

Reception Newsletter

September 2025



Whole School Reminders

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays! Each child will be celebrated in class around the time of their special day. Please note, however, that we kindly ask families not to send in sweets, cakes, or other treats for the class. Anything sent in will be sent back home in order to be fair to all children.

Healthy Snacks and Water

The children in Reception receive a free healthy snack each day, this will either be a piece of fruit or vegetable. You are very welcome to send in your own piece of fruit/vegetable for a healthy snack, but please remember no other snacks or treats—these will be sent home if they are brought in. All children in all year groups should bring a water bottle to school every day.

Email and Phone Communication

To streamline communication and protect teacher wellbeing, all emails should now be sent to our admin email address, clearly marked FAO [Teacher's Name]. These will then be forwarded on. Please don't expect an instant reply—teachers will respond when they are able, but this may sometimes take a few working days. If anything is urgent, please call or email the school office directly. Likewise, teachers and senior leaders are not always instantly available for a telephone conversation but if you call the school office, you will receive a call back when we are free. This is particularly important to understand as our pupil numbers grow. We appreciate your respect and compliance with this request.

Morning Routine

The gates open at 8:20am. Please bring your child to the EYFS wooden gate, where Mrs Sharpe or another member of staff will greet you. The first few weeks can be emotional, especially if your child finds goodbyes tricky. Please stay positive and reassure them that they'll be safe and happy. If your child is very upset, we will aim to give you a reassuring call once they've settled. Remember: no news is good news. Parents continue to be invited in to classrooms on a Monday morning to read with their child. This will start on 15th September for EYFS.

Collection Arrangements

Parents/carers should continue to collect from classroom doors at home time. Staff will be present if you are not sure where to go so please do ask if you need any help. For safeguarding, please ensure that anyone collecting your child is on your pickup list with the school office. Alternatively, they must know the agreed password and we must be aware of who is collecting. Without this information, teachers cannot release children and will need to contact you for confirmation. Please do not be offended if you are asked multiple times for passwords, school staff are getting to know lots of new faces and names and safeguarding your children is our priority!

Be Creative - Be Authentic - Be Your Best



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Well Done Piano Class!



What a brilliant week our Reception children have had, and a very successful first full day at school. We are all so proud of the children for adapting so well to their new routines and environment. We would like to say a huge thank you for supporting them to be successful in their first week, we look forward to working with you all over the coming year in order to give your children the best start possible to their school journey here at Willow Grove.

Tapestry

Tapestry will be set up this week and used to share key information about your child's learning. Please ensure you've completed a consent form with the office if you haven't already. A reminder: we won't be using the messaging function on Tapestry—please send all communications via the school admin email to ensure nothing important is missed.



All About Me Bags

This past week we have been listening to the children share their 'All about me bags' in class, it has been a really good way for us and the children to get to know each other. If you still have this at home, please send it in with your child next week so they have the opportunity to share with the rest of the class- please include a family photo for our family book.



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Key Learning for Autumn 1

In the first few weeks of Reception, your child will be settling into their new environment by getting used to daily routines, learning the class rules, and beginning to build positive relationships with their teachers and peers. They'll be exploring the classroom and outdoor areas, learning how to use resources and take care of their own belongings. A big focus will be on developing independence—things like managing their coat, going to the toilet, and making choices during play. Through lots of fun, play-based activities, they'll also start to develop important social skills like sharing, turn-taking, and expressing their feelings. Most of all, this is a time for your child to feel safe, confident, and excited to learn in their new school community.

Phonics

At Willow Grove, we use the Read Write Inc. programme, which has shown excellent progress across the school. Reception children will begin daily phonics sessions the week of 15th September. Look out for more details on Tapestry soon. Meanwhile, please continue to share books at home—it makes a huge difference to progress.

Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school. Your child will participate in the reception baseline assessment (RBA) within the first 6 weeks of starting reception. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a progress measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between reception and year 6.

Things to Remember

PE Days - We won't be getting changed for PE until later in the term. Over the next few weeks the children will just be removing their shoes and socks for PE and getting used to the hall space. I will let you know when PE kits are needed

Library - The children will visit the library at least once a week. They will be given the opportunity to choose a book to share with you at home. This book will need returning the following week.

Monday Morning Reading - We invite you in every Monday morning from 8:20am to read with your child for ten minutes before saying goodbye. This is a lovely opportunity for you to visit your child's classroom in an informal way and support us to promote a love of reading. We understand that not all parents/carers are able to attend due to work commitments and thank those lovely parents/carers who welcome other children alongside theirs for a story.

Lunch Orders- Please ensure you have booked your child's school lunch before the deadline each week and talk with your child about what they will be having.

