



# Willow Wonders

## Monthly Updates, News and Information

JANUARY 2026

ISSUE 2

It's been another amazing month at Willow Park. All of our students have been engaging in and enjoying a huge range of activities both at school and off-site.

Staff have seen excellent progress and achievement across our school community.

**Well done!**

Part of the National Year of Reading 2026



Willow Park, like many OFG schools, is taking part in the National Year of Reading. New books are appearing in classrooms, and students are being encouraged to read for pleasure and for a range of purposes. A recent student survey showed just how keen our students are to grow their reading skills.



Some KS3 and KS4 students enjoyed a quiet read at Waterstones.



**Half term holiday dates:**



Break up Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, back to school Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February



### CRAZY GOLF!

Team Sakura took a trip to Crazy Golf as part of their life-skills programme, focusing on developing teamwork in a fun setting. The class engaged brilliantly throughout the visit. A wonderful example of learning through play and supporting each other along the way.



Our talented students have been busy producing high quality art - using both digital and more traditional media.



A really big well done to Orion from Sakura Class who has raised over £60 for his chosen charities and is still dedicated to raising more with his coffee making campaign.



**BEST PRICE**

### Bargain Hunt!

Hazel Class have been looking at value for money in different supermarkets. A big thank you to the staff at Neath Hill Co-Op for making us so welcome during our recent visit.

## P.S.H.E

We're really proud of all our year groups for the mature and thoughtful way they've taken part in our recent PSHE lessons on relationships and growing up. Pupils have shown great respect, asked sensible questions, and approached the topic with real maturity. It's been wonderful to see such positive engagement across the school.



## S.T.E.M.

One of our Wednesday afternoon 'options' is S.T.E.M. The students have been showing great skill and enthusiasm when making their mechanical hands!



## PARENT/ CARER VIRTUAL NETWORKING MEETING

We hope to have a parent/ carer networking meeting every half term, alternating in-person and virtually to enable more parents/ carers to be able to join.

This term, we are organising a virtual networking meeting on:



WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
12pm-1pm



Teams meeting link to follow.

Any topics, queries or information you would like us to prepare in advance for this meeting, please email our SENCo: [amy.guest@willowparkschool.co.uk](mailto:amy.guest@willowparkschool.co.uk).

## Life Skills

Chestnut Class had a fantastic Life Skills trip to Petite Ponies, where they learned all about the sanctuary and how the team cares for their animals. Pupils discovered different pony breeds, asked great questions, and really enjoyed seeing how the sanctuary supports its ponies. It was a brilliant, if very muddy day out, and the children represented the school beautifully.



## Pizza Wednesdays!

It has been great to see so many students chatting together over a tasty slice of pizza!



## Student photographs

We would like to share as many photos as possible of our amazing students. As well as parents/carers, those young people aged 13 and over will need to sign a permission form - please ask for details.



Our wonderful, wandering wizards of Oak Class set off on a spellbinding adventure to the Harry Potter Studios as part of our Mystery and Magic theme.

Despite the cold, our spirits were warm as we explored the tour, discovering hidden secrets, marvellous sets, and enchanting details at every turn. The day was filled with laughter and excitement, and we wished the final spell could have been cast to make it last forever.

For some of us, the highlight of the journey was sipping the legendary butterbeer - a truly magical treat that added the perfect finishing touch to an unforgettable day.



"I really enjoyed the spider part of the tour, with all the scary fog. I'm now going to pretend there's a spider on my head!" - JK

"I enjoyed every part of it!" - CM

"I love Harry Potter and was so excited to see Hermione Granger's dress. It was the highlight of my day." - SR

"I loved the gift shop and buying presents and taking photos." - SB

"I bought my favourite wand and love it!" - HT