



Newsletter - Friday 11th July 2025

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another exciting week at school!

On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of watching the Year 2 Leavers' Assembly. The children spoke with such confidence and sang beautifully—it was a joy to see how much they have grown. We're incredibly proud of each and every one of them as they prepare to take their next big step into junior school.

Then on Thursday, all children took part in our transition morning, visiting their new classrooms and meeting their new teachers. They embraced the change with enthusiasm and maturity, and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces (teachers included!). A huge thank you to all staff for making the morning such a smooth and positive experience for the children.

As we head into what looks to be another warm and sunny weekend, we hope you're able to enjoy some time outdoors with your families. We're looking forward to welcoming the children back for our final week of the term—a special time as we wrap up the school year and celebrate all that's been achieved.

Miss Hull

Celebrating Success

On Friday, our staff took the opportunity to reflect on the school year and share key successes, outcomes, and highlights. It was a real joy to hear these reflections and to see the progress captured in the children's books. The growth our pupils have made, both academically and in their social and emotional development, has been wonderful to see.

Your child's school report has been sent home this week. We hope it gives you a clear and comprehensive picture of their achievements and strengths, along with some suggestions for their continued development. The report also includes your child's attainment in key areas of learning at the end of the school year.

If you have any questions or concerns about the report, you are very welcome to arrange a telephone appointment with your child's class teacher and/or with me. We would be happy to talk it through with you.

STAFFING

We are delighted to introduce our newest member of staff – Mr Wilcox. Mr Wilcox is returning to Damson Wood, having once attended the school as a child himself. He will be joining us in September as the Year 2 Teacher in Beech Class. We are very much looking forward to welcoming him to the team, and we know you will give him a warm welcome too.

Please see below our confirmed staffing structure for the next academic year:

- **Nursery (Ash):** Mrs Morris and Mrs Gallehdar
- **Reception (Willow):** Mrs Wright and Mrs Garbett
- **Year One (Maple):** Miss Amies, Mrs Rayner and Mrs Brown
- **Year Two (Beech):** Mr Wilcox and Mrs Chidler

If your child receives additional support, please be assured that we are currently finalising the staffing and structure for this provision. We will share further details as soon as they are confirmed.

Maintaining Respectful Communication in Our School Community

We understand that, as parents, you want the best for your children and may sometimes have concerns about interactions that occur during school hours. However, we kindly ask that you do not raise concerns about incidents involving other children directly with their parents on the playground. These conversations can feel unexpected and uncomfortable for those involved.

If you feel that an issue has not been appropriately addressed or resolved, we encourage you to bring it to the school's attention. Our staff are here to support and mediate in a constructive, respectful manner. Thank you for helping us maintain a positive and safe environment for all families.

Damson Wood Book Amnesty!

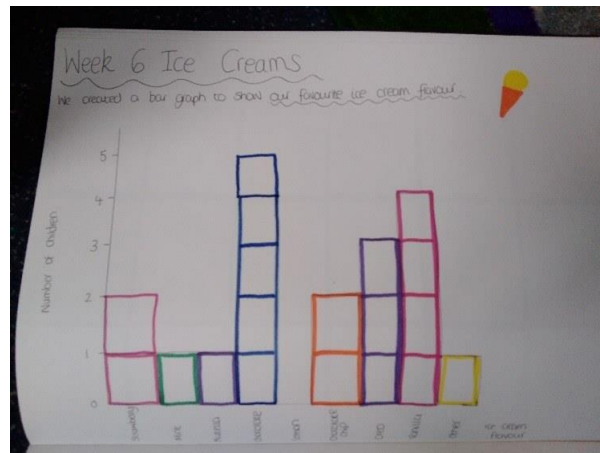
From Monday 7th July, we will cease sending home library books and will begin collecting them in ready for the summer break. Please return any Damson Wood books you find at home or in bags, including library books, phonics books and other home reading books. There will be no charge for any books returned at this time; we are simply keen to ensure we have all the books back where they should be ready to start the new school year. Each book costs our school at least £5 to replace so it is essential that we do not waste precious funds replacing books that have been lost or mislaid. Many thanks for your support!



ASH CLASS - NURSERY

This week in Nursery we have continued talking about the season Summer and we've talked about what we like to do when it's hot. Eating ice cream was a favourite! We made a bar graph to show Nursery's favourite flavour of ice cream and then we all enjoyed an ice cream treat!

Mrs Morris

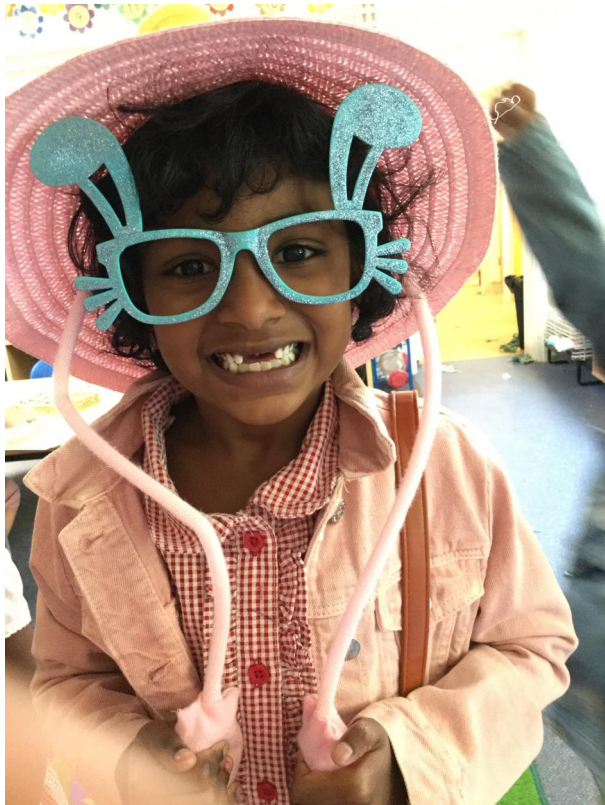
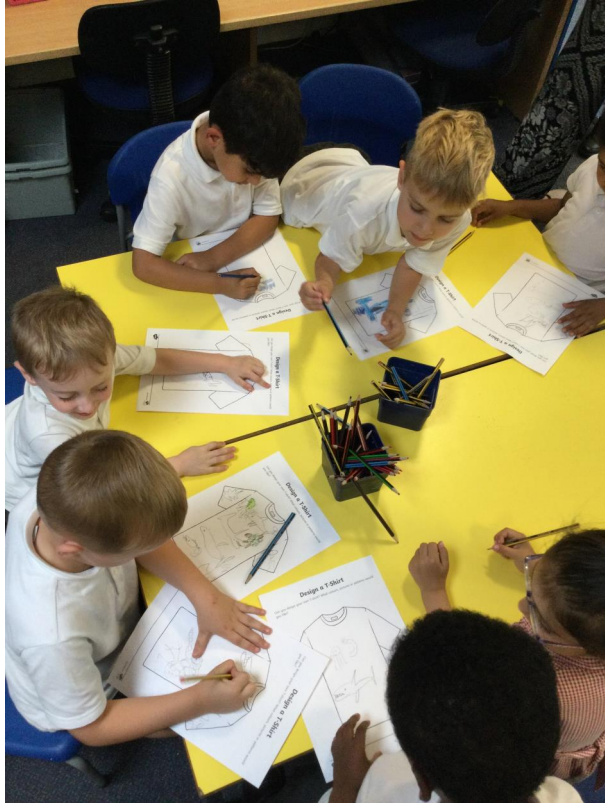


WILLOW CLASS - RECEPTION

This week in Willow class we have been continuing to work hard on applying our phonics skills to write simple sentences about our favourite memories in Willow class.

We have also started our Skills Builder topic "Fabulous Fashions". We have been learning about what fashion designers do and how their sketches become real pieces of clothing. We have had fun trying on a selection of different items of clothing and accessories such as hats, bags and sunglasses. The children enjoyed choosing an item to wear and then doing a twirl and a pose down our pretend catwalk. We have chosen "The Ocean" as the theme for the pieces of clothing we are going to design. This fits in really well with our Wonderful World topic. The children have been learning all about the problems of litter and particularly plastic waste and how it can harm our oceans and the sea life. The children will be reusing pieces of plastic and using them to decorate their creations to wear down the catwalk next week.

Miss Amies and Mrs Rayner





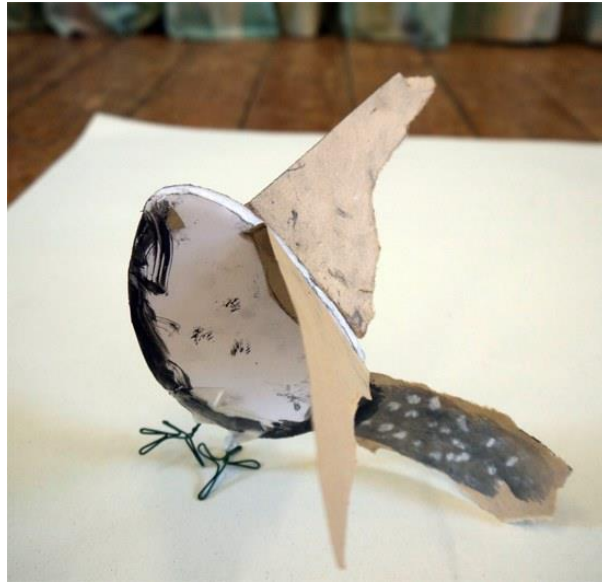
MAPLE CLASS - YEAR 1

This week Maple have been working on making and building a 3D model of a bird.

They have needed to use close observational drawing skills to add detail to feathers, cutting and layering skills to attach feathers as well as bending and shaping skills to build bird feet out of art wire.

They have worked so hard to make these birds stand up on their own, applying skills carefully,

Mrs Wright



BEECH AND ROWAN CLASS - YEAR 2

Last Wednesday, a group of our Year 2 pupils had the exciting opportunity to attend a cheerleading festival hosted at Lode Heath School. Over the past six weeks, the children have been working hard to learn and perfect their routine — and their dedication truly paid off!

Competing alongside other schools, our children performed with confidence, energy, and joy. They delivered their routine beautifully and made us all incredibly proud. Every child was a true superstar!

A huge well done to all the children who took part. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the staff who supported the event, with special thanks to Mrs Rayner for her dedication and organisation. Finally, thank you to the parents who came along to cheer and support!

Miss Maycock and Mrs Rayner



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

On Thursday afternoon, I had the pleasure of leading our Celebration Assembly. Congratulations to all the children who received awards and thank you to the parents who joined us; your support makes these moments even more special.

Hot Chocolate Friday

Ash - Layan

Willow - Aydeen

Maple - Colm

Beech - Ben

Rowan - Malika

SPARKS

Ash - Layan

Willow - Yousif

Maple - Alayna

Beech - Jonah

Rowan - Anabia

Skills Builder

Ash - All of Nursery!

Willow - Bella

Maple - Hannah

Beech - Nancy

Rowan - Jaime B

ATTENDANCE

Well done to Rowan Class for such amazing attendance this week! Thank you to parents/carers for ensuring your child is in school, on time ready to learn. We really see the effects of great attendance on their learning each day. The expectation is attendance should be 95% or above in line with the National average.

Class Attendance for last week was:

Ash - 87.2%

Willow - 98.3%

Maple - 92.1%

Beech - 91.1%

Rowan - 98.4%

The whole school attendance for the week was 93.8% and the year to date attendance for the whole school is 91.8%.

A Kind Reminder About Engine Idling

We have recently received a thoughtful reminder from a parent regarding the number of cars left idling outside the school gates during pick-up times. As a school community, we want to do all we can to support the health and wellbeing of our children — especially those with asthma or other respiratory conditions. With this in mind, we kindly ask all parents and carers to switch off their engines while waiting. Not only does this reduce air pollution, but it also sets a positive example for our children about caring for the environment

The Law and Engine Idling

The law says you should not leave your car engine running when you are not moving. Not switching your engine off when asked to do so can lead to a fine of £20, increasing to £40.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.



WOODIES UPDATES

Summer Holiday Club

If you're looking for fun, safe, and engaging childcare over the summer break, our club is the perfect solution. Spaces are still available, but they are filling up fast – so don't delay! You can download the booking form from our website or collect a paper copy from Woodies.


We have a fantastic range of activities planned to keep children entertained and active throughout the holidays.

If you have any questions about bookings or the club, feel free to contact us on 0121 705 8652.

Last Day of Term: Early Closure:

Woodies will close at 4:00pm on the last day of term – Friday 18th July 2025.

SUMMER TERM DATES 2025

Diary Dates		 SUMMER TERM 2025
Tuesday 15 th July	PM	Year 2 Leavers Tea Party and Games
Wednesday 16 th July	AM	Year 2 Design and Technology Puppet Making Workshop
Wednesday 16 th July	PM	Year 2 Cinema Afternoon - Children Only
Wednesday 16 th July	PM	99 Club for Children with 99% attendance and above
Friday 18 th July	AM	100% Attendance Family Assembly
Friday 18th July 2025	All Day	Last Day of Summer Term – Everyone in School

TERM DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 - 2026



		INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Term Commences	Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd September 2025 (Staff only) Children start back to school on Wednesday 3rd September 2025	Monday 1st September 2025 Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Half Term	Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October 2025	
Term Ends	Friday 19 th December 2025	

		INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Term Commences	Monday 5 th January 2026 (Staff only) Children start back to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026	Monday 5th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026	
Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026	

		INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Term Commences	Monday 13 th April 2026	
Half Term	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026	
Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026	Friday 3rd July 2026