



# December in review

DECEMBER 2019

Friday 10th January - Come Dressed as a Superhero

Tuesday 14th January - After School Clubs Start

Friday 17th January - Teddy Bears Picnic

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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back after the Christmas break and a happy New Year. Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their reading selfies. Please keep sending them in and we can add them to our school display. We had our first Willows Word World cup quiz this week which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Well done to Mr Woods for organising the event, Miss Kemp for being his glamorous assistant, Mrs Garner for arranging the medals and trophies and to Mrs Goy and her winning team.

Please can I urge all parents and carers to check our school term dates as we had a lot of children away on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January due to other local schools having training days. We do send out lots of information stating the yearly dates and you can always check our school website: [thewillowsmk.org](http://thewillowsmk.org)

I am looking forward to awarding our attendance certificates later this week for the Autumn term. Overall for the Autumn term we achieved 95.1% and we are aiming for 96%. Please remember if your child is below 90% in their attendance this will be classed as persistent absence and you may be asked to a meeting at school to see if we can work together to improve this.

We would like to welcome Mrs Hook back after her maternity leave into the school office. The children have another exciting term ahead of them, which we are looking forward to.

Jo Orbell

Head Teacher

## Fun With English Week

This week the children will be taking part in fun English based learning activities. There will be lots of talking, singing, stories, games drama and quizzes for the children to deepen their literacy learning and we need your help!



Over the Christmas holidays we set a home reading challenge for parents and children to take a selfie photo of themselves reading a book. We would like to thank those parents who have sent their photo to the office email. If you have not received an acknowledgment for your email please let the school office know.

On Friday 10th January, we would like children to come to school dressed up as a Superhero. Please don't feel you have to buy a special costume, but use your imagination and creative skills.

Also on Friday 10th January, we would like to invite parents to join our Reading Event at 1.30pm - you will be able to cuddle up with your child and share a book and at 2.00pm we are running a quiz for parents and children with prizes to be won.

## Teddy Bears Picnic Friday 17th January

The Year 1 children will be having a Teddy Bear's Picnic on Friday 17th January.

All children will enjoy a school buffet style picnic lunch of sandwich, pom bears, fruit, yoghurt and cake rather than the ordered school dinner. If your child would prefer to bring in their own packed lunch, then that is fine – please let us know your preference by returning the reply slip on the letter.



But please don't tell the children about our surprise teddy bear picnic as this will add a bit more to the magic of the topic.

Your child can bring a soft toy to school but please make sure it is named!

## Christmas Performances



Thank you to all those parents who came along and supported their child's Christmas performance and the enterprise event which was very successful. The children raised a combined £201.05 from their class stalls.

The children, as a year group, will be able to decide how they want to spend the money they have raised at their stalls.

We are hoping to run similar projects each term, which parents can support when they are invited to join our Easter Hat parade and Summer Fair. This will encourage children to use their new skills to create things that parents might like to buy.



Friday 10th January	All day	Come dressed as a superhero - Letter has gone home
Friday 10th January	1.30pm	Reading Event and Quiz for parents
Tuesday 14th January	3.00pm - 4.00pm	After School Clubs start
Friday 17th January	PM	Teddy Bears Picnic - Year 1 only

## After School Club Spaces



Our popular After School clubs for Reception, Year 1 and 2 children start again next week. The Martial Arts, Football Year 1 & 2, Computing & Board Games club are full, but there are still some places on Reception Football. Please ask at the School Office about booking a place for your child. The cost is £12.50 for a 10 week session.

## Attendance

December Attendance 2019				
Year	Class Name	% Week Commencing 16th December Attendance		% Whole Month of December Attendance
Rec.	Badgers	85.2%		88.1%
Rec.	Hedgehogs	90.9%		92.3%
1	Squirrels	97.2%		96.9% 
1	Rabbits	92.2%		89.4%
2	Owls	87.1%		91.3%
<b>Total attendance</b>		<b>90.2%</b>		<b>91.5%</b>

Well done **Squirrels** with an attendance of **97.2%** for the week beginning **16th December**

Well done **Squirrels** with an attendance of **96.9%** for the whole month of **December**

Did you Know: Lateness also affects you childs attendance %

For the whole month of December there were 71 occasions when children were late. Time lost in the mornings can mount up quickly in lost education and cause disruption for other children in the class.

# Miss Finch's Marvellous Menu



## Lighter Chicken Cacciatore

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 3 slices prosciutto, fat removed, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 sage sprigs
- 2 rosemary sprigs
- 4 skinless chicken breasts (550g total weight),
- 150ml dry white wine
- 400g can plum tomatoes in natural juice
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 225g chestnut mushrooms, quartered or halved if large
- Small handful chopped flat-leaf parsley, to serve

1. Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan. Tip in the prosciutto and fry for about 2 mins until crisp. Remove with a slotted spoon, letting any fat drain back into the pan, and set aside. Put the onion, garlic and herbs in the pan and fry for 3-4 mins.
2. Spread the onion out in the pan, then lay the chicken breasts on top. Season with pepper and fry for 5 mins over a medium heat, turning the chicken once, until starting to brown on both sides and the onion is caramelising on the bottom of the pan. Remove the chicken and set aside on a plate. Raise the heat, give it a quick stir and, when sizzling, pour in the wine and let it bubble for 2 mins to reduce slightly.
3. Lower the heat to medium, return the prosciutto to the pan, then stir in the tomatoes (breaking them up with your spoon, tomato purée and mushrooms. Spoon 4 tbsp of water into the empty tomato can, swirl it around then pour it into the pan. Cover and simmer for 15-20 mins or until the sauce has thickened and reduced slightly, then return the chicken to the pan and cook, uncovered, for about 15 mins or until the chicken is cooked through.

