

# Willow Park News

Newsletter

March 2025



WILLOW PARK SCHOOL

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## Introducing Jayne White

Hello, my name is Jayne,

I am one of the class teachers here at Willow Park School. Teaching has always been a passion of mine. I studied at Sheffield Hallam University and graduated in 2009 with a BA (Hons) with Qualified Teacher Status in Primary Education. I have taught in various primary schools in Leicestershire across both KS1 and KS2. I started teaching at Willow Park School in November 2024 and absolutely love being part of the team.

I am trained in the teaching of synthetic phonics, enabling me to support literacy development through the systematic teaching of letter-sound relationships. I have been excited to bring these skills to the classroom, fostering a love of reading while contributing to a positive and engaging learning environment.

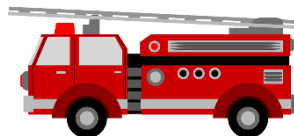
I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know both the children and staff at Willow Park School and very much look forward to the upcoming adventures we will have together!



## Dates for your Diary

Please mark these important dates in your calendars.

- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** Home Learning will be sent home. This is to be completed during this half-term.
- **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March:** Proposed visit from the local Fire Brigade
- **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March:** Spring Walk and Visit to St Botolph's Church
- **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



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## 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 to 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!**

## 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 across different subjects!

### Phonics

In **Phonics**, we've been working on identifying sounds we can hear in the story, 'Jack in the Beanstalk.' We have been stomping like a giant, clucking like a chicken and tip toeing like Jack. The children have started to recognise letters at the beginning of words throughout the story, e.g. 'J' for Jack. Our phonics games and activities have been a big hit, helping everyone stay engaged while reinforcing key skills!

In **Maths**, we have been exploring the concept of subitising. The children are working to their ability to quickly and accurately recognise the number of objects in a small group without having to count them one by one. For example, when you see 3 dots on a dice, you instantly know there are three, without needing to count each dot. We have also been exploring what 'lots of' something and 'one' of something looks like.



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In our **Topic** learning, the children have been exploring all things Spring! From flowers to baby animals to warmer weather. The children have been enjoying the warmer weather we have been blessed with and have been enjoying more outside time listening to the birds sing, reading running around in the sunshine!

At Willow Park School, the **Attention Autism Bucket** is an integral part of our daily routine, used to support children's attention and communication skills in an engaging and structured way. Each day, we fill the bucket with a variety of exciting and visually stimulating objects, which are revealed one by one during dedicated sessions. These moments are designed to capture the children's focus, encourage shared attention, and spark joyful interactions, all while fostering anticipation and curiosity. Our staff carefully model enthusiasm and engagement, creating an atmosphere where learning becomes irresistible and fun.



To support this approach at home, parents and caregivers can create their own version of the Attention Autism Bucket. Here are some activity ideas:

**Household Treasure Bucket:** Collect simple items from around the house, such as a whisk, colorful scarf, or a small flashlight. Reveal each object slowly, making it fun and exciting to watch.

**Seasonal Bucket Themes:** Use themes like "Spring" or "Under the Sea" with related items like flowers, toy fish, or shiny shells. These can tie into other family activities or discussions.

**Storytelling with Props:** Pair items in the bucket with a short story or rhyme. For example, a toy rabbit and carrots could go along with a simple tale about a bunny.

**Bubble Magic:** Incorporate items like bubbles to create a visually engaging activity. Blowing bubbles and encouraging your child to watch or pop them can help build attention and interaction.

**DIY Surprise Bag:** For a twist, use a bag or box instead of a bucket, and let your child help reveal the surprises.

By embracing this approach at home, you can mirror the structured fun of our classroom and support your child's developmental journey in a meaningful way. Let the magic of the bucket bring learning to life!

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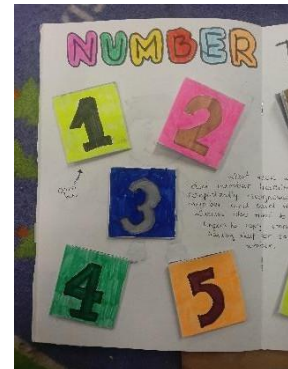
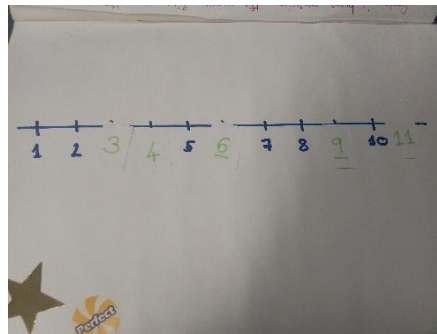
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### Shared Learning Books

At Willow Park School, we recognise the **importance of learning at home**. Every half-term we will **send out a Bingo Board** with learning that can be completed at home. These will be sent home in your child's shared learning journal, and you can use these to document any learning your child completes. We would love to hear about their adventures outside of school!

Hear are some examples;



In addition to our curriculum bingo boards for the half term we will also send out holiday activities for you to enjoy with your child over the holidays.

### 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 Whatapp 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

Thank you for your continued support,

**The Team at Willow Park School**