

GRADUATION
2025

Connecting our Community

Summer Edition 2025

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



As we bring another vibrant school year to a close, I am filled with pride and gratitude for everything our community has achieved during the summer term. This term has been marked by a deep sense of pride across our Trust, and rightly so.

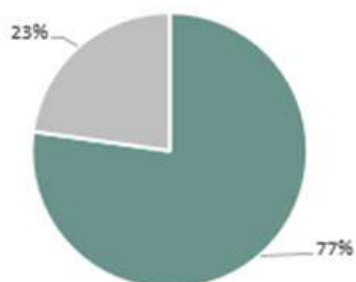
Being named Multi-Academy Trust of the Year at the Edufuturists Awards 2025 reaffirmed that our collective vision—growth with quality, technology with humanity—truly resonates across the sector. We also achieved the AI Quality Gold Mark, making us the first Trust to progress from Silver to Gold—further underlining our commitment to the responsible and equitable use of AI in classrooms.

Welcoming from the Secretary of State for Education to Peareswood Primary was another proud moment for us all. Alongside colleagues receiving national recognition for their excellence, compassion and innovation, these milestones reflect the forward-thinking collaborative culture that runs through every part of Woodland Academy Trust.

Championing that collaborative spirit, June's Connected Leadership Governance Conference brought governors, trustees and staff together to sharpen our shared purpose and strengthen the ties that enable every child to thrive.

While awards and headlines are gratifying, the real measure of our work is the flourishing of our learners. Success has many faces—confidence, curiosity, kindness and creativity sit right alongside formal assessments. I'm delighted to share, as you can see below, our Early Years Foundation Stage Good Level of Development and our Key Stage 2 combined reading, writing and maths results which have both risen above national averages across the Trust. This milestone reflects the expertise and commitment of our staff, the resilience of our children and the vital partnership of our families.

**Trust Total: Reception Children
Achieving GLD**

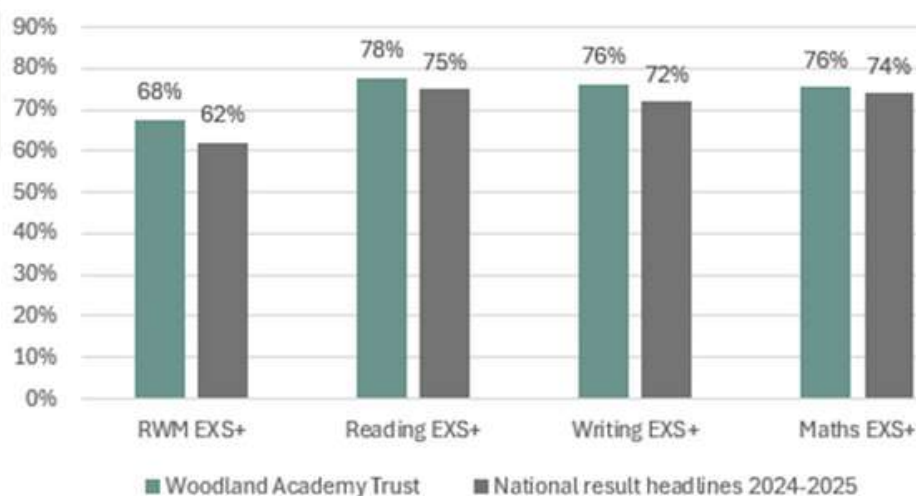


■ MAT Average ■ Not Achieving Standard

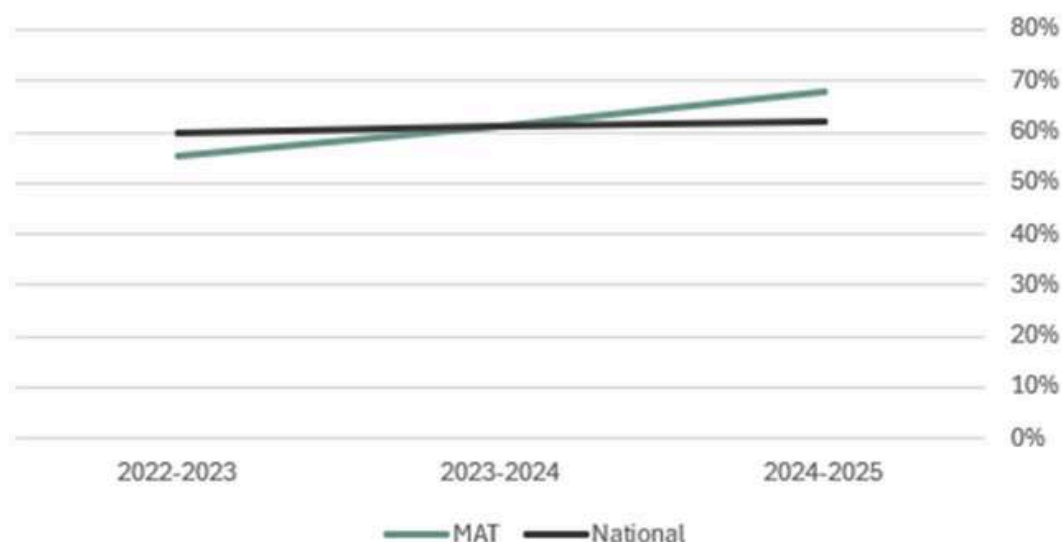
National Average 2023/4

68%

Trust KS2 Results



KS2 RWM EXP+ 3 Year Trend



These outcomes matter because of what they mean for our children. When the Secretary of State visited Peareswood Primary, it was the children who led the way—showcasing how inclusive technology and joyful learning go hand-in-hand. Their confidence is the clearest evidence that we are living our mission: *ignite the spark, reveal the champion.*

Before we turn the page, I want to thank our colleagues, governors and trustees—for the passion and commitment they have shown this year. These achievements belong to every member of our community—because it is your shared commitment that makes the difference.

To our readers, this edition is full of stories that showcase the learning, creativity and community spirit across our Trust. I hope you enjoy reading about all that's been achieved—and that you feel as proud as we do of everything our children and teams continue to accomplish together.

Wishing all our readers a wonderful summer break.

Warm regards,

Nav Sanghara
Trust Leader (CEO)



Staff Recognition in The Pearson National Teaching Awards 2025

Our Director of Education, Julie Carson has been recognised with a Silver Award for 'Transformational Use of Digital Technology' in this year's Pearson National Teaching Awards. Chosen from thousands of nominees, she will now be in with the chance of winning the highly desired Gold Award, which will be announced at a prestigious awards ceremony in London and on BBC One's The One Show later this year.

Julie has led a pioneering Trust-wide strategy combining Universal Design for Learning, AI, and inclusive technology to improve outcomes, reduce barriers, and transform teaching and learning across our five primary schools.



Our CEO was humbled to present Julie's award alongside our Chair of Trustees—a reminder that success is always a team endeavour.

Congratulations, Julie!



Our Trust Chair Of Trustees Nick Osborne and CEO Nav Sanghara presenting Julie with her award.

And that's not all...



Carla Ferla, Headteacher at Peareswood Primary School, has been awarded a Bronze Award for Headteacher of the Year in the Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Carla received a certificate and a personal letter from the award's President, Sir Michael Morpurgo.

This national recognition highlights Carla's exceptional dedication to her pupils, staff, and the wider Peareswood community. Her leadership continues to make a meaningful difference every day.

Congratulations Carla on this well-deserved honour!



The Secretary of State for Education Visits Peareswood Primary

Peareswood Primary School was proud to welcome the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education, for a special visit in June, joined by colleagues from the Department for Education.

The school's local MP Daniel Francis also joined them, offering a unique opportunity for us to highlight the innovation, inclusion, and ambition that drives the digital learning journey at Peareswood and across Woodland Academy Trust.

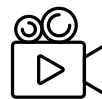
Adding to the excitement, we were delighted to also have Lee Parkinson MBE (Mr P ICT)—who was recently awarded an MBE for his services to education—join the visit and spend time talking to staff and pupils.

The children were at the heart of the visit, proudly sharing their EdTech learning experiences. We certainly won't forget the visit! A proud moment for Peareswood and our Trust.

Watch the video to see Peareswood featured!

Lee Parkinson MBE filmed spending the day with the Education Secretary and their visit to Peareswood Primary.

Click the below link or scan the QR code in the picture to watch the video!



[Watch the video](#)

We feature towards the end!



ict_mrp @peareswood_primary absolute pleasure, was really impressed with what you're doing with tech, was great to see



Scan the QR code
to watch the video



Teachers Miss King and Miss Sharp, Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson Secretary of State for Education, Year 5 and 6 pupils, Lee (Mr P) Parkinson MBE, Headteacher Mrs Ferla, MP Daniel Francis, Director of Education Julie Carson and Peareswood Computing Lead Mr Deacon.

Woodland Academy Trust Hosts Connected Leadership Governance Conference

In June, Woodland Academy Trust held its Connected Leadership Governance Conference—a dynamic and inspiring day designed to strengthen collaboration, deepen reflection, and build a shared vision for the future across our governance community.

The event brought together local governors, trustees, members, executive leaders, Trust services, and headteachers, creating valuable opportunities to connect, reflect on our roles, and align our collective purpose. The atmosphere was one of shared commitment and energised discussion, reinforcing the power of working together to benefit all children across the Trust.

We were privileged to hear from two exceptional keynote speakers:

... Matt Dechaine, a qualified leadership and executive coach, gave an insightful session exploring the vital role of governance in all its forms. His session invited us to reflect on the interconnected nature of governance roles within the Trust and how collaboration between school leaders, Local Academy Committees (LACs), and Trustees contributes to strong, purposeful leadership.



Y Rachel Johnson, CEO of PiXL, delivered an inspiring talk on fostering connection, belonging, and community—drawing on approaches from outside the education sector. Her session offered practical, powerful ideas to help us build schools and leadership environments where people truly feel seen, valued, and able to thrive.



We thank everyone who attended, contributed, and supported the day.

Events like this underline the strength and shared purpose at the heart of Woodland Academy Trust—and the positive impact we can achieve together.



Winning Multi-Academy Trust of the Year at the Edufuturists Awards 2025

We are incredibly proud that Woodland Academy Trust has been named Multi-Academy Trust of the Year at the Edufuturists Awards 2025, sponsored by Clever. The award recognises us as **'a multi-academy trust renowned for its strategic vision in harnessing technology across its schools, driving excellence and equity in education for all students.'**

This award is a recognition of the hard work and dedication shown by the whole of our Trust community. It reflects our shared ambition to harness technology to drive equity and excellence in education – and we couldn't be prouder.

The recognition, was validated not just by expert judges but by the education community itself. We have been recognised for having an approach demonstrates that the future of academy trusts belongs to those who understand that growth without quality is just expansion, but quality with strategic growth creates transformation. We've shown how technology can enhance human connections rather than replace them, how shared services can strengthen rather than standardise, and how collective ambition can elevate individual schools.

The celebration at the Edufuturists Uprising in Manchester on 26th June was a proud moment for us. Among 150 passionate education advocates, we stepped forward as representatives of collaborative excellence done right.

Steve Hope from Edufuturists captured what sets our Trust apart:

"Woodland Academy Trust demonstrates the potential of multi-academy structures when they're led with vision and purpose. They're not just managing schools - they're creating a network of innovation that benefits every student in their care."



About Edufuturists

Education's home for rebels with a cause, celebrating those who refuse to accept that learning has to stay ordinary. Seven years of recognising the brave ones who make education better.

Explore: <https://www.edufuturists.com/uprising>.

We have been awarded the AI Quality Gold Mark!

This summer, we were thrilled to be awarded Gold in the AI Quality Mark!

After becoming the first multi-academy trust to achieve Silver status last year through the Good Future Foundation's AI Quality Mark, we're thrilled to have received the Gold accreditation — a recognition of our ongoing commitment to embedding responsible and impactful AI use across our schools.

The Good Future Foundation's AI Quality Mark, awarded in Bronze, Silver, and Gold categories, requires schools to demonstrate purposeful engagement with key aspects of AI integration. This rigorous process ensures that AI tools are implemented with clear intention and safety measures, aligning with each school's mission to provide quality, innovative education.

To find out more about the Good Future Foundation AI Quality Mark, visit their website:
[Good Future Foundation](https://www.goodfuturefoundation.org/)



Want to learn more about our AI Quality Mark? [Get in touch](#) – we'd love to share our experience.



Discover more about our AI Strategy!

You can visit our website to view the full strategy and if you would like to know more about it, please get in touch!

<https://www.woodlandacademytrust.co.uk/learning-and-innovation/artificial-intelligence/>



Sharing UDL Expertise at EdTech Hubs Expo 2025

Leaders from Peareswood Primary School delivered a keynote and took part in panel discussions at the London EdTech Hubs Expo 2025 this summer, which was hosted by LEO Academy Trust, who are also part of the London EdTech Hubs.



Keynote 3 – Universal Design for Learning in Practice
with Clare Beresford (Deputy Headteacher) & Debbie Caldwell (Digital Lead) Woodlands Academy Trust

Deputy Headteacher Mrs Beresford and Lower Key Stage 2 Lead Mrs Caldwell – both Apple Teachers – shared inspiring insights on how Universal Design for Learning can help remove barriers and support all learners.

Watch their Keynote - Universal Design for Learning in Practice



You can also ReWatch all the presentations from the 2025 London EdTech Hubs EXPO, including a live lesson masterclass!



We're proud to be part of the LGfL London EdTech Hub!

You can find out more about our UDL approach at:
<https://lgfl.net/teaching/includED/woodland-trust>



London EdTech Hubs
Building the EdTech Community

Powered by



National PedTech Partnership Launch

In June, we celebrated the launch of the National PedTech Partnership! We're proud to be a Founding Partner in this ambitious, sector-leading collaboration of education leaders working together to shape the future of digital education.

At Woodland Academy Trust, we're committed to contributing to this visionary, evidence-informed movement—ensuring digital technology enhances learning for every child and we're excited to collaborate, share, and learn alongside other visionary education leaders.

Read the press release!

Launch of the National PedTech Partnership



*Our Director of Education with fellow founding Partners of the National PedTech Partnership at the launch event on 19 June.
Photography by Greg Bennett, Engaging Education*

We're an Edtech50 School! National Award Recognition

We're incredibly proud that Peareswood Primary School has been recognised as one of the Edtech 50 Schools 2025 by Edtech UK and The Education Foundation!

This national recognition, supported by Intel, celebrates schools across England that are using technology in innovative, purposeful ways to enhance teaching and learning – and most importantly, to improve outcomes and engagement for all learners.

At Peareswood Primary, our approach to digital learning is rooted in inclusion, dignity and equity. Whether it's using AI to support teacher workload, enhancing accessibility for learners with additional needs, or embedding digital fluency into everyday practice, this award is a testament to the commitment and passion of our whole school and Trust community.

We're proud to be a forward-thinking Trust where technology is used meaningfully – not as a bolt-on, but as a driver for excellence and equity.



"I am incredibly proud for Peareswood to have received this national recognition for our work with education technology."

This is a significant achievement that highlights the purposeful and creative ways we use technology across our school to enhance the quality of education for our children.

Our children understand how to use it meaningfully, and our staff continue to find innovative ways to integrate it into the curriculum."



Carla Ferla-Headteacher

"It is a real achievement and recognises purposeful and imaginative use of technology at Peareswood and the wider Trust."

This national award, comes at the end of term and really celebrates the work across the school year as we develop our use of technology across all our schools to support teaching and learning."



Julie Carson- Director of Education



Peareswood Primary- an Apple Distinguished School

As a recognised as an Apple Distinguished School for 2024-2027 for inspiring, imagining, and impacting teaching and learning through continuous innovation, Peareswood primary can support schools on their Apple EdTech journey.

If you would like to know more about their digital journey and see Apple technology in action, visit their school website for details about their Apple Distinguished School status and how to get in touch - they'd love to hear from you.

www.peareswoodprimaryschool.co.uk ✨

We are proud to be an Apple Regional Training Centre.

As part of our Apple Regional Training Centre for Kent and Bexley, we run a comprehensive offer of core professional development opportunities. Visit our dedicated [Apple RTC page](#) on our Trust website for more information and to look out for our FREE courses!

We also share news on our Kent and Bexley RTC social media page so give us a follow!

✕ @KentBexleyRTC

Kent and Bexley

 Regional Training Centre

JOIN US!



All our schools share the same mission; *Ignite the spark, reveal the champion*. We are an inclusive and ambitious Trust, striving to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children. Our aim is to provide the highest quality learning experiences for every child by creating an ethical culture of empowerment and growth for all.

We believe deeply in the importance of nurturing strong partnerships with our local communities and beyond. If you believe that you can make a difference to the lives of our children and families and would like to join our Trust, or if you want to find out more, then please do not hesitate to get in touch. We would love to hear from you!

All our vacancies can be found on our Trust website: www.woodlandacademytrust.co.uk/join-us/work-with-us/



You can also find our our job opportunities on My New Term! Check out our Trust recruitment page on the site!

<https://mynewterm.com/trust/Woodland-Academy-Trust/137380>

We are proud to be a hub school through our partnership with Teach In Kent.

We offer initial teacher training through the teaching apprenticeship, working in partnership with the Tes Institute. To find out further information or to apply, visit their website: [Teach In Kent](#)



We also work in partnership with the University of Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church to offer student placements for students following different routes of teacher training including BA 1st and 3rd year placements as well as PGCE. You will often find us delivering professional learning days for the University of Greenwich and Teach In Kent and students may even visit one or some of our schools for training. We are also regular faces at teacher recruitment fairs.

We also explore the opportunity to offer QTS assessment only route with our partners for those who are experienced teachers, looking to gain QTS.

To find out more visit [Get Into Teaching](#) or you can email us at recruitment@watschools.org.uk where we are more than happy to provide advice.



Visit our [Woodland Academy Trust YouTube channel](#) to get a glimpse into what our schools offer.



A Magical Visit from TKS Magic at Knockhall Primary

We were thrilled to welcome a very special guest to Knockhall Primary School this term—TKS Magic, a magician you may recognise from this year's Britain's Got Talent!

His visit brought wonder, excitement, and plenty of gasps from pupils and staff alike! During the performance, the children were completely captivated by an incredible display of tricks, including mind-bending card illusions, Rubik's Cube magic, and even the use of fire! It was an unforgettable hour filled with laughter, amazement, and plenty of wide eyes.

The visit was a fantastic treat and a real highlight of the week. Judging by the buzz around school afterwards, we're fairly certain it's all the children would have been talking about it at home!

A huge thank you to TKS Magic for bringing a little sparkle and a lot of joy to Knockhall Primary!



"The children are really happy, they are excited. We are seeing improved outcomes, and parents and families are feeling listened to."

"Our families want to bring their children here, more people are applying for jobs here, and people are more committed to the school. They know there is change and they want to be part of it."



Headteacher Ms Yiannadji and the dedicated Knockhall team are creating lasting change, supported by our Trust's commitment to school improvement.

Read the full article on KentOnline by clicking the link below
or scanning the QR code:



[Knockhall Primary Kent Online article](#)



Honouring the Past: Year 4 and 5 Pupils Attend VE Day Ceremony

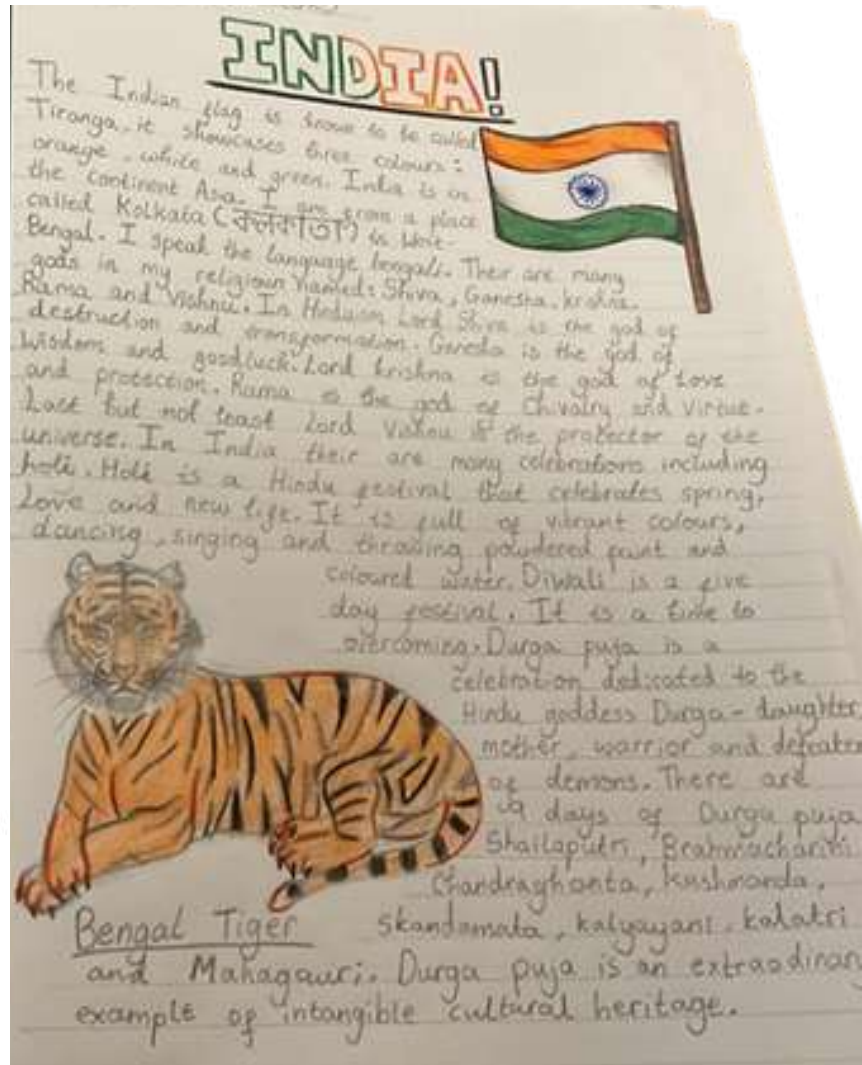
Some of our Year 4 and 5 pupils had the honour of visiting the Greenhithe Royal British Legion to take part in the VE Day commemorations.

We are incredibly proud of the way they represented Knockhall Primary School. The children showed great respect throughout the event, and their polite and thoughtful behaviour was praised by all those who attended the ceremony.

It was a moving occasion and a meaningful opportunity for our pupils to reflect on the importance of remembrance and community. Another fantastic experience for our children to learn beyond the classroom and make lasting memories.



One of the highlights of the week was the international menu provided by our school's caterers, The Pantry, giving pupils the opportunity to taste foods from around the world. The children enjoyed dishes they may not have tried before – a delicious way to explore new cultures and show respect for different traditions through food.

[illegible]

The week was a joyful celebration of who we are and how we connect with others around the world. It was wonderful to see our school values in action with the children showing **pride** in their identities, demonstrating **respect** for one another's cultures, and engage in activities that encouraged **honesty** and **teamwork** across the school.



Knockhall Primary School marked World Emoji Day with a joyful and creative celebration full of emoji-themed learning across the school.

Emojis are a universal way of expressing ourselves, and this day is designed to help children explore emotions, storytelling, identity and community through a language we all understand – emoji!



Pupils and staff dressed as their favourite emoji and donated £1, helping to raise funds to enrich our curriculum and provide memorable learning experiences. Throughout the day, children took part in a range of exciting activities, including:



Emoji storytelling – using emoji prompts to plan and write imaginative stories.



Emoji maths – including surveys to find the most popular emoji in school.



House-based projects – exploring our school house figures (David Attenborough, Elham Youssefian, Katherine Johnson and Marcus Rashford) and creatively representing their achievements through emoji symbols.

It was a fantastic day full of learning, laughter and expression. A huge thank you to our Knockhall families for their continued support – they helped make World Emoji Day a real success!

Year 2 Visit Hall Place for a Hoot of a Trip!

Our Year 2 Flamingos class visited Hall Place as part of our Busy Bugs topic. The trip was a brilliant opportunity to learn more about insects and larger animals, including owls!

During our visit, we explored the gardens and fields, spotting buzzing bees in the bushes and birds all around us. One of the highlights was meeting the owls – we learned about where they live, what they eat, and even got the chance to hold them!

It was an exciting and educational day, and the whole class represented our school brilliantly.



"My favourite thing was holding the owls because I got to overcome my fear and I felt proud of myself."



"My favourite thing was also holding the owls, and we went by double-decker bus which was so much fun!"

Watch our [school video](#) to get insight into our school community.



Follow us



knockhall_primary



Knockhall Primary School



Why Choose Knockhall Primary?



Visit our website to find out!

www.knockhallprimaryschool.co.uk





Celebrating a Wonderful Summer Festival

We're still reflecting on the joy and energy of this year's Summer Festival at Lime Wood Primary – a truly memorable day filled with fun, laughter, and community.

With live entertainment, delicious food, exciting games, and activities for all ages, the event was a fantastic celebration of our school community. The sunshine held out, and the smiles on everyone's faces said it all – it was a day to remember!

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to the day's success. A special thank you goes to our incredible supporters: L&Q, Anderson, Jacqueline's Gems, and Robinson Jackson. Their support helped bring the festival to life and we are truly appreciative of our wonderful community. Here's to more events that bring us all together – we're already looking forward to the next one!



lqhomes We celebrated summer last weekend with @lime_wood_primary 🌞

Thanks to everyone who visited our stalls – and congrats to anyone who managed to win a prize!

Central to The Quarry, Lime Wood Primary School opened in September 2023, welcoming a cohort of Reception children and will continue to grow year by year, eventually into a three-form entry school catering for children aged 4-11 🏡

Find out more about our one- and two-bedroom homes available for sale now at The Quarry via the link in our bio.

#lqhomes #southeastlondon #southlondonlife #southlondon #summerfete #summerinlondon



Well done to the PTFA and a huge thank you for tirelessly organising another lovely festival.

Thank you to everyone who contributes their time and energy on this hot day! You are stars!

What a lovely day it was. Well done to you all, we had so much fun.

Thank you to the PTFA and all the volunteers for putting together such an amazing event.

It's truly been a joy to be part of everything from the beginning. I've loved helping out and seeing everything come together so beautifully every time.

Well done for throwing yet again, another amazing event. LWP and all of us are very lucky to have PTFA like you!

Well done PTFA for your efforts and dedication to pull this successful event together! You are amazing!

Thank you to the PTFA for tirelessly organising another lovely summer festival!

Thank you for all the energy and heart you put into everything.

It was absolutely amazing, again!!



In June, Lime Wood Primary were delighted to welcome back the team from Studio Egret West, the architects who designed our school building, for a special workshop with our Year 1 pupils.

The visit began with an engaging assembly titled “What does an architect do?”, where the children learned about the role of architecture and how design influences the spaces around us. The architects then introduced an exciting real-life challenge:

“Let’s redesign Erith Pier to make it a Happy Pier!”

This creative task was part of an ongoing regeneration project at Erith Pier – a local site close to our school. Our children enthusiastically rose to the challenge, sharing imaginative ideas to transform the pier into a joyful, welcoming space for the community.

The workshop ended with an outdoor celebration and a vibrant ‘Happy Pier Parade’ around our school grounds and proudly showcasing the ideas and models the children had created.

This hands-on experience gave our pupils a unique insight into the world of design and architecture, showing them how their voices and creativity can help shape their local environment. Thank you to Studio Egret West for inspiring our young designers – and for capturing some brilliant photographs of the day!





Lime Wood Primary were delighted to unveil a beautiful new addition to our school this term – a handcrafted Golden Tree now standing pride of place in our hall. It was lovingly built by the Men in Sheds project from Age UK Bexley, who generously donated their time and skills to support our school community.

The Men in Sheds Bexley provides a supportive space for older men to connect, share skills and combat loneliness through woodworking projects that benefit the community. You can find out more about their work here: www.meninshedsbexley.com/about.



Over the past few months, the group have been working on this beautiful project, with materials funded by the school's dedicated PTFA. The Golden Tree will play an important role in the school's Celebration Assembly – each week, children who receive a Headteacher Award will proudly place their names on the tree creating a lasting display of pride and achievement for the pupils.

Headteacher Miss Ingrams shares- *"Lime Wood Primary School was delighted to work with Age UK Bexley on the Golden Tree project. Partnering with a local charity not only allows us to give back to our community, but also strengthens the values we promote in school. It's a meaningful way for our children to support others while celebrating and enhancing the positive behaviours we encourage every day."*

The team at Men in Sheds have worked on this project for the past few months, and it's been a joy to see their reaction as the tree was installed and admired by the pupils and staff. It's not the first time they've supported Lime Wood Primary either – last year they joined us for an intergenerational project with the Reception children, helping them learn skills such as making joins on the wooden dragons created to celebrate Chinese New Year.



"It was a pleasure to work in partnership with Lime Wood Primary School on the Golden Tree. It was something a lot of our members got involved with and thoroughly enjoyed showcasing their various skills. It was the same with the dragon project we completed in February 2024 for the Chinese New Year. We all appreciate the opportunity to use our skills for the good of the community."

Bob Hodgkiss, A member of Men in Shed Bexley's Outreach Team

"Outreach work is a huge part of the ethos of our Men in Sheds project. Not only in terms of what our Shed's wood workshop can offer its members, but what positive impact we have on the local community. It was a joy to see the pride and sense of achievement this project has brought for our members. We are thrilled to hear the children and staff are happy with the final product!"

Emily Willey, Service Manager, Age UK Bexley



In our ongoing work with Age UK, we were thrilled to launch our Talking Cafe this summer, a new intergenerational project in partnership with Age UK. We were especially pleased to welcome visitors from the Rosemary Cafe, a group that supports individuals living with dementia.

As part of this special event, our guests joined the children for lunch in the school hall. The atmosphere was full of warmth and conversation. The Talking Cafe forms part of our ongoing school focus on Oracy—developing pupils' speaking and listening skills in real-life, meaningful contexts. This unique experience allowed children to practise these skills in a purposeful and heart-warming way.

To mark World Bee Day, the children also created their own beautiful bee-themed artwork, which are proudly displayed throughout the school as a reminder of the day and the importance of working together as a community.

We've truly enjoyed hosting Talking Cafe sessions throughout the term and look forward to continuing to build bridges between generations through conversation, creativity, and care.



Creating Homes for Minibeasts: L&Q Support Lime Wood's Outdoor Learning

This summer, a team from L&Q visited Lime Wood Primary School to support the development of our outdoor learning environment by helping to build three habitats for minibeasts. Their visit sparked great excitement among the children, who were fascinated by the building process and eager to ask questions about the new additions to the school grounds.

Two of the habitats have been placed in our Nature School area and were enthusiastically renamed by the children as 'Buggingham Palace' and 'Bug Wood School'. The third habitat has been installed in our allotment area, with the L&Q team taking on the fun task of coming up with a name for it. They chose 'Bugchester Hotel' inspired by the Dorchester Hotel!

We are incredibly grateful to L&Q for their time and continued support for our school, in bringing these enriching experience to our pupils. Initiatives like this help foster curiosity, respect, and pride in our school environment – values that sit at the heart of everything we do at Lime Wood Primary.



Celebrating Our Children's University Graduates!

We had a wonderful end of term celebration for our amazing Children's University graduates! We are so proud of each and every one of them for their dedication, curiosity, and commitment to learning beyond the classroom.

The Children's University is a national programme that encourages children to take part in fun, high-quality learning experiences outside of school hours—whether that's joining a club, exploring a new hobby, or visiting a local museum. Every activity helps children build confidence, develop new skills, and become lifelong learners. Once they've earned enough hours, children are invited to a special graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements—complete with caps, gowns, and certificates!

We were delighted to celebrate our graduates in this special event, joined by proud parents, carers, and family members. Thank you to everyone who came to support the children and share in their success.

We hope to see even more pupils taking part and graduating next year! Find out more about the Children's University here: www.childrensuniversity.co.uk



London South East Children's University

Well done to all the graduates and I hope you feel super proud of your achievements!

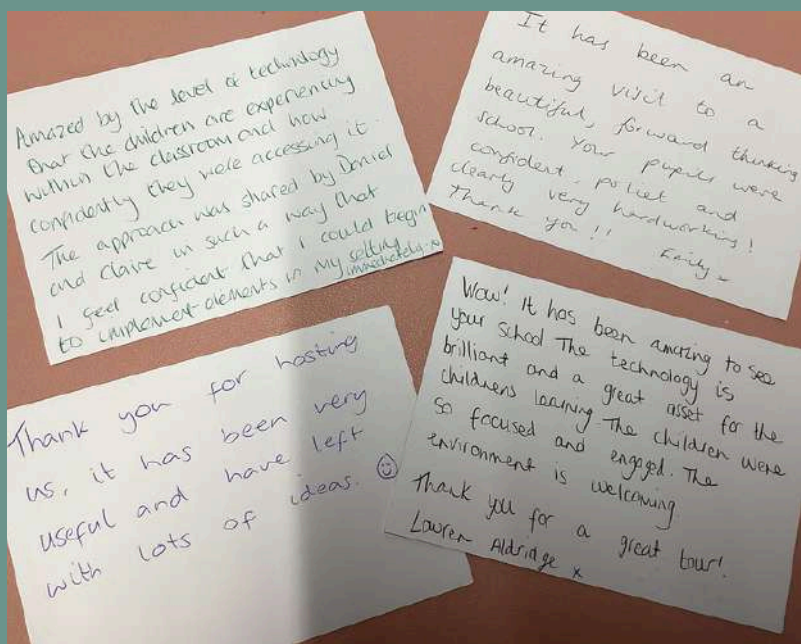


Welcoming Educators for EdTech Study Tour

We were proud to host an EdTech Study Tour in partnership with LGfL. Staff from Days Lane Primary and Lawford CofE Primary School visited to explore how we use technology to support inclusive, high-quality teaching and learning.

As part of the visit, we shared our approach to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and gave our guests the opportunity to visit Reception and Year 1 classrooms. It was a pleasure to showcase the fantastic learning taking place and demonstrate how digital tools are helping to remove barriers and support all learners.

We were delighted to share our journey and practice with colleagues, and we remain committed to fostering innovation, inclusion, and collaboration across the education community.



Watch our video to get insight into our school community.

Our School Video



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Lime Wood
Primary School



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TEAMWORK



CURIOSITY



RESPECT



PRIDE



KINDNESS





Northumberland Heath Primary School

Visit from the Queen Street Group EdTech Experts Group

This term, we were delighted to host visitors from the Queen Street Group EdTech Expert Group, who joined us to learn more about our Trust-wide PedTech approach—where pedagogy and technology are purposefully integrated to enhance teaching and improve outcomes for all learners.

The visit included engaging classroom tours that brought our approach to life, allowing guests to see first-hand how digital tools are embedded into everyday learning. Our team shared how PedTech is not just about devices, but about designing learning that is accessible, inclusive, and impactful.

A particular highlight was hearing from a group of our Year 5 pupils, who confidently spoke about their experiences using 1:1 iPad devices in the classroom. They shared how the technology has supported their independence, fostered creativity, and encouraged collaboration in their learning.

Our visitors were thoroughly impressed by the children's enthusiasm, clarity, and thoughtful reflections. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the work taking place at our school and across our Trust and to engage in meaningful professional dialogue with colleagues from across the education sector.



Special thanks to Julie Carson, [Dora Indresano](#) and the whole team, along with the wonderful children at Northumberland Heath Primary School for giving us such an insightful look into their use of EdTech to support teaching and learning.

Ash Mudaliar, Chair of Queen Street EdTech Expert Group

Watch our digital transformation in action!

Discover how our school has embraced technology to create an inclusive, innovative approach to celebrating learning.



[Learning Through a New Lens](#)





We are proud of all our pupils and love to celebrate their achievements. This term we have had pupils achieving something remarkable in very different ways – all demonstrating our school value of resilience in action.

Joshua, from Year 6 who represented Kent Schools in a prestigious football tournament held in France, where his team secured an incredible 3rd place out of 36 competing schools. It was an unforgettable experience and a fantastic achievement at such a high level of competition. We'd also like to give a special mention to Mr. Cassel, a teacher at the Trust, whose support and encouragement led to Joshua being put forward for the Bexley District trials — the first step on his journey to representing Kent. The whole school community is incredibly proud of Joshua and all he has accomplished!

Meanwhile, Joshua, from Year 2, has inspired us all with his determination and generosity by completing a 10K run in the Race for Life for Kids. Taking on the challenge alongside his dad, Joshua earned his medal while supporting a cause close to many hearts. He showed fantastic commitment, energy, and spirit throughout.

Adding even more colour to our celebration, one of our amazing Year 2 pupils took part in the wildest fun run over the weekend — and it was anything but ordinary. She dashed through clouds of colour, got absolutely slimed, and even sprinted through splashes of water — can you imagine?! We are so proud of her for embracing the challenge with such enthusiasm and a huge smile. What a superstar.



Budding Entrepreneurs Shine at the Enterprise Fair

This term, our Year Six pupils have shown outstanding dedication and creativity through their enterprise project. They've created their own businesses from scratch, producing detailed business plans and carefully assigning roles such as customer service clerk, business manager, display specialist and accountant.

With impressive logos and banners designed to represent their unique brands, each team brought their business to life. The project culminated in a vibrant Enterprise Fair, where pupils proudly sold their products and showcased the entrepreneurial skills they had developed.

Their enthusiasm, professionalism and teamwork were evident throughout – a fantastic achievement and a true celebration of young enterprise talent!



Voices from Our Community



This term, we have continued with 'Feedback Friday'—a celebration of quotes and testimonials from pupils, parents, staff, governors, and visitors that help tell the story of our improvement journey.

Below are some examples of the wonderful feedback shared by our community:



FEEDBACK FRIDAY

**NORTHUMBERLAND HEATH
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SHARING THE FEEDBACK FROM OUR
COMMUNITY

"We were welcomed into the school to learn about the school/trust's digital journey. It was incredible to see how engaged, enthused and invested both pupils and staff are, in ensuring that teaching and learning is accessible for all. The SLT were open, honest and reflective - we are truly grateful for their time! Visiting the school has been hugely inspirational. Thank You!"
Parent/Carer survey

"It was so nice to come in and spend time doing arts and crafts with my children. I look forward to the next one."
Parent

"Ms Indresano
Thank you so much for welcoming us in to your lovely school and sharing your innovative teaching style. It certainly gave us much to think about. I was amazed to see how engaged all pupils were regardless of their age and the lesson being taught. This obviously has a huge impact on behaviour as the children were an absolute credit to you and your staff." Kelly Manning - Class teacher

"The school had an extremely calm and organised atmosphere, helping with routine for all. Classroom layouts were mirrored consistently throughout the school, providing clarity for both pupils and staff. There was a clear expectation across the office, corridors and classrooms for no clutter and organisation which lends itself to high standards of Health and Safety." Sarah Gladden - School Business Manager

"We always have fun in our class, our teacher helps us everyday." Year 5 Pupil

"The session went well. I enjoyed spending time with my son reading with him. I feel like moments like this are important to spend with your child, doing quality activities such as reading. Quality time is just so essential." Parent



"Wonderfully behaved and articulated children! You and they should be rightly proud! Thank you for giving up your time to host us."

"I was hugely impressed by the technology provision at Northumberland Heath Primary School and the clear, positive impact it is having on both inclusion and learning. The school has created a warm, welcoming environment where pupils are engaged, confident, and clearly enjoying their learning. The creative use of tools like the green screen was particularly striking — a brilliant example of how technology can bring lessons to life and support all learners."
David Huntingford - Headteacher

"Thanks so much, a great day! The children were fantastic and so well behaved. It was a joy seeing them in the class and them being fully engaged in their learning. Well done to you all!"



Community Feedback



If you have any feedback you'd like to give, please send us an email at nhpoffice@watschools.org.uk

We're excited to showcase feedback on our new community feedback display – a space where your voices can be seen and celebrated by all our visitors.



This summer term has been an exciting time for our Eco Garden, with nature providing some truly special moments for our pupils to enjoy and learn from.

One of the highlights was the discovery of a bird's nest inside our Eco Garden's bird box. The children were thrilled to witness this wonderful surprise and have loved observing the parent birds as they cared for their babies. It's been a unique, real-life learning opportunity—bringing science, curiosity, and care to life right here in our school environment.

It's also been great to see our pupils using the Eco Garden as an outdoor classroom—searching for blooming flowers, spotting flying minibeasts, and making close-up observations of the natural world around them. These hands-on experiences have helped deepen their understanding of life cycles, habitats, and the importance of caring for our environment.

Our Eco Garden has continued to blossom, thanks to the generous donation of beautiful flowers. With the support, the children have helped plant and care for them, bringing even more colour and life to the space.

These moments—whether spotting new life, learning about the natural world, or getting their hands dirty planting—have sparked meaningful conversations and created memorable learning experiences. The Eco Garden, which is run by our Teaching Assistant Ms Bannister, is becoming a real hub for curiosity, connection, and care in our school community.



Parents Join Us for Arithmetic Afternoon

We were delighted to welcome parents and carers into school for a special Arithmetic Afternoon. This event gave families the chance to step into the classroom and experience first-hand how maths is taught at Northumberland Heath.

Children proudly shared their work and demonstrated the methods and strategies they've been using during their arithmetic lessons. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their progress and build stronger connections between home and school learning.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us—we loved having you in class!



Watch our video to get insight into our school community-
[Our school video](#)



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Peareswood Primary Wins Bexley Eco Legacy Award 2025!

We're delighted to share that our school has been awarded the Bexley Eco Legacy Award 2025, with our fellow Woodland Academy Trust school, Lime Wood Primary, named as a proud runner-up!

The awards ceremony took place at The Clearing in Lesnes Abbey Woods at the end of May, where the former Mayor of Bexley, Cllr Sue Gower MBE, presented us with a trophy and certificate. The Bexley Eco Legacy Award recognises schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental action and sustainability. As part of our prize, we received £500 from Cory to support ongoing eco-initiatives at the school.

We have exciting plans for the grant, including expanding our school garden with:

- Climbing plants
- Bird and bug boxes
- Sensory planters filled with aromatic plants and spring-flowering bulbs for children to plant
- A quiet, calming area to support pupil wellbeing

In addition, we intend to revitalise an unused area of the field with meadow and wildflower seeds, helping create a thriving habitat for pollinators and a beautiful space for the whole school community to enjoy.

We're incredibly proud of being recognised for leading the way in environmental responsibility.



Cllr Sue Gower MBE, presented us with a trophy and certificate.

Read about it in [the News Shopper article](#)



The Secretary of State for Education Visits Us!



Peareswood Primary School was proud to welcome the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education, for a special visit, joined by colleagues from the Department for Education.

Our local MP Daniel Francis also joined us, offering a unique opportunity for our school to highlight the innovation, inclusion, and ambition that drives the digital learning journey at our school and across Woodland Academy Trust.

Adding to the excitement, we were delighted to also have Lee Parkinson MBE (Mr P ICT)—who was recently awarded an MBE for his services to education—join the visit and spend time talking to staff and pupils.

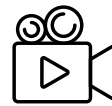
Our children were at the heart of the visit, proudly sharing their EdTech learning experiences.

We certainly won't forget the visit! A proud moment for our school.

Watch the video to see our school featured!

Lee Parkinson MBE filmed spending the day with the Education Secretary and their visit to our school.

You can watch the video on our Facebook page post about it. Click the below link or scan the QR code in the picture.



Watch the video



We feature towards the end!



ict_mrp @peareswood_primary absolute pleasure, was really impressed with what you're doing with tech, was great to see



Teachers Miss King and Miss Sharp, Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson Secretary of State for Education, Year 5 and 6 pupils, Lee (Mr P) Parkinson MBE, Headteacher Mrs Ferla, MP Daniel Francis, Director of Education Julie Carson and Peareswood Computing Lead Mr Deacon.



We're proud to announce that we've been awarded the Gold School Games Mark for 2024/25!

This prestigious recognition celebrates our commitment to delivering high-quality physical education, competitive sport, and inclusive opportunities for all pupils.

A huge well done to our staff and pupils for their continued dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm – a fantastic achievement for our school community!

National Pearson Award for Our Headteacher

Our Headteacher has received an award in this year's National Pearson Awards!

You can read all about it in the Trust News section of this edition. Click the link to find out why we're so proud of Mrs Ferla!

[Staff Recognition in The Pearson National Teaching Awards 2025](#)



Memorable Visits Enrich EYFS Experience

Our educational visits have continued to provide valuable hands-on learning experiences that have brought the curriculum to life for our youngest learners.

During our visit from Gemma's Farm, the children had the opportunity to hold, brush, and feed a variety of animals. This interactive experience helped them develop empathy, confidence, and a deeper understanding of the natural world.

Later in the term, Little City transformed our school hall into a bustling miniature town. As part of our "What will you be when you grow up?" topic, children explored a wide range of job roles through role-play, expanding their imagination, social skills, and awareness of the world around them.

These enriching opportunities supported our pupils' personal, social, and emotional development in fun, memorable, and meaningful ways.



Showcasing Innovation and Inclusion



Peareswood was proud to host an international delegation in May welcoming colleagues from the UAE Ministry of Education, Victoria International Schools of Sharjah, and representatives from the Apple team to explore how innovation and inclusion are embedded across at our school and across our Trust.

The visit provided an opportunity to share our Trust's strategic vision for Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and the integration of AI-supported teaching. Discussions focused on the impact of this approach on both staff and pupils, highlighting our commitment to equity, accessibility, and purposeful use of technology.

Visitors had the chance to tour our classrooms, observe learning in action, and hear directly from our pupils, who spoke with confidence and clarity about how digital tools support their individual learning journeys. The children's reflections were a powerful reminder of the impact inclusive teaching strategies can have when thoughtfully implemented.

We were delighted to engage in rich, thought-provoking conversations and are grateful to our visitors for their interest and insight. A huge thank you to our incredible staff and pupils who so proudly demonstrated what meaningful innovation looks like in practice across our Trust.



Chaltham Ali • 2nd
Lead of Education - Middle East at Apple | NEP Alumnus | Future Fellow
1mo ***
Thank you for hosting the delegation from UAE, job well done to you and the team.




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Our School Video



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Bexley Schools Math 24 competition champions!

Willow Bank Primary are the Bexley Schools Math 24 competition champions!

Year 5 pupils recently represented the school with pride at the Bexley Schools Maths 24 competition, demonstrating exceptional teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the event.

Their hard work and focus paid off in spectacular fashion, as the team achieved the highest overall score across all participating schools. A special congratulations goes to our year 5 pupil Nife, who made it through to the final round and secured Willow Bank's place as the top-performing school in Bexley—bringing home the prestigious gold medal.

A fantastic achievement for this team and a proud moment for the whole school community.

Well done Team Willow Bank!



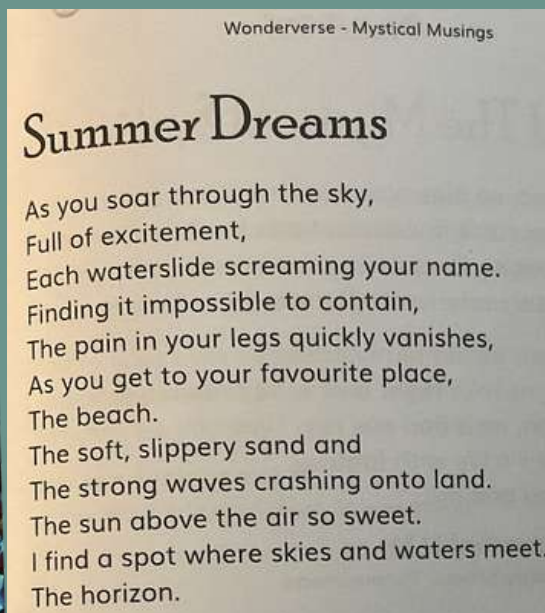
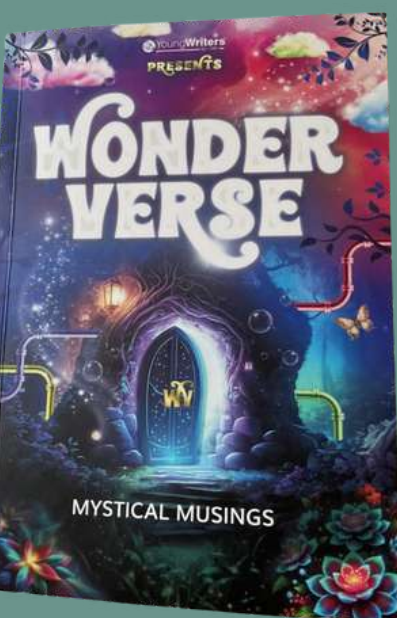


A group of 20 talented KS2 pupils have become published authors after entering a national Young Writers competition. Each child wrote their very own mystical poem, and their impressive creativity has now been celebrated in the most exciting way—their work has been published in a real book!

Their poems now sit proudly alongside entries from children across the UK, marking a huge achievement for our young writers and a moment they'll remember for years to come.

This fantastic accomplishment reflects many of our school values—**aspiration**, as pupils challenged themselves to aim high with their writing; **curiosity**, as they explored imaginative ideas through poetry; and **resilience**, as they saw the creative process through to the finished piece.

Well done to all of our published poets—we are incredibly proud of you!



Buzzing About Spelling at Willow Bank!



Children from Years 1 to 6 took part in our second-ever Willow Bank Primary Spelling Bee this term. After learning a list of 100 spellings for a test, the finalists competed in front of their phase groups for the chance to win the coveted Spelling Bee trophy!

The event has become a fantastic way to raise the profile and importance of spelling across the school—and it's now something the children look forward to each year.



Marking 500 Years Since the Closure of Lesnes Abbey



Children in Year 5 were invited to take part in Lesnes 500—a special event marking the 500th anniversary of the closure of Lesnes Abbey. Held on site at the historic abbey, the day included a fascinating history workshop led by a local historian, a creative banner-making session, and a fun schools procession through the woods.

They joined children from other schools for a joyful procession, a live theatre performance, and a range of exciting activities with the Mayor of Bexley! Pupils also had the unique opportunity to watch the premiere performance of The Ruined Theatre's play about the rich history of the abbey.

This memorable day not only deepened the children's understanding of local history—building on learning from Years 1 and 2—but also brought together schools from across the borough to celebrate this exciting milestone in our shared heritage.



Around the World Festival Brings Community Together

We were thrilled to host our third annual Willow Bank Primary Around the World Festival this term—an event that continues to grow in popularity with families and the wider community. This year's celebration featured a lively mix of activities, including a huge raffle, an international food stall with delicious dishes donated by parents and staff, face painting, inflatables, and a wide range of stalls and games.

The festival marked the grand finale of our Arts Fortnight, which this year explored the theme of 'Eras'. Each year group focused on a different decade, producing a wonderful range of artwork across various media. It was a true celebration of creativity, culture, and community spirit.



Year 5 Lead the Way in Sustainability Project



This summer term, Year 5 pupils at Willow Bank Primary School have been passionately learning about sustainability and the importance of protecting our environment. As part of their project, the children created powerful, eye-catching posters to raise awareness about plastic pollution and held an inspiring parade through the school grounds—using their voices to encourage everyone to reduce plastic use.

But their efforts didn't stop there. Determined to make a real impact in the local community, Year 5 also wrote to our local MP, requesting more recycling bins to be installed around Southmere Lake to help keep the area clean and protect local wildlife.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils' commitment to making a difference and look forward to hearing a response to their thoughtful and proactive campaign.

Abera Oppong-Asare MP
House of Commons
London
SW14 0AA

Dear Ms. Oppong-Asare,

We are Year 5 children in Willow Bank Primary School in Thamesmead. We are writing to you because the plastic and litter is making pollution which is going into Southmere Lake. Plastic pollution has increased over the last year as rubbish is being thrown in the lake. Our class went litter picking and we found lots of rubbish, including plastic wrappers, tin cans, papers and coffee cups.

Recently, we went litter picking where the school's lake is. There were several items in and around the water. This made us feel concerned because people are throwing waste. Local residents (who use the park on evenings and weekends) are upset by the volume of litter that builds up day by day. We would like to ask if there can be more bins in parks, around the lake and generally where people walk. They can also be outside buildings, so when you go in, you can throw your trash away. There could be a job where you go clean water surfaces so the animals don't get injured or the water is filled up just by plastic/rubbish. Over the bins, there can be signs that say, 'No littering' or 'Throw your trash here.'

Plastic pollution has increased over the last year as rubbish is being thrown in the lake.



Success in the London Mini Marathon 2025!

Our school was awarded a trophy for taking part in the TCS London Mini Marathon 2025—a unique opportunity for children and young people to cross the iconic London Marathon finish line and earn the coveted Mini Marathon medal.

Every class at Willow Bank completed 2 miles as part of this exciting national event. The TCS Mini London Marathon invites schools across the country to run, jog, walk, or wheel either one mile or 2.6K—bringing the spirit of the London Marathon to pupils in the heart of the capital and beyond.

Our children showed fantastic enthusiasm, determination, and team spirit throughout, and we loved every step of the journey!

A huge well done to all of our pupils—their energy and commitment made us proud.





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