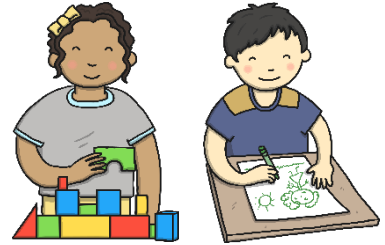




Willow Class Nursery Newsletter

Issue 3



Happy New Year!

I would like to wish you all a very happy new year! This term we are welcoming back our existing children as well as welcoming new friends into the nursery. We are very excited to get to know our new friends and to have lots of fun playing and learning together!

Can I say a **HUGE THANK YOU** for all our wonderful cards and gifts we received at Christmas, it is incredibly generous of you all.

Forest School:

Forest School will take a break for this term whilst the weather settles and our new friends get to know our routines. However, we will still venture outside and may pop into the Forest School area or go for nature walks around the school grounds on good weather days. Could I please ask that children come to school with a coat and if you would like to leave a pair of wellies that would be great! I will let you know soon what day Forest School will start on again.

Applying for school place:

For the children who will starting school in September 2026 the closing date for applications is on **Thursday 15th January**. Please use the following link to fill in an application

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

Our topic this term...

This term our topic is **ONCE UPON A TIME**. We are going to have fun reading lots of different traditional tales. The children will be focusing on 3 main stories; **The Little Red Hen**, **The Gingerbread Man** and **The 3 little pigs**. We will also be reading together other classic traditional tales. We will be focusing on telling the stories using class story maps and remembering the repetition in each story. The children will also have an opportunity to be bakers this term as we will be making bread and decorating gingerbread men.

Our topic will also give us the opportunity to look at how our season is changing from winter to Spring.

Books to look out for at the library...

- *Goldilocks and the three bears*
- *Little Red Riding Hood*
- *The Three Little Pigs*
- *Hansel and Gretel*
- *Jack and the Beanstalk*

Come and have a play!

We are always keen and excited to have volunteers coming into the nursery. If you feel that you would like to come and read, paint, cook or just play please let Mrs Fanstone know and we can see when will be the best time for you to come in!

If you have any other hidden talents (gardening, playing an instrument, etc) and would like to share it with the children please just say! Mums, Dads, Grandmas, Grandads are all welcome!

Phonics...

In Nursery we are going to begin learning phonics through our school wide phonics scheme Rocket Phonics. The scheme is designed to encourage children hear and say their early sounds through songs and interactive big books. The children will learn together in a daily adult led carpet time session. I will put up the sound we are learning along with the song onto our web page.

Reminders:

- Please ensure your child has a spare set of clothes on their peg.
- Could every child bring a water bottle (named) with them to each session they attend.
- If your child is ill or will not be attending nursery please call the main school office or email the class on willow@benson.oxon.sch.uk to let us know ☺
- Super star home moments. Please collect a star from the door and write any super star moment your child has had at home so we can celebrate together.
- Children are not permitted to play on the Early Years equipment (Nursery garden and big garden) before or after school for health and safety reasons.

Important Dates

TERM 3

Monday 5th January – Start of term 3

Friday 13th February - End of term 3 @ 3.15pm

TERM 4

Monday 23rd February – Start of term 4

Friday 27th March- End of term 4

