

ULLESTHORPE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WILLOW CLASS FOCUS

FRIDAY 9TH MAY 2025

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HEAD OF SCHOOL

MRS J. ALLEN



UPCOMING DATES

Y6 SATs assessments:

Mon 12th - Thurs 15th May

Y6 Celebration Assembly:

Friday 16th May 9:10

Half Term Break:

Mon. 26th May - Fri 30th
May

‘Learn together, Grow together, Shine forever’.
The Christian value in focus for this half term is ‘perseverance’ and we are truly seeing this value in action: through the self-challenge choices and hard-work that our children show every day. I want to make a particular note of our Year 6 pupils, who have been showing such diligence and perseverance in preparing for their SATs assessments next week. In our Friday worship assemblies we have enjoyed celebrating the many different ways in which our community are shining their light.

This newsletter’s focus is on Willow Class and it has been delightful to see how these youngest members of our school community have developed with the ongoing nurturing of our committed and caring school staff, and the friendly buddying of our older students. Read on to find out more about Willow Class learning and enrichment.

Congratulations to those children who have been Stars of the Week recently: Max, Eddie, Isaac, Jasmine, Lacey, Joshua, George, Nova, Finn, Millie, Freddie, Gracie and Callum. Well done to them all!

Please do feel free to come and speak with me at the school gates, or make an appointment through the school office.

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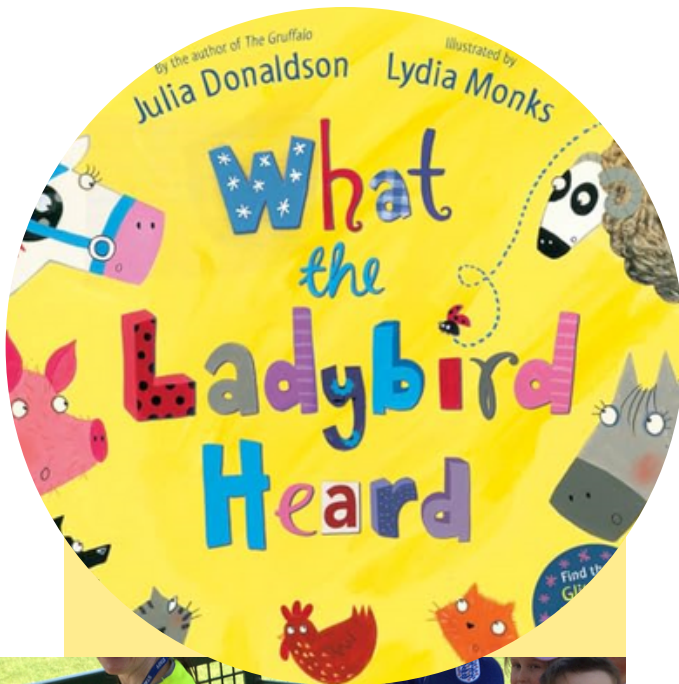
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WILLOW CLASS MRS HARTLEY

Stonehurst Farm Trip

Willow Class had a wonderful time at Stonehurst Farm. They were able to name and describe all the animals and their young. The chicks, lambs and piglets were very cute! The farmer taught us how they are cared for on the farm and which animals help supply us with tasty milk and eggs. The children demonstrated our school value of respect, with gentle strokes and handling. The children then wrote a recount of their trip, attempting words and sentences using their phonic skills.

Our shared story of the week was, 'What the Ladybird Heard' which is set on a farm. The children were able to match the animals in the story to their homes and plotted the characters' route to the prize cow shed using super early mapping skills. They then enjoyed roleplaying the story acting as the different characters outdoors. What an amazing time Willow class have had learning and shining together.



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WILLOW CLASS PHOTOS



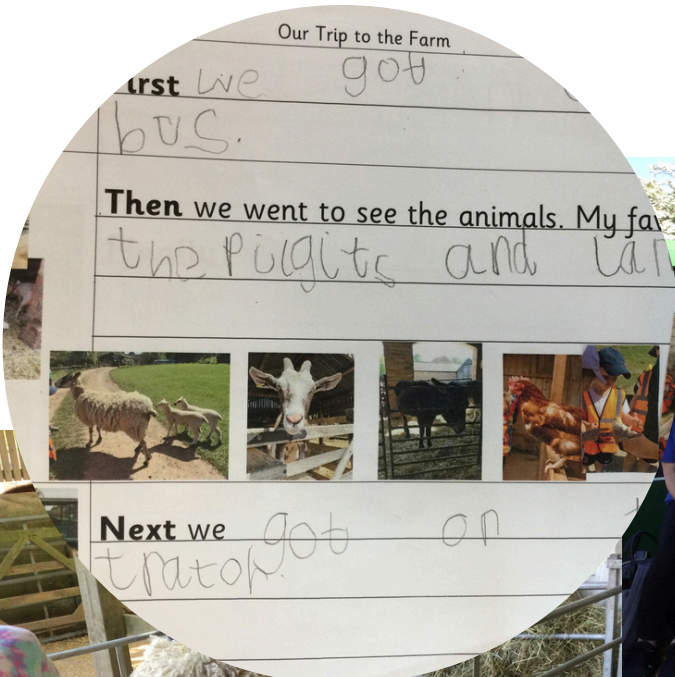
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VE DAY - 80 YEARS

Yesterday, in common with many schools, groups and individuals across the country and indeed the continent, we commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) day here at Ullesthorpe CE Primary School.

The children were taught about the importance of this event in securing our country's safety and freedoms. A special assembly was held by Mr Gray, which explored the importance of VE Day for peace and our British Values of:

Democracy
Rule of Law
Individual Liberty
Mutual Respect
Tolerance of Faiths and Beliefs.

THE CHILDREN TOOK PART IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES TO MARK THE SPECIAL DATE:

FROM REFLECTIVE PEACE PRAYER WRITING, THROUGH TAKING PART IN CONGA LINES, TO JOINING IN WITH TEA PARTIES!

THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL ADULTS FOR PREPARING THESE ACTIVITIES.



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PCSO STEVE VISIT

Our local Lutterworth area PCSO Steve Adams came to visit us today to offer his support in ensuring that the roads and pavements around Ullesthorpe CE Primary School are as safe as they can possibly be. He surprised Oak Class and spoke with the JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officer) team about their important role in educating younger pupils about Road Safety.



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**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

ENCOURAGING ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CHECK-IN

**SUPERBLY WELL DONE TO THOSE WITH 100%
ATTENDANCE!**

Class:	Last Week: %	This Week: %
Willow	91	87
Maple	99	99
Birch	99	92
Oak	96	94
EYFS	91	87
Year 1	99	100
Year 2	99	98
Year 3	100	91
Year 4	99	93
Year 5	96	94
Year 6	96	94
School Overall (this year):		National Average:
95%		94.6%

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.

2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.

3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.

5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.

6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.

7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.

8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.

9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

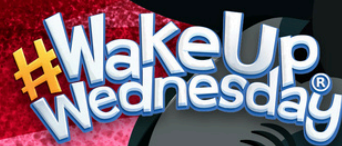
Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.

10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging