



**Associate Head of Academy's Message**  
**Whole School Attendance: 95%**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Happy New Year!**

What a first week back. We have had snow, ice and some very cold temperatures and we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported our pupils to be at school, despite the adverse weather conditions. We are hoping to see some nicer weather over the coming weeks.

Despite the weather, the children have thrown themselves back into their first week getting stuck into their new learning journeys with excitement and interest. This half term, Year One will be learning all about the dinosaurs. Year 2, will be learning about castles and in particular Pontefract Castle. Year 3, will be investigating mining and the impact it played on our local area. Year 4, will be learning about the geography of Greece. Year 5's topic is all about space and Year 6 are learning about The Battle of Britain. Our half term, newsletter will come out this week so make sure you take a look to find out exactly what your children will be learning.

This week, we also launched our new behaviour system. We have combined Class Dojo and house points into one system. At Willow Green, we now earn green points and these are counted each week to help us earn class prizes and house point prizes. This week, all our classes have been thinking about what green behaviour looks like and how they can earn green points. This week, we will be voting on what this term's house point reward will be. Keep an eye on the newsletter next week to see what the pupils choose.

Alongside this wonderful learning, pupils from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 also represented Willow Green at Young Voices. Feedback from staff, pupils and parents has been amazing and from the photos and videos it looks like everyone had an amazing time and most importantly the pupils set a wonderful example to everyone who was there. Mrs Atkinson will be posting photos on Class Dojo so make sure you have a look on our school story to see what they got up to.

Have a lovely week!

Miss Walker

**This Week's Number of Children with 100% is 184**

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
183 DAYS 96%	More than 18 days absence less than 90%	183 DAYS 96%	183 DAYS 96%	179 DAYS 94%	183 DAYS 96%
Off to a flying start	Persistent Absentee (Not fair on your child)	Off to a flying start	Off to a flying start	Less chance of success	Off to a flying start
97%	87%	96%	100%	94%	97%

**Dates for your Diary**



**Online-Safety**

Parents' Guide to Technology | Safer Internet Centre







## EYFS

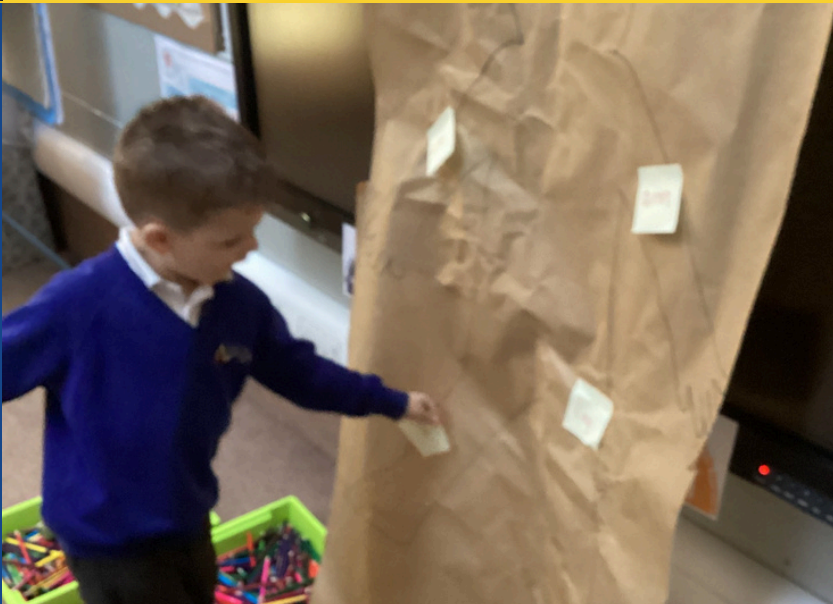
**Weekly Attendance: 92%**

The children did very well coming back after the festive break and dealing with the winter wonderland that remained. We took full advantage of this and explored the visual changes outside to water, trees and the floors. We tried some tomatoes and used tools to half them and peek inside. We had some new starters who did a great job at following instructions and quickly adapted to some new routines. We have some great learning opportunities coming up this half term and can't wait to get busy outside.

## Year 1

**Weekly Attendance: 97%**

We have had a great first week back in Year 1. We have started our new story 'The Queen's Hat' in writing and are currently learning our story map. In maths, we are focusing on halving and being able to recognise when something has been cut in half. We have also started learning all about our bodies in science. We identified where our different body parts would go and stuck these onto our model. We have also learnt about where our food comes from and whether it comes from an animal or plant. Why not have some chats at home about where your child's food might have come from?



## Year 2

**Weekly Attendance: 87%**

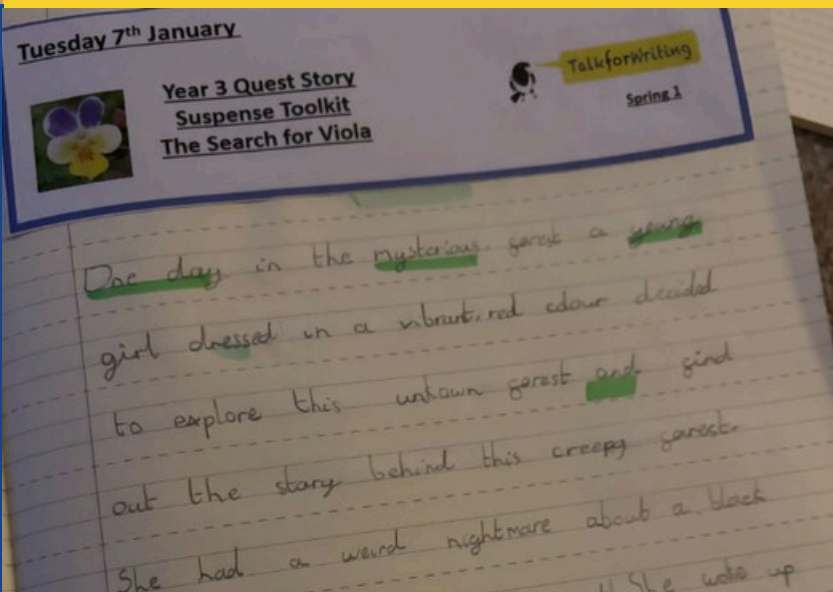
It has been a great start to the half term for Year 2! In PE, we have started our new topic of dance. We have been working to move and clap in beats of 8 as well as counting these beats to 8 in time with each other. In history, we have begun to look at castles and learning about their key features and why they were built. The most exciting part of our week was our visit from a very mischievous fairy during our writing lesson. He made quite a mess so we had to create some wanted posters and warn as many people as we could. I hope he doesn't make a return!!!



## Year 3

**Weekly Attendance: 96%**

It's been a lovely first week in Year 3 with my new class and I am getting to know the children really well. We have begun our new guided reading text 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' and already the excitement is building! We watched a short story for the cold write in our writing lesson and in maths, we are continuing with multiplication of a 2 digit by a 1 digit number for a few more sessions to ensure the children are confident with this. Our new topic for History is Victorian mining which we will start this week.







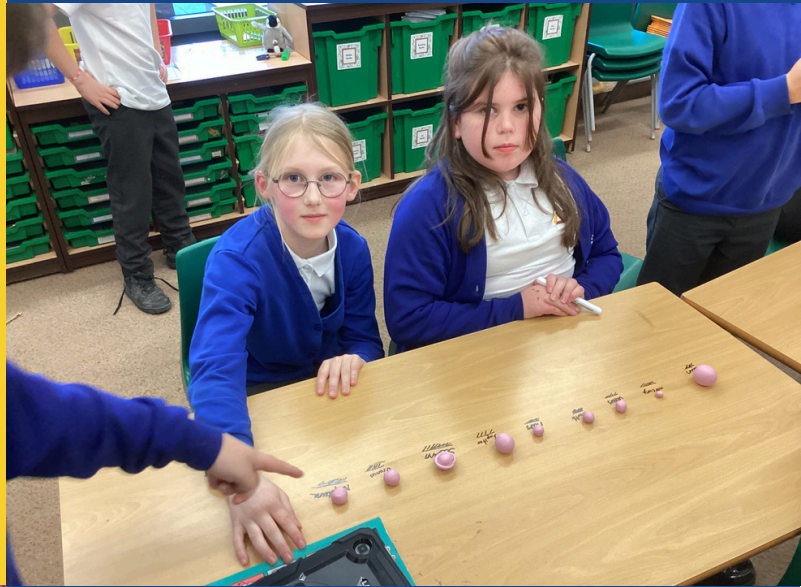
## Year 4 Weekly Attendance: 100%

We have had a marvellous first week back at school! In music, we rehearsed the African drumming songs we have learned so far and began a new piece.

In writing, we wrote our cold tasks, focusing on portal stories and setting description. In maths, we moved on to some trickier multiplication and division sums!

## Year 5 Weekly Attendance: 94%

What a fab first week back for Year 5! We have started lots of new units this week, most notably our writing unit which is again focusing on an area of writing we love... suspense! In reading, we have looked at our new author and book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' and have made some fab predictions about what we think the book is about based on the clues we can see. The highlight of our week was discovering our new unit of science was all about Space. We have discussed 'Is the Earth flat?' and have agreed using scientific methods that it most definitely is not! Further to this, we have started to explore our next question 'What is our solar system like?' which did involve using playdoh to represent all 8 of the planets and the Sun's sizes!



## Year 6 Weekly Attendance: 97%

This week, we began our new topic on World War II, with a focus in history on understanding the concept of conflict and its various forms. In English, we started working on descriptive writing, creating vivid setting descriptions and experimenting with spine poems to capture emotions and imagery. In maths, we explored the concept of ratio and its connection to fractions, applying these skills to solve practical problems and deepen our understanding of proportional reasoning.

Willow Green Academy considers the welfare of all our pupils to be of great importance and we hope that parents are confident about their children's health and safety whilst in our academy. We will always try to share any concerns we have with parents.

However, there are times when we are legally obliged to share our concerns with other agencies, without first speaking to parents, or without the consent of parents. The safety and protection of our pupils is our most important concern and we wish to reassure you that any sharing of information is done with the children's best interest at heart. If you have any concerns about the welfare or safety of any child in our school, the Designated Child Protection Officer is Miss L Walker. In her absence, you should contact Mr C Parkinson. They can be contacted through the main office. The academy has a duty to inform parents that there is a prohibition on reporting or publishing details (including on social media) that could identify anyone who is subject to an allegation.

The Government have launched a new website aimed at parents, teachers and school leaders to give practical advice on protecting young people from extremism and radicalisation. This was launched by the Education Secretary and contains information which address many questions / issues faced by parents and children.