



LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER

30 - Newsletter - Friday 15th May 2026

Headteacher Update

What an amazing week it's been!

The highlight of the week was most definitely Willow class's visit to Solihull College's Animal Welfare Centre. The children were very eager to share their stories of lizards, goats, hamsters and spiders! A big thank you to Solihull College for hosting the children and a big well done to our staff and parent volunteers for making it such a fantastic trip.

Next week, we're looking forward to hosting our annual Sports Days. The children have been out practising the different events and are eager to show what they can do. Families are most welcome to come and help support the children, cheer them on and watch them put

their teamwork skills into action. It promises to be a great series of events and lots of fun for everyone involved.

If the weather is looking a bit dodgy then we will be able to run the Nursery and Reception events from inside the hall. If needs be, we will look to reschedule the KS1 event for another suitable time – but hopefully everything will run as planned.

This year, the school PTA will also be on hand with a stall selling hot and cold drinks with some snacks.

Have a lovely weekend and we shall see you on Monday.

Kind regards,

Mr Kieran Prescott

Headteacher

Ash Class - Nursery

It has been a busy week in Nursery this week. We read the story, 'Dear Zoo' and talked about animals we would keep as a pet. The children enjoyed sharing with their classmates the pets they have at home.

We sorted the animals into 2 hoops. We talked about why we wouldn't keep them as a pet. Hunter said, 'The elephant is too big.' Idris said, 'The dinosaur is too scary....it might eat you.'





The caterpillars have made their cocoons and have now been moved to the special butterfly net. We are eagerly waiting and watching for them to emerge as butterflies.

Mrs Morris



Willow Class - Reception

This week we started a new book in literacy called 'My Shadow Is Pink' by Scott Stuart. We began the week exploring shadows using a torch. We found out what makes a shadow and how we can make shadows bigger and smaller. The children are enjoying finding out more about the characters in this story and discussing what they might be thinking and how they might be feeling at different points in the story.

In R.E. this week we read the story of the 'Gold Giving Serpent'. In the story one of the characters is being greedy and this leads to bad things happening. We discussed how being greedy and selfish is not a good way to be. Hindus believe that if we choose to work hard, be helpful and kind like the farmer in the story, good things will come to you.

We had a wonderful trip to Solihull College Animal Centre on Thursday. We saw a whole range of animals from farm animals such as goats, chickens and donkeys to meerkats, reptiles, fish, tortoises, hedgehogs and many more! The children really enjoyed getting up close to these animals and finding out about how they are cared for. The children listened very well and we are very proud of the way they represented Damson Wood . Well done Willow Class!

Mrs H Amies and Mrs J Wright





Maple Class - Year 1

We have had another brilliant week in Maple Class and the children have been showing their creativity skills!

In English, we have been continuing our 'Lost and Found' story and everyone has produced some excellent writing using conjunctions in their sentences and we have been learning all about similes. We have also had a go at writing non-chronological reports about Antarctic animals using subheadings and bullet points.

In Maths, we have been learning about sharing equally between groups. We started the week by learning about halving shapes and numbers. We then continued our topic further by looking at finding a quarter of a shape and quantity.

We have had lots of fun in Art this week, when creating our own beanstalks. The children used tape to create the stalk and branches then painted over them. They then tore off the tape and revealed their brilliant beanstalks.

The children have been trying very hard to practice their sports day races and we are looking forward to the main event next week!

Have a lovely weekend and see you all next week.

Miss Mammatt

Beech Class - Year 2

This week in Beech Class, we have been busy finishing our stories, revisiting learning in maths and continuing our science and history learning.

Last Friday, we played a game of "Guess the Shape", which involved drawing a shape on someone's hand and then replicating it around the circle. In our PSHE lesson, the children explored how words and messages can change over time as they are passed from person to person. This helped us to understand the importance of clear communication and positive friendships.

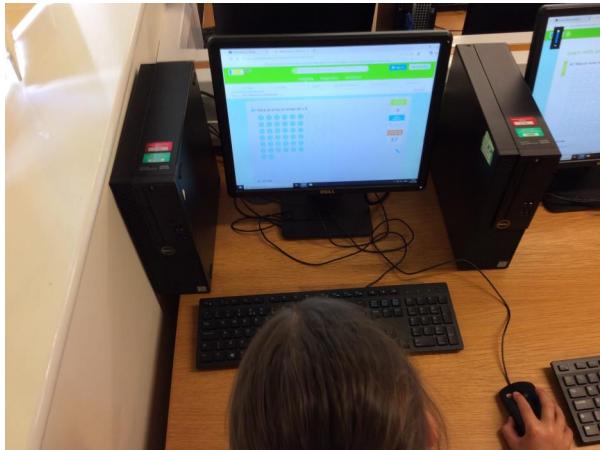
In English, the children wrote their amazing "Toys in Space" stories. It has been fantastic to see the children using everything they have learnt so far this year and applying it independently in their writing.

In Maths, we have been recapping arrays, equal sharing, and the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

In History, the children focused on a famous castle in the UK. We looked specifically at the Tower of London.

In Science, the children wrote instructions explaining how to plant a sunflower seed.

Mr Wilcox



Toys in School

Over the past few weeks, we've seen a number of children bringing toys into school. While we do recognise that some children need a small toy to help them transition from home to school, (and this will have been arranged with the class teacher) we do ask that any other toys are handed back to parents, taken home and then returned at home time if they are needed.

Any child who needs an approved fiddle tool during lessons to help with concentration will be issued with one from school – they should not bring one in from home. This will also help to prevent toys from home getting lost or broken.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

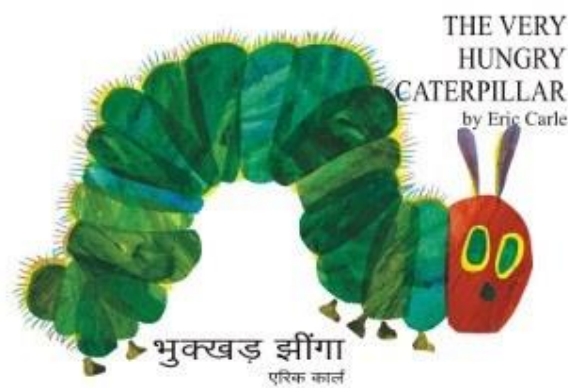
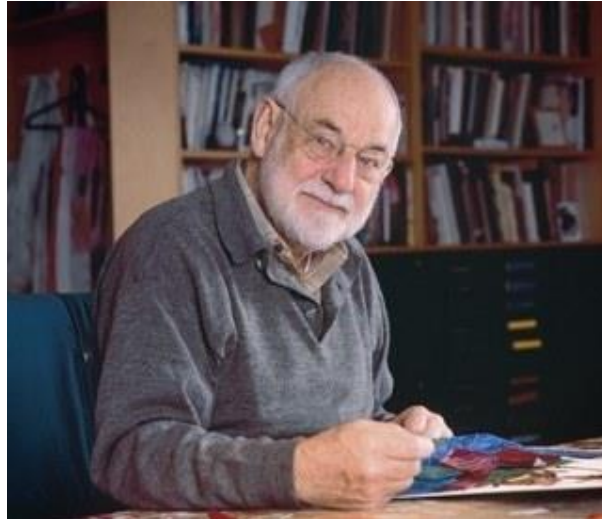
Author of the Month

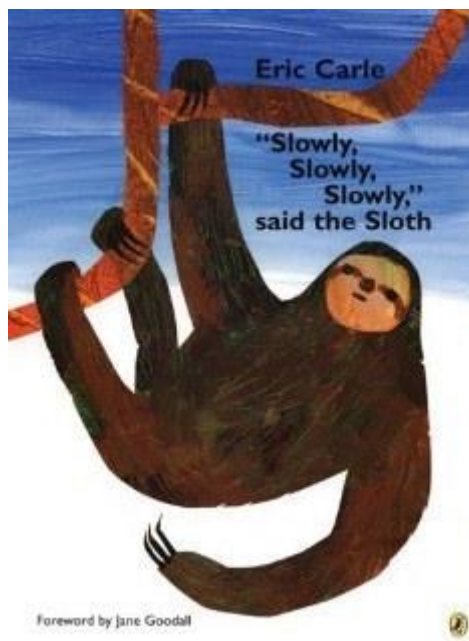
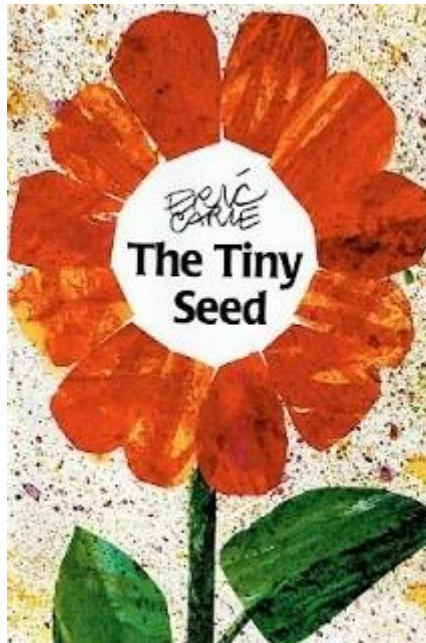
The Author of the Month for May is Eric Carle.

Eric was born on 25th June 1929 in New York. His parents were German and they moved back to Germany when he was 6 years old. As an adult, he moved back to America to become an artist and designer. Eric began illustrating children's books and was then asked to

work on the book 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear'. He used tissue paper to collage the illustrations and make them boldly coloured.

Eric has written and illustrated over 75 books, the most famous of these is 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Did you know that to begin with, the caterpillar was a worm? Now the story has become a stage show in London and Broadway and is popular in schools around the world. His first book was called '1, 2, 3 To The Zoo' which was published in 1968.





New Uniform Supplier

Our new school uniform supplier is Brigade. You will be able to order your school uniform online and have it delivered to school for free or pay to have it delivered to your home address.

The deadline date for **Free Delivery** to school before the end of the Summer Term is **Friday 12th June 2026**. Any orders placed after that date will be changed to Parents Direct - Home Delivery.

The deadline date for orders delivered direct to your home, ready for the Autumn Term is **Friday 17th July 2026**.

Orders placed throughout the remainder of the year are processed on the 15th and 30th of each month. Items delivered to school should usually arrive within to 2 weeks and items delivered direct to your home should usually arrive within 2 to 3 weeks.

(All lead-times are stock permitting)

The website address is www.brigade.uk.com¹

Leaflets are available from the school foyer and they have size guides and ordering information enclosed.



Composer of the Month

May's Composer of the Month is John Williams

John Towner Williams was born February 8th 1932 and is an American composer, conductor, pianist and trombonist. Over his career that has spanned 7 decades, he has composed some of the most popular, recognisable, and critically acclaimed film scores in cinematic history. John Williams has won 25 Grammy Awards, 7 British Academy Film Awards, 5 Academy Awards and 4 Golden Globe Awards. With 52 Academy Award nominations, he is the second most-nominated individual after Walt Disney.

¹<https://www.brigade.uk.com>

Williams has composed music for many popular movies, including the Star Wars saga, Superman, E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, Home Alone, The Indiana Jones films, the first two Jurassic Park films and the first three Harry Potter films.

Check out.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsMWVW4xtwl> - John Williams & Vienna Philharmonic - Imperial March from Star Wars

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NqaupGcCpw> - John Williams & Vienna Philharmonic - Theme from Jurassic Park

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsCZP3wdF4w> - John Williams & Vienna Philharmonic - Featuring Anne-Sophie Mutter - Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter





Sports Day

The children have been practising for Sports Day and are looking forward to seeing their parents, carers and extended families in school next week, to cheer them on!

Willow Class - Tuesday 19th May 2026 from 9:15am - 10:15am

Ash Class - Wednesday 20th May 2026 from 9:15am - 10:15am

Maple & Beech Class - Thursday 21st May 2026 from 9:15am - 10:15am



Walk to School Week

Walk to School Week

Damson Wood is joining in with the nationwide Walk to School week from Monday 18th May until Friday 22nd May 2026. We would like everyone to leave their car at home and walk, wheel, scoot or cycle to school instead. If you have no choice but to travel by car, why not Park and Stride. Our 5 minutes' walk bubble is shown on the image, then walk the remainder of your journey. By taking part in Walk to School week, you will be helping to:

- Reduce the number of cars outside our school.

- Make the area around school safer.
- Make the journey to school more pleasant.
- Encourage everyone to get more exercise which will help us become fitter, feel happier and more alert when we get to school.
- Reduce pollution from cars meaning the air that we breathe will be cleaner and healthier.

And it's fun!



5-MINUTE WALKING BUBBLE
 #StaySafeGetActive on your journey to school

#Stay Safe Get Active

Damson Wood Nursery and Infant School

MODERATOR STARS EDUCATION

Protect our children

If possible, walk, cycle or scoot to school

If you have to drive, park at least 5-minutes away

Supported by the Department for Transport

Woodies Explorers May Half Term Holiday Club



Monday 25th May	BANK HOLIDAY CLOSED	
Tuesday 26th May	<p>Outdoor Fun & Games Traditional outdoor games Tennis, Badminton & Ball Games Outdoor team races and sport games Parachute Games</p>	
Wednesday 27th May	<p>Outdoor Crafts Nature cards Flower crafts Sun Catchers Continuous provision</p>	
Thursday 28th May	<p>Make your own Picnic Lunch Free play Messy play Choice of make your own sandwiches Picnic Lunch & Ice Cream</p>	
Friday 29th May	CLOSED	

	FULL DAY 8am - 3:15pm	SCHOOL DAY 9am - 3:15pm	MAKE & DO ACTIVITY 9:15am - 11:45am or 12:30 - 3pm
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 15TH MAY			
COSTS PER DAY: 1st CHILD 2nd CHILD	£28.95 £26.05	£26.50 £23.85	£11.80 FLAT RATE
Date & Activity			
Monday 25th May	BANK HOLIDAY CLOSED		
Tuesday 26th May Outdoor Fun & Games			
Wednesday 27th May Outdoor Crafts			
Thursday 28th May Make your own Picnic Lunch			
Friday 29th May	CLOSED		

For Children aged 3 – 11 years' old.

For all enquiries regarding bookings please contact Woodies on 0121 705 8652 EXT 1 or email: woodies@solgrid.org.uk

Please collect your child prompt at the end of a session, late collection fees will apply.

Parents must provide a full packed lunch box if attending a morning session, additional snacks and drinks will be provided throughout the day.

PLEASE NOTE: Whilst all precautions are taken, Woodies Childcare cannot take responsibility for loss or damage to clothing or equipment brought from home.

As many of our fun activities are messy, please **DO NOT** send your child in their best clothes.

Mobile phones and electronic devices are **NOT** allowed at Woodies.

Contact: woodies@solgrid.org.uk Tel: 0121 705 8652 EXT 1

Attendance

Well done to Beech Class for such amazing attendance this week! Thank you to parents and 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 - 89.7%

Willow - 97.6%

Maple - 96%

Beech - 97.8%

The whole school attendance for the week was 95.5% and for this academic year so far is 93.7%.



Star Foundation Clothes Bank

A Star Foundation Clothes Bank is now permanently located on our school premises, by the Stockwell Rise entrance. The Star Foundation works to support local communities and raise

funds for schools and now you can help by donating a lot more items than previously possible and at any time during drop off/ or collection times.

What you can donate:

- Toys
- DVDs, CDs and Videos
- All types of clothing (dressing up clothes: outgrown clothes; damaged clothes; any school branded items; rags)
- Paired Shoes
- Bags and Belts
- Bed Linen and Towels **(PLEASE NO DUVETS OR PILLOWS)**

By donating, you're not only supporting a great cause but also helping the environment by reducing waste. Any damaged clothes and rags will be recycled into new products. Thank you for your continued support!



Diary Dates - Spring/Summer 2026



Please note that, though we will try to avoid changing any dates, some may have to if specific circumstances require it.

SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 13th April 2026	EVERYONE BACK TO SCHOOL	
Tuesday 14 th April Phonics Screening Check Information Session Year 1 Parents	An opportunity for parents and carers to find out more about the Phonics Screening Check and how best to support your child.	2:30pm-3pm
Friday 17 th April Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 24 th April Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 1 st May Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Monday 4th May 2026 MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY		
Tuesday 5 th May Stand Up To Cancer Bake Sale	Bake Sale – Stand up to Cancer Please bring cash with you.	3pm-3:30pm
Friday 8 th May Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 15 th May Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Tuesday 19 th May Reception Sports Day All Parents/Carers Welcome	Reception children to take part in Sports Day on the school playground.	9:15am – 10:15am
Wednesday 20 th May Nursery Sports Day All Parents/Carers Welcome	Nursery children to take part in Sports Day on the school playground.	9:15am – 10:15am
Thursday 21 st May KS1 Sports Day All Parents/Carers Welcome	Year 1 and Year 2 children to take part in Sports Day on the school playground.	9:15am – 10:15am
Friday 22 nd May Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026		
HALF TERM HOLIDAY		
Monday 1st June 2026	EVERYONE BACK TO SCHOOL	
Friday 5 th June Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th June Phonics Screening Check for YR 1	Year 1 children to complete the Phonics Screening Check.	All Week
Friday 12 th June Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am

Friday 19 th June Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 19 th June Chocolate Donation	Children to wear trainers for Summer Fair donations – chocolate.	
Monday 22 nd June Nursery & Reception New Parents' Evening	Information evening for parents and carers whose children are joining Nursery and Reception September 2026.	5:30pm
Friday 26 th June Bottle Donation	Children to wear an accessory for Summer Fair donations – Bottle	
Friday 26 th June Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Tuesday 30 th June Nursery Graduation All Parents/Carers Welcome	Parent/Carers to join in the hall to see their children graduate from Nursery.	9am-9:30am
Thursday 2 nd July Summer Fair	Children taking part in activities. Parents welcome to join in the hall at 3.15pm-5.00pm.	All Day
Friday 3rd July 2026 INSET DAY	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS	
Wednesday 8 th July Year 2 Leavers' Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Parent/Carers to join in the hall to celebrate Year Two.	2:30pm-3pm
Thursday 9 th July Year 2 Leavers' Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Parent/Carers to join in the hall to celebrate Year Two.	9am-9:30am
Friday 10 th July Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 10 th July Reports Home	End of Year Reports home to parents/carers.	3:15pm
Thursday 15 th July 99% Attendance Celebration for Children	99 Club for children with 99% attendance and above	AM
Friday 17 th July Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 17th July 2026	Everyone in School - Last Day before Summer Holiday	

Term Dates 2025 - 2026



	AUTUMN TERM	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 1 st September 2025 Children start Wednesday 3rd September 2025 (Please see personalised induction timetable for children starting in Nursery & Reception Class)	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	

	SPRING TERM	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 5 th January 2026 Children start 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	

	SUMMER TERM	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 13 th April 2026	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026	
Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026	Friday 3rd July 2026

Term Dates 2026 - 2027



TERM	DATES	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Autumn Term Tuesday 1 st September 2026 Children start back to School on: Thursday 3 rd September 2026	INSET DAYS: Tuesday 1 st September Wednesday 2 nd September
Half Term	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October	
Term Ends	Friday 18 th December 2026	

TERM	DATES	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Spring Term Monday 4 th January 2027 Children back in School - Tuesday 5 th January 2027	INSET DAY: Monday 4 th January
Half Term	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February	
Term Ends	Thursday 25 th March (Good Friday 26 th March)	

TERM	DATES	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Summer Term Monday 12 th April 2027 Monday 12 th April 2027	Bank Holiday Monday 3 rd May INSET DAY: TBC
Half Term	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2027	
Term Ends	Wednesday 21 st July 2027	INSET DAY: TBC