source. In English we have started thinking about action writing as we begin our topic based on The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. We even created our own Year 3 cinema. What a great start to the half term and 2024!

Online-Safety

This week's topic is all around mobile phones and what you can do to support your children in using them safely. Scan the QR code for the article and resources or visit: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>
Parents' Guide to Technology | Safer Internet Centre

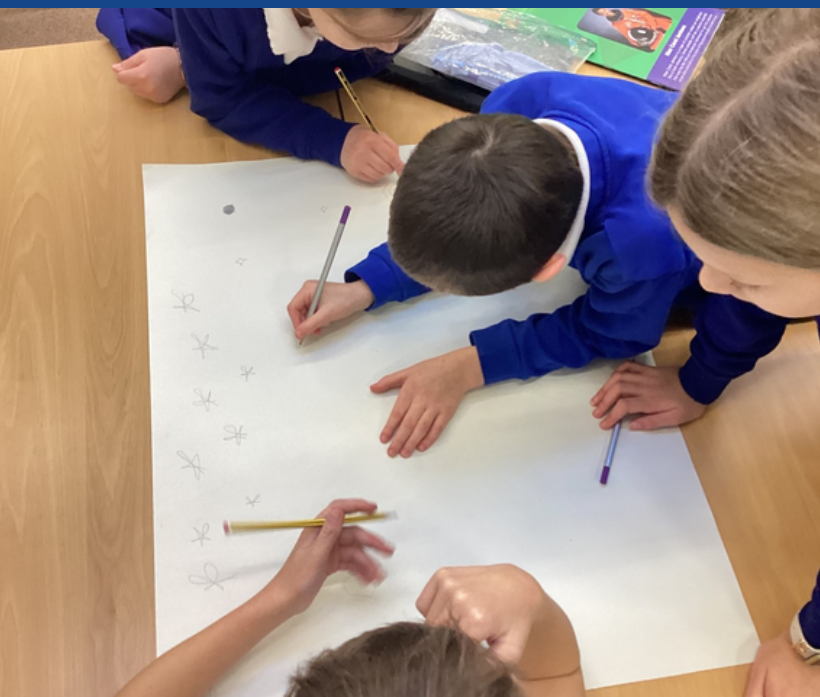




Year 4

Weekly Attendance: 97%

What a fabulous first week back it has been for Year 4! In writing we have tried to solve the mystery of the mysterious ring that has appeared the reason it has come with a warning, this has led to some fabulous drama work. Reading has seen us delve into the world of poetry and how we can give a voice to the wind, including shifting the mood and the use of onomatopoeia and personification! In science, we completed an experiment looking at different states of matter and the different properties the three main states have. We even spent time outside demonstrating how solids, liquids, and gases act on a molecular level.



Year 5

Weekly Attendance: 98%

Year 5 has had a fantastic start to the Spring Term! We've jumped into our new book, "Street Child," getting our prediction skills into gear during reading. In Writing, we're tackling instructional writing, exploring its features and structure for some creative fun ahead. Math-wise, we've wrapped up fractions and are gearing up for multiplication and division next week. Our Science sessions have been a blast, taking us on a journey to learn all about space. We've also completed our first-ever guitar lesson. Swimming sessions are ongoing, and there's been a mix of other exciting activities. Here's to more learning and fun in the weeks ahead!



Year 6

Weekly Attendance: 95%

In writing class this week, students have delved into the art of crafting setting descriptions. Through creative writing exercises, they've honed their ability to portray environments, utilising sensory details to bring settings to life. Students have practiced creating atmospheres that draw readers into the worlds they've crafted, enhancing their narrative skills. In mathematics, the focus has centred on angles. Students have engaged in activities and exercises geared toward understanding and working with angles. Whether calculating angles on a straight line, around a point, or exploring other geometric concepts such as drawing and measuring angles.

Beyond the traditional classroom subjects, students also had the opportunity to apply their skills in a hands-on setting. The Classroom Kitchen became a hub of activity as students participated in making spring rolls. This practical experience not only introduced them to culinary skills but also provided a unique context for applying mathematical concepts, such as measuring and estimating angles in the folding and preparation process. The combination of creative writing, mathematical exploration, and culinary activities added a diverse and engaging dimension to the learning experience throughout the week.

Willow Green Academy considers the welfare of all our pupils to be of great importance and we hope that parents are confident about their children's health and safety whilst in our academy. We will always try to share any concerns we have with parents.

However, there are times when we are legally obliged to share our concerns with other agencies, without first speaking to parents, or without the consent of parents. The safety and protection of our pupils is our most important concern and we wish to reassure you that any sharing of information is done with the children's best interest at heart. If you have any concerns about the welfare or safety of any child in our school, the Designated Child Protection Officer is Miss L Walker. In her absence, you should contact Mr C Parkinson. They can be contacted through the main office. The academy has a duty to inform parents that there is a prohibition on reporting or publishing details (including on social media) that could identify anyone who is subject to an allegation.

The Government have launched a new website aimed at parents, teachers and school leaders to give practical advice on protecting young people from extremism and radicalisation. This was launched by the Education Secretary and contains information which address many questions / issues faced by parents and children.