

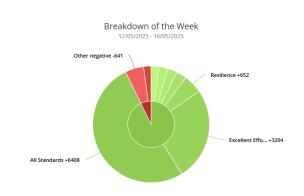
BELONG, believe, ACHIEVE PERTHYN.CREDU.LLWYDDO

Weekly Newsletter - 16.05.2025

Hello! مرحباً! Ahoj! Ola! Dzień dobry! Salut! Helo!

Belong, Believe, Achieve:

This week our competition winners have visited the Morgan Sindall site to sign their names on the steel framework of the new school, our Year 9 Boys' Football Team became Champions and our Year 10 & 11 pupils have been attending revision sessions and sitting their GCSE examinations. Our assemblies have been celebrating Mental Health Week and were created by Miss Williams.



Merits: 12.05.2025-16.05.2025.

We respect the effort that our pupils are putting into their character and studies. A huge Willows well done to all of this week's merit winners.

Year Group	Total	Excellent Effort	Merit Champions
Year 7	2615	7Attfield	Aaron Nicolau
Year 8	2572	8Beethoven	Drew Wells/Abdulmatin Folorunsho
Year 9	3067	9Banksy	Jessica O'Connell
Year 10	2570	10Curie	Gracjan Stacherski
Year 11	704	11Boston	Salma Zakir

Dates for your Diary:



- 19th May GCSE Double Award Science (Unit 5)
- 20th May GCSE English Literature (Unit 2)
- 20th May-- GCSE Computer Science (Unit 2)
- 21st May Year 10 Assessments
- 21st May Girls Football Tournament.
- 21st May GCSE French (Unit 2 & 3)
- 21st May GCSE Photography Assessment.
- 22ndMay GCSE Double Award Science (Unit 6)
- 22nd May GCSE Media (Unit 2)
- 23rd May Year 10 Assessments
- 23rd May Hay Day Festival
- 23rd May- GCSE English Language
- 23rd May Polish Cultural Breakfast
- 26th May Summer half term break
- 2nd June All pupils return to school





















School News:

Steel Signing

A group of pupils from Willows High have made history by signing their names on the steel framework of their future school building, marking a special milestone in the construction of the new state-of-the-art education facility.



The pupils earned this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity after winning a school creative writing competition which asked them to describe "what Willows High School means to them and the community". The 12 winners have been given the chance to access the live construction site where they left their signatures on the very structure that will shape the next chapter of Willows High. They were joined by Cardiff's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Cllr Sarah Merry and local Councillors.

Construction of the new £60 million school officially began in October 2024, delivered under Cardiff Council and Welsh Government's Band B Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

Morgan Sindall Construction, the main contractor appointed to design and construct the campus, will deliver a new modern, high-quality education facility for 900 learners aged 11 to 16, as well as a dedicated 30-place Special Resource Base for pupils with Complex Learning Needs.

Chris Norman, Headteacher, said: "The response to our pupil competition has been overwhelmingly positive. We are delighted that our pupils have the opportunity and desire to be involved in the process of the new build. It's been humbling and heart-warming to read the accounts of what Willows High School means to them and the pride they have in being part of our school community."

Cllr Sarah Merry, Cabinet Member for Education, said: "This is a hugely exciting moment for Willows High School and the wider community. Giving young people the opportunity to be involved in the construction of their new school not only sparks pride, but also helps them feel connected to the future of their education."

The new school will boast a wide range of facilities designed to enhance the learning experience and promote wellbeing. These include a sports hall, gym, drama studio, and grass sports pitches—all of which will be available for public use outside school hours. The project will also introduce improved pedestrian and active travel links, encouraging safer and more sustainable journeys to and from school.



Sustainability is at the heart of the project. The new Willows High is being built to Net Zero Carbon standards in both Embodied and operationally, aligning with the Welsh Government's ambitious environmental goals.

The new school is expected to open its doors in the 2026/27 academic year.





















Cook Stars





On Monday our pupils and parents enjoyed their second cookery session, the sessions teach a variety of techniques and build confidence in the kitchen week on week.





They cooked special fried rice and vegetable spring rolls which they took home to enjoy with their family.

We look forward to next week when they will be cooking pizza and fruit crumble.

Football

We are so proud of the brilliant performance of our Year 9 boys' football team in the Cardiff and Vale Schools Plate Final this week, which showcased perfectly the journey the team has been on for the last 3 years.

From the first minute they poured their hearts and souls into the match. It didn't exactly go to plan in the first half and despite being dominant we found ourselves 2:0 down at half time. In the second half, the talent but more importantly the resilience, belief and champion spirit that we spoke about before the game shone through. Battling



back to 2:2, with goals from Jayden Inyang, we then went behind again with around 7 minutes left. But they just would not let up, and we scored 2 late goals to win it, Dan Osipovs the match winner with a rocket in the last minute.

An amazing experience for everyone involved. It was also amazing to see so many parents cheering on from the sidelines. And, of course, our very own travelling army of Year 7 boys who sang at the top of their voices throughout and showed everyone what we are all about.







Specialist Resource Base

Last week pupils in the Special Resource Base found out that their 2D art had come first place in the Urdd eisteddfod for the Cardiff and Vale region. However, this week we have had some more fantastic news. Their art piece has been awarded 3rd place in their category out of the whole of Wales!























Year 11 Enrichment Sessions - Revision Skills:

Since September, Year 11 have received Enrichment lessons to help build their revision skills. Pupils have been taught a variety of techniques such as:

- Mind Mapping
- Flash cards and the Leitner System
- Revision with Friends
- Carousel Homework
- Just a Minute
- Cornell Notes

There are links to videos explaining all of the above to parents on our school website. Pupils in Year 11 should now be considering upping the amount of revision they are completing to **two hours per evening**. All pupils have access to revision time-table templates and can ask for more whenever they need them.

Week: _	The	secret to getting sheed is getting started	Do something to your future self v you for	day that will thank	is no elevator to s, you have to take the stairs	The expert in anything once the beginne	need to d	your life you hange your prities
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
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The pupils are aware of the potential barriers to their concentration such as busy households or too much time on technology. Please discuss this with your child and support them so that they can revise effectively at this important time in their lives. Some ideas for parents may be:

- Locking the pupils' phone / gaming device for an agreed amount of time each night.
- Testing the pupils out loud after they have revised a topic
- Limiting the time that they go out with friends on week nights.
- Encouraging them to stay focused and show you their revision notes after each revision session

Pupils have also been informed of a variety of in school support such as our school library, after school revision sessions and the availability of free resources.



A number of pupils have admitted that their greatest barrier is themselves as they are easily distracted, lose motivation or don't persevere when the work is difficult. As well as the work we are doing in school on this, it would benefit our pupils if you could talk to your child about this and try to come up with

motivational techniques to keep them focused.



We believe in our pupils and want everyone to succeed. If you need any help with this or have any questions, please e-mail Kelly.bubbins@willows.cardiff.sch.uk























Shwmae! Why not practice your Welsh at home? We will provide a variety of terms and phrases weekly. Use the phonetic column to see how it should be pronounced.

The fist table contains basic terms and phrases. The second table contains extended terminology and language patterns, for the more advanced learner. Send any queries or questions to

willowswelsh@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

-Welsh-Terms-of-the-Week-------Week-Fifteen¶

Welsh¤	Phonetic¤	English¤	¤
(name)ydw·i.¤	(name)- <u>.Ud</u> -do' <u>ee</u> ¤	I-am¤	Ħ
Rydw·i'n·byw·yn·¤	Rud-oo-een-biwun¤	I·live·in·¤	¤
Rydw·i'n·hoffi·¤	Rud-oo-een-hoff-ee¤	I·like·¤	¤
Dydw·i·ddim·yn·hoffi·¤	Dud- <u>oo-ee</u> -dd- <u>imm</u> -un-	I·don't·like∙¤	¤
	hoffee.¤		
Diolch¤	Dee- <u>ol</u> - <u>ch</u> ¤	Thank∙you¤	ä























New Canteen Menu!

The Catering Team have a developed a new canteen menu for this term. We are grateful for the input from our pupils in the development of the new dishes and welcome any feedback.

eni	Meal of the day £3.40	m
Ž	Vegetarian option	m
NS	Sides of the day	Dic
8	Dessert	То
≝		Che
3	Hot and cold	Jac Tu
The	snacks	Sar C Chir Yo

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meal of the day £3.40	Spinach ricotta tortellini in a mushroom cream sauce Garlic bread	Chicken Kiev served with cheesy vegetables mashed potatoes	Hunter chicken served with herb rice	Katsu chicken	Fish and chips Salmon fishcake (every other week)
Vegetarian option	Spinach ricotta tortellini in a mushroom cream sauce Garlic bread	Cheese, leek and potato pie served with cheesy vegetables mashed potatoes	Red pesto and roasted veg pasta	Veggie katsu	Vegetable and macaroni cheese bake
Sides of the day	Diced squash / salad Courgettes Onions, peppers and mushrooms	Green beans / salad potatoes / carrots onions / butternut squash	Rice Boiled potatoes Peas / salad	Noodles Stir fry mix Beansprouts / salad	Mushy peas Chips Beans / salad
Dessert	Toffee muffin with custard	Fruit jelly	Trifle	Rhubarb crumble with custard	Brownie
	Cheeseburger £1.75 or Cheese burrito £3.00	Calzone £1.75 or Katsu curry wrap £3.00	Hotdog £2.60 or Veggie hotdog £2.60	Cheese and onion panini £1.75 or Minted lamb wrap £3.00	Cheesy chips and beans £2.75 or Chicken burger £2.75
Hot and cold snacks	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 /	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 /	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 /	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 /	Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 /
	£2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	£2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	£2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	£2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	£2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50

Facilities to hire after school



Please contact our Estates Manager if you would be interested in hiring our Learning Lounge or Theatre after school hours - Cyril.royer1@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

The Learning Lounge is colourful and bright space, with a tea/coffee making utilities, comfy seating, as well as more private areas to sit. We also have a larger area

from which adult

education and skills building classes and groups are run.

The Theatre has a large stage and seating area which can be used for performances or other activities.





















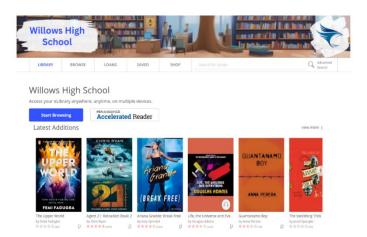


E Platform Learning

We are pleased to confirm that our subscription for E-Platform is now live. All pupils have been provided with an account and login details. A letter confirming these details will also be sent out shortly.

E-Platform is an online library where our pupils can choose and read books of their choice in line with their reading age. It is a great addition to our school and allows pupils to read anytime and anywhere.

The E-books can be accessed via the Eplatform app, which can be downloaded via



the QR code below. Alternatively, use the following website: https://willowshighschool.eplatform.co/ To use please use setup code 5452. Your username will be the same as your STAR test, password is book. All pupils have been provided with these details but please ask your English or J7 teacher will have these details if you are unsure.

STAR tests for this term have also been completed for KS3 and results will be shared shortly. As a reminder, we ask that all pupils read for a minimum of 20 minutes a day. This will have a huge impact on their literacy levels and ensure success in school and beyond. If you have any concerns about your child's reading, please do not hesitate to contact their English or Journey 7 teacher.



Access your eLibrary anywhere, anytime, on multiple devices







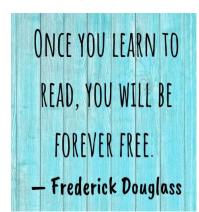
Readers of the Week

A massive well done to our Readers of the week! These are pupils who have been consistently reading on our e-book platform as well as making the most of our school library! Please come and see Ms Nelms for your golden tickets!

- 1. 7DB Joshua Adekoya, 7DB-Emelia Charles
- 2. 8NO -Yara Magidub, 8SC- Shane Dite
- 3. 9CO Jomi Adekoya, 9HP-Violet Neale

It is really important that you continue to read at home. We ask that all pupils read for a minimum of 20 minutes a night (please give them a

reading merit when they do so!). These 20 minutes can make a huge difference in terms of progressing in all areas. Pupils have access to the library after school as well as every two weeks as part of their English lessons as well as the E-platform which can be used 24/7, information above.















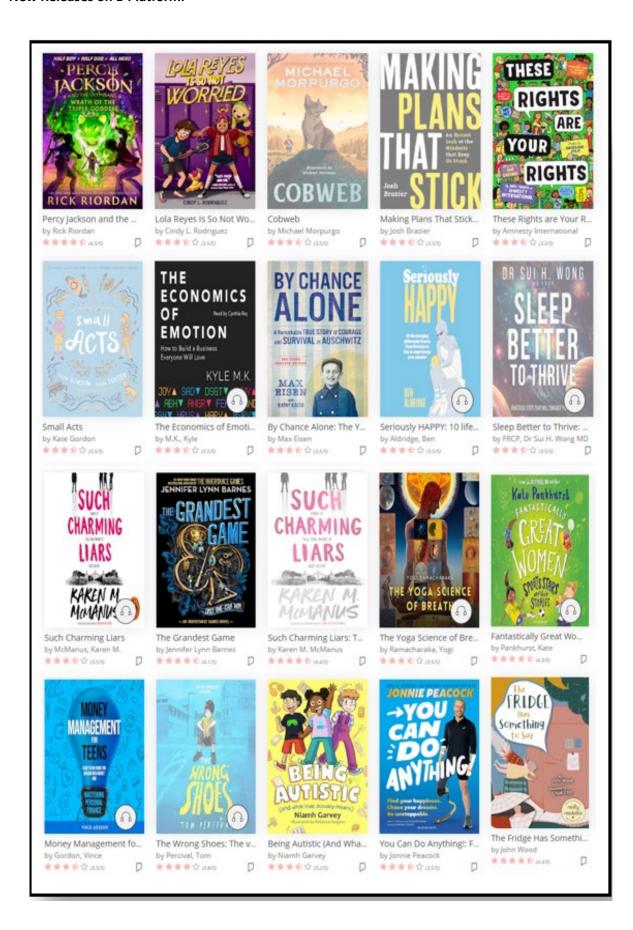








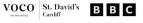
New Releases on E-Platform.























Period Standard Award

We are pleased to announce that we have recently been accredited with Merit in the 'Period Standard' and we are now on the pathway to achieving Distinction. This week, all of our Year 8 girls have been provided with a free set of 'period pants' (worth up to £80.00) and talked through how to use / wash them. We are proud to promote more environmentally friendly approaches.

If pupils in any other year group would like these, then please ask them to ask their Welfare Officer, Mrs. Bubbins or any member of staff they'd prefer to ask.



Nottingham Trent University are conducting exciting research with parents and carers of teenagers on how they have

responded to adolescent problematic social media use.

Participants Needed



Please refer to poster for more information

responding who are willing to take part in a joint online

If you would like more information about this research opportunity please scan the QR code or visit the following link:

CONTACT DETAILS: atie Niven (PhD student) atie.niven2023@mv.ntu.ac.uk



Adult Learning Classes

If you are interested in any upcoming courses or have any suggestions for courses that you would like us to look into running at Willows, please contact our Family Community Engagement Officer Karen Hunt using:

karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk























School Essentials Grant

Registering as eligible for free school meals with your Local Authority unlocks access to the School Essentials Grant. It also means schools get more funding. With the introduction of free school meals for primary pupils, many parents/carers do not realise that schools will lose out unless they continue to register as eligible. Even if you don't need the grant, registering here: https://www.gov.wales/get-help-school-costs will mean schools get additional funding.



School Prospectus/Parent handbook (2024-2025)

Our document containing all of the information you'll need for this year is available to view and download on our website here. If you'd like to get your hands on a paper copy, they are available at the school Reception.



Uniform Recycling

We kindly ask if you have any pre-loved uniform to donate them to our Uniform Recycling Centre, please drop them to reception, they will be greatly appreciated!

Supporting Your Child During Exams

Please find a link below which may help you if your child is in Year 10 or Year 11 and has upcoming examinations, it is a Parent Workshop video around supporting your child during exam season. it is roughly 40 minutes and was created by the School In-Reach team, based within the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrulgjNZXHg























Attendance

Contact Details - Willows High School

To Report an Absence:

Year 8, Year 9 and the first half of Year 11 -(Surname - A to Khan)

Contact Donna Whitney using Classcharts (see How to report an absence in Classcharts)

Year 7, Year 10 and second half of Year 11 -(Surname - Khanal to Z)

Contact Amber Short using Classcharts (see How to report an absence in Classcharts)

Please do not use the old mobile numbers, email or reception.



#EveryDayMatters www.cardiff.gov.uk/schoolattendance



Attendance Draw Winners (week ending 9th May 2025)



Fantastic Friday Weekly Draw - £50 of Amazon vouchers

Winner: Ellie-May Burke

Fast Pass Weekly Draw – go to the front of the canteen queue for a week with a friend

Year 7 winners: Zac Williams, Malakai Blakeley

Year 8 winners: Mila Fettah, Jack Heaven

Year 9 winners: Ellie-Mae Smith, Charlie Dzirba.

Year 10 winners: Ethan Gwilym, Megan Worthey.

Year 11 winners: Nathan Mba-Aba, Hamudi Salih.

Attend Like a Champion!





















Class Charts

What is Class Charts?



Class Charts is an app that can be downloaded to your phone. You can use it to:

- keep track of your child's behaviour
- view attendance records
- access your child's weekly timetable
- be informed of and track detentions
- award your child merits for completing their home reading tasks
- view announcements from school.





We would like all parents to sign up to Class Charts, as we are also going to be using this as the main way of sending all messages to you. Likewise, from after half term this will also be the main way that you can report your child's absence to us.

Thank you to all parents who have signed up to Class Charts this year and to those of you who continue to use it.

Please let your child's Head of Year know if you need a login code.

How to report an absence on Class Charts

1. Click on your Class Charts app and click on your child's name.



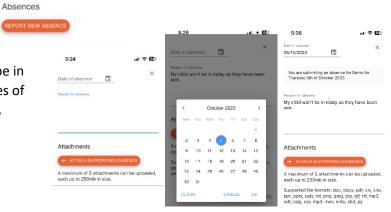


Activity

Scroll across the green band at the top and click 'report absence'. 2.



- 3. Click on 'report new absence'
- 4. Tap the calendar for the date, type in the reason and attach any pictures of medical evidence, such as letters, emails or texts from the doctors, dentist or hospital
- 5. Click submit...it's as easy as that!



Please contact your child's Head of Year if you have any problems logging on and they will be happy to guide you through the process.

















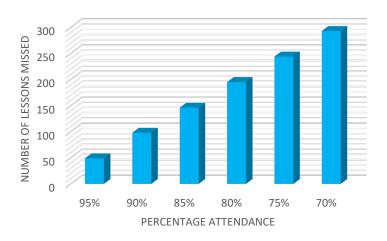




Important information about attendance to school

In an exam, if you got 90% of the questions correct, you would probably think that this is a very good result.

Number of lessons Missed



Unfortunately, this doesn't translate to your child's attendance.

90% attendance for the school year means that your child has **missed 98 lessons**. How are they going to make that time back?

Even 95% attendance which is the Welsh Government's threshold for good attendance means your child would have missed 49 lessons over the school year. This is a lot of work for your child to miss.

The chart above shows how quickly the number of lessons your child misses

increases as their attendance drops.

The greatest gift that we can give your child is an amazing set of examination results at the end of Year 11. To provide the best possible conditions for this to happen, your child needs to have as high an attendance percentage as possible.

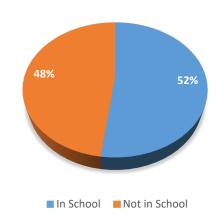
Pupils are in school for 190 days of the year, they are not in school for 175 days of the year.

We believe that this is plenty of time for the majority of appointments to be made out of school hours.

Please consider your child's education before making appointments during the school day, and if you have no option, please consider how they are going to catch up on the work they have missed and report the absence every day through Classcharts.

Every pupil who is not in school is a potential safeguarding concern if we have not been notified by you.

Days in School / Not in School



We would be grateful if families would take the information above on board and we look forward to your support.





















Important Information for All Parents and Guardians

Please be aware that Fixed Penalty Notices are now being issued by Cardiff Council again.

If your child has more than 5 days of unauthorised absence since September 2022 or takes an unauthorised holiday, then you are at risk of a Fixed Penalty Notice Fine being issued.

Fines are £60 at first, then rising to £120 - if the fine is still not paid then you will be summoned to court and the fine and costs will rise again. Please note these fines do not go away. Please make sure to read any correspondence carefully.



To avoid being fined, please ensure that your child attends school every day - if there is a valid reason for absence, please contact the Attendance Team giving evidence where possible.

<u>Lateness to School: Fixed Penalty Notices</u>

Fixed Penalty Notices are already being requested for **poor attendance** and for **term-time holidays**.



After the Easter holidays we will be looking to request Fixed Penalty Notice fines for lateness to school. We ask that you speak to your child and discuss the importance of arriving at school on-time for 9:00am line-up every day. Your child is missing hours of education if they are consistently late to school.

If your child is regularly late to school then a request for a Fixed Penalty Notice fine will be actioned to the Education Welfare Service. The fine for this is £60, rising to £120, leading to a court summons & increased fines imposed. We do not want to have to

request this – we would much rather your child be in school on time.

If your child is late to school because of an appointment then please provide evidence to the Attendance Team in the form of an appointment card or letter, etc.

Please help your child to arrive at school in good time. The main gates close at 9am – after this time your child is considered to be late and will need to sign in through Late Gates in the Learning Lounge, and then main reception.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Willows Words



Did you know that accuracy with writing is worth 50% of the marks on the GCSE English writing tasks? It's also written into the marking schemes for most subjects. You can help your child by

quizzing them on the spelling of our Willows Words; these are words that have been found to be commonly misspelled at GCSE. Every week, we'll publish a selection for you to quiz and repeat them in a loop to ensure that the learning is embedded.

- accessory
- 2. appearance
- 3. difficulty
- 4 equipment
- 5 exhilarating
- exaggerate
- 7 foreign
- 8 guarantee
- 9 possession
- 10 receive





















Uniform Reminder to Parents

Unfortunately, we are seeing a rise in the number of pupils who are attending school wearing the incorrect uniform, especially on days when they have P.E.

We would appreciate the support of families to ensure that pupils come to school appropriately dressed. On the right is the information in our Parent Handbook which sets out clearly the expectation for our pupils at Willows.

We have uniform for a reason, it is to act as a leveller for pupils. Everyone wears the same, so no-one can feel disadvantaged by those who might want to come into school wearing the latest brands and expensive labels. It is also there to ensure that the clothes that are worn are appropriate to the age of your child, not too revealing and suitable for walking around in throughout the day.

Pupils will be sent home to change if they are wearing inappropriate clothing, this will be the school's decision.

We would appreciate if you would discuss this with your child and take steps to ensure that they are appropriately dressed for school when they leave your house in the morning.

The school will make parents aware if there is any change

P.E. Kit: School P.E. midlayer top, plain black sport shorts, plain black tracksuit trousers or plain black sports leggings.

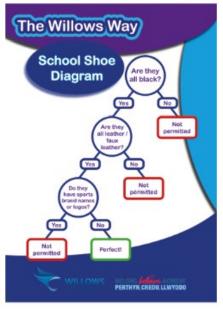
No jeggings, tight fitting trousers, jeans, jean like trousers or low rise trousers

No hoodies

Currently if your child has P.E. they should wear their P.E. kit to school for that day.

If you are concerned about the cold weather, pupils may wear their blazer as an extra layer of clothing.

Acceptable shoes flow diagram:



Hair: No extreme styles / non natural colours.

Shoes: Black leather or faux leather shoes or ankle boots only. No canvas, no trainers, no logos.

Black to go with the uniform. Leather to be weather resistant.





Uniform will be checked during the first line-up of the morning.

Pupils who are not wearing correct uniform will be sent home to either change or collect a part of their uniform that was missing

to the school uniform due to increases in temperature, please do not send your child in P.E. kit if the weather is warm.

Crocs are definitely not part of the school uniform! Our Parent Handbook can be accessed on our website or by clicking the link below:

https://indd.adobe.com/view/1dbf54a5-38cf-494f-9166-50b358b2e824

If you are intending to buy new P.E. for next year, please remember that it is the Mid-Layer that is the compulsory item and must be worn. If you want to wear the old P.E. tops, they must be worn under the Mid-Layer.





















Mobile phone use in school FAQs

What will happen if my child is using their phone on the school premises or during the school day?

Staff will request that pupils hand their device(s) in, these will be stored in a secure place, in a padded envelope and will be clearly labelled ready for collection at the end of the same day. In an attempt to discourage use of electronic devices we will operate an escalated approach:

- Initial offences Device handed-in, pupil can collect at the end of the same day, Parent/Carer informed.
- Repeated offences Device handed-in, parent/carer must collect.
- Continued offences Device handed-in, parent/carer must collect. Parent/carer to attend a meeting.

In the event of an exceptional circumstance, your child's Head of Year should be made aware and an individual solution will be applied.

Can my child bring their phone/electronic device to school?

Yes of course, we ask that they are switched off and out of sight during the school day and when on the school premises.

What if I can't collect my child's phone/electronic device?

That's ok, we will keep any devices secured at the school until it is convenient for you to collect.

What will happen if my child refuses to hand in their electronic device/mobile phone?

This is something we all want to avoid and as such we will also have an escalated approach to this:

Discussion with Head of Year / SLT > time in the APC until handed in > exclusion

Please encourage your child to not use their device in school to avoid the above escalation, we are giving plenty of advance warning to avoid this.



What happens if I need to speak to my child during the school day?

There are rare occasions whereby you may need to speak with your child for emergency reasons, if this is the case, please contact the school via the main number (02920 414243) and we will endeavour to pass on messages or collect your child to use a school phone. If we feel that your child needs to speak with you, we will provide a private space using a school phone to contact you.

Can devices be used during breaks/lunches?

No, we want pupils to communicate with their friends, develop their social skills and be present with each other.

I really find it hard to separate my child from their phone, can you help?

Yes, absolutely, we want our pupils to use their electronic devices responsibly and in moderation. We can work with you to put in place plans to avoid overuse and misuse and will support you in ensuring your child is meeting the school expectations. We will also be educating pupils on how to use devices responsibly and sharing further information on how parents/carers can monitor their child's use.

Our Valued Partners



















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17 years

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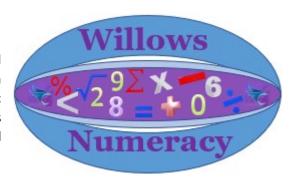
RECOMMENDATIONS:



Mathematics Department

Numeracy Boost Session (NBS):

Using a variety of digital (e.g. TT-Rock Stars) and non-digital resources, all KS3 pupils will benefit from using laptops in Numeracy Boost Session to enrich their Mathematics skills; they are delivered fortnightly by Mathematics teachers. It is a great opportunity to support low abilities further and stretch high potential pupils



Numeracy Competition Dates - KS3:

Year 9 - Wednesday 9th July 2025

Year 8 - Thursday 10th July 2025

Year 7 - Friday 11th July 2025

Junior UKMT Challenge - Y7 and Y8 MAT pupils: Results to be announced soon

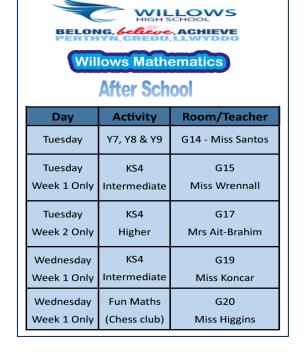
UKMT Challenge is an external Mathematics competition giving Year 7 and Year 8 MAT pupils the opportunity to tackle a variety of mathematical activities which inspire their love to problem solving. Relevant emails have been sent to pupils.

Below is the link to the UKMT website where pupils can familiarise themselves with the challenge and can practise as much as they need to increase their confidence:

https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competition/solo/junior-mathematical-challenge/archive (Go to - View past papers)

or any related question, please contact Mrs Ait-Brahim at:

Halima.Ait-Brahim@willows.cardiff.sch.uk























Numeracy Terms and Question of Week 31, starting 12/05/2025

To help our pupils boost their mathematical vocabulary and Numeracy skills, The "Terms & Question of the week" will be emailed to them in a weekly basis.

Any questions, please email: Halima.Ait-Brahim@willows.cardiff.sch.uk

The solution to the actual weekly question will be emailed to pupils on **Monday** with the new question.

Numeracy Answer of the week 30

Baking Cakes:

First, we can determine how much of each ingredient Todd needs for four cakes. For each ingredient, we can either add the amount needed for one cake to itself four times, or multiply it by 4. The calculations are shown in the following table:



Ingredient	Amount Needed for One Cake	Calculations	Amount Needed for Four Cakes
white sugar	1 cup	1×4	4 cups
butter	½ cup	$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$	2 cups
eggs	2 eggs	2×4	8 eggs
vanilla extract	2 teaspoons	2×4	8 teaspoons
all-purpose flour	$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups	$1\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{2} = 4 + 2$	6 cups
baking powder	2 teaspoons	2×4	8 teaspoons
milk	½ cup	$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$	2 cups

When comparing the amounts needed to make four cakes with the amounts Todd has already, we can see that he has enough of all the ingredients except all-purpose flour.

Todd needs 6 cups of flour to make four cakes, but he has only 5 cups. Therefore, he needs 1 cup more of all-purpose flour to have enough ingredients to make four cakes.

Numeracy Answer for week 30

Numeracy Question of the week 31

Power Saving:

An electric clothes dryer uses approximately 5 kilowatts of energy to dry a single load of laundry.

On average, Mary Lois's family washes 4 loads of laundry per week. If they use a clothes' line instead of the electric dryer to dry half of their loads of laundry.



Approximately how many kilowatts of energy will they save in a year?

Numeracy Question for week 31

Numeracy Terms of the Week 31

Lines and relationships:

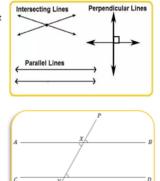
Intersecting lines: Lines that cross each other are called intersecting lines. The point at which they cross is known as the point of intersection.

Perpendicular lines: If two lines meet at a right angle, they are called perpendicular lines.

Parallel lines: Straight lines that remain the same distance apart and never intersect are known as parallel lines.

Transversal lines:

When a line intersects two lines at distinct points, it is called a transversal. In the below figure, line PQ intersects line AB and line CD at two distinct points, X and Y. Therefore, line PQ is the transversal line.



Numeracy Terms for week 31





















MathsWatch

All of our pupils' weekly Mathematics homework is accessible on MathsWatch, which can be found at https://www.mathswatchvle.com/. They must be completed by their given deadlines. Each set



homework is open for a month, so that pupils can keep improving their scores. This will also help your child to revise and to practice the mathematics and numeracy skills, knowledge and understanding that they have been learning in class. There are videos available for each topic and interactive questions that they can try. Please ensure your child completes and submits their homework on time. Any outstanding homework must still be completed, and they should all aim to achieve 100% on them.

Whole School Leaderboard

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Ibrahim	Khan	11	11MC/Ma
2	Sajel	Nasir	9	9HP/Ma
3	Megan	Worthey	10	10CU/Ma

Year Group Leaderboards

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Tobi	Adesina	7	7DB/Ma
2	Matvii	Maiatskyi	7	7WO/Ma
3	Aaron	Nicolau	7	7CA/Ma
#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Sajel	Nasir	9	9HP/Ma
2	Rut	Nicolau	9	9IN/Ma
3	Jack Rhys	Drewen	9	9HP/Ma

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Sophia	Bamidele	8	8MO/Ma
2	Boma	Oruene	8	8MO/Ma
3	Azeem	Ololde-Ankirun	8	8SC/Ma
#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
#	First Name Megan	Surname Worthey	Year 10	
1				Class 10CU/Ma 10CU/Ma
	Megan	Worthey	10	10CU/Ma

#	First Name	Surname	Year	Class
1	Ibrahim	Khan	11	11MC/Ma
2	Ziora	Asinobi	11	11FA/Ma
3	Lee	Walters	11	11ED/Ma

TimesTable Rockstars

Single numeracy boost sessions are provided to all our Year 7, 8 & 9 pupils on a fortnightly basis to enrich their Mathematical Skills, specifically with a focus on times tables. Pupils will be accessing their TTRS accounts and improving their knowledge of the times tables.



At home, pupils should log on to TTRS via their technological devices at home. There is also a phone app that they can download via Apple or Android, free of charge.

All the pupils have 5-10minutes daily tasks on there to help consolidate their times tables. It will also earn them coins to use for customising their own individual avatars. Similarly to MathsWatch, there will be a leaderboard and certificates to reward their efforts

Please congratulate the "**Top 3 TTRS**", who have improved their speed time in answering times tables questions! Keep practicing everyone!

For any login issues, please email Miss Santos at dana.santos@willows.cardiff.sch.uk



Our Valued Partners





















Community

You will find plenty of information on community and local goings-on at:

The Community Noticeboard » Green Squirrel





Inksplott | Community Is Everything

The Splott Community Volunteers run a community breakfast on Thursday Mornings 8am – 10am in The STAR Centre, Splott Road, Splott CF24 2BZ.



If you have any of the following spare, please drop them off at the school reception so that we can help Splott Community Volunteers provide food for those in need:

- Tins: rice pudding, custard, tuna, chopped or plum tomatoes, soup, any meals in tins
- Cereals: corn flakes, bran flakes, rice crispies, shreddies, weetabix
- Dried items: pasta, rice, noodles

The Tremorfa Community Pantry

The amazing Tremorfa Community Pantry are always busy finding ways to support the community. You can find them at:

Tremorfa Community Hall, Tweedsmuir Road, CF24 2QZ.



Splo Down



Splo-down is a member-run community food cooperative open to residents of Adamsdown, Splott, and Tremorfa. They buy food in bulk and use sliding-scale pricing so they can make good quality food accessible to everyone. They currently run a weekly stall 5-7pm every Wednesday where they sell veg boxes and run a zero-waste shop selling other food and household products such as rice, lentils, pasta, spices, and washing up liquid.

They try to source our products from sustainable

and ethical suppliers as much as possible. For any questions, please email them at: ask@splo-down.org





















May Half Term Activities



Girls' Football Festival

The day will see a football festival for girls (juniors in the morning and seniors in the afternoon) and will be free to access. Cardiff City Community Foundation want to get as many girls the opportunity to be involved in some coaching and games as possible.

Family Fun Day

Explore police vehicles, try on police uniform and come and talk to a number of officers including your local neighbourhood officers



Community Bike Fix – 10:30am–12:30pm- 17th May



Does your bike need a bit of love? Drop into our pop-up bike workshop, where the fantastic team from Community Cycleworks will help you with one repair issue per bike (brakes and tyres are prioritised for safety).

This is a free service and a great opportunity to learn more about how to keep your bike road-ready. More info can be found here: Community BikeFix

Location: Railway Gardens, Cost: Free, Open to all ages





















Social Media

Social media is increasingly playing a role in the lives of our pupils and for the majority of time, this is a positive thing. However, we are increasingly seeing how social media can have quite a negative impact



on our pupils and in some cases, the impact has been quite significant.

We need to work together to harness all of the positive aspects of social media (and there are many) and to cancel out those aspects which can do harm. Whilst it is easy to focus on the fact that the age guideline for most sites is 13, it is also recognised how difficult it is to stop children from accessing these especially when all of their friends are using a certain platform.

Perhaps a more realistic place to start is to ensure that, if social media sites are to be used then they are set up in a way which helps to protect privacy. For example, most platforms allow you to:

- set an account to private (many of our pupils don't do this and some have been approached by people they don't know
- not allow friend requests again, some pupils have had friend requests from unknown users
- hide the user's location worryingly, so many pupils share their location and with the development of ever more sophisticated software, it is becoming relatively easy to pinpoint exactly where the social media account is being used from (without sharing any address details).

Changing the settings to not allow the issues to happen takes a few minutes and can significantly improve the level of online safety when accessing social media. The NSPCC site 'Keeping children safe online' is excellent and 1 would urge all families really access this: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

South Wales Police - Sextortion

We have been informed that South Wales Police are concerned about the rapidly growing number of 'sextortion' cases involving young people across Wales.

This is where individuals are targeted and threatened that inappropriate images of themselves that have been previously uploaded will be shared unless money is sent. This is obviously extremely worrying and the first action must be to ensure that no such photographs or videos exist – and, if they do so, they must be deleted immediately.

The advice to families from South Wales Police is as follows:

- Don't pay, do stop contact and block: you may be tempted to pay, but there is no guarantee that this will stop the threats. As the offender's motive is to get money, once you have shown you can pay, they will likely ask for more and blackmail may continue. If you have paid, don't panic but don't pay anything more. Help your child to stop all communication with the offender and block them on any accounts that they have been contacted on.
- Avoid deleting anything: try not to delete anything that could be used as evidence such as messages, images, telephone numbers, and bank account details.
- Report to the police or CEOP: call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the <u>CEOP Safety Centre</u> to report any online blackmail attempts.

The NSPCC website is also a very good source of information and support should you require it.





















Learning Lounge & Families

Adult Learning in the Learning Lounge







Willows Pantry

We are working with the MCKS Charitable Foundation UK to reduce the instances of food poverty in our area. We are provided with a donation on a fortnightly basis which can then be distributed amongst our community.

There is no need to access the school through the Main Reception, if you'd like to engage with this service, go straight to the Learning Lounge on a Monday between 10am - 1pm, if you would like to use the pantry at any other time, please email Karen Hunt who will be happy to help

Karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk





Citizens Advice



A reminder that members of our community can make appointments with staff from the Citizens' Advice at our Learning Lounge. They can provide advice of a range of topics such as housing, benefits and legal matters. To make an appointment, please e-mail the school using karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk or by phone using 07733889062

Support

We want to help you as best we can and there is a lot of support out there for parents and families.

Please contact the school using <u>karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk</u> or by phone using 07733889062 if you need any information on who you can turn to. Your child's Head of Year and the Welfare Team can also help. Please do not suffer alone. Reach out to us.























Wellbeing in school

At Willows High School, we aim to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for our whole school community; pupils, staff and families, and recognise how important mental health and emotional wellbeing is to our lives in just the same way as physical health. We recognise that children's mental health is a crucial factor in their overall wellbeing and can affect their learning and achievement. All children go through ups and downs through their school career/life and some face significant life events.

Our aim is to help develop the protective factors which build resilience to mental health problems and be a school where:

- All pupils are valued
- Pupils have a sense of belonging and feel safe
- Pupils feel able to talk openly with trusted adults about their problems without feeling any stigma
- Positive mental health is promoted and valued
- Bullying is not tolerated

If you feel you need some support with your wellbeing we want to help and there are many places to go: Staff in the Learning Lounge are here to look after your wellbeing so please come down for a confidential chat.

If you are a young carer and feel you need more support or would like to know about more opportunities out there for you, Ms. Mackintosh, our Safeguarding Officer, can provide information on what is available.

Your Head of Year or any member of the Welfare Team are there to support you. You can find them at line-up time, in the welfare office or anywhere around the school.

A member of staff you trust. All members of staff will be there for you. If you want to confide in someone please do and they will help get you the support you need.

Parents and Families

If your child is unwell at school

If your child is becomes unwell at school, we will contact you if necessary. We request that you ask your child to not contact home requesting for parents to collect them. Pupils should follow the correct procedure by telling a member of staff, the situation will be assessed and contact home will be made if required. Pupils will not be allowed to leave the school site without being accompanied by a responsible adult.

Parent Governors

We currently have vacancies for parents to join our Governing Body to play their part in continuing to make Willows High School better and better. If it's something you are interested in, please contact the school using contact@willows.cardiff.sch.uk.























Measles

We are working in partnership with Cardiff and Vale Health Board, enabling children who have missed their scheduled appointments for MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccines to access this in school.

Measles can be very serious for children, and is very easily passed between people who are not vaccinated. There are currently outbreaks of measles in Wales, so we would encourage families to take up the opportunity of their child getting their MMR vaccination if they are offered it by the Health Board. Please note that if your child is invited and you would like your child to have the MMR vaccine which does not contain gelatine (Halal), this will be an option you can choose.

For more information about the MMR vaccine please go to Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) - Public Health Wales (nhs.wales)



Allergies

At Willows, we are very conscious of pupil and staff sensitivity to the 14 food allergens. The food that our canteen produces is clearly labelled and the pupil information displayed at the tills identifies any allergies that the pupil in front of them has.

We do have a number of staff and pupils who have strong reactions to certain allergens, particularly nuts, so we ask for the support of all families to be aware of what your child is bringing into school and be sympathetic to the sensitivities of our school community.

We cannot 100% guarantee that the school is nut free, it is not possible to check what food is brought into school by every pupil, every day. We ask for your support in ensuring that the risks of allergic reactions are minimised.

For more information on allergies, please visit https://www.allergyuk.org/.



Safeguarding

A reminder that the school safeguarding lead is Danielle MacKintosh. If you are worried or concerned about a child and any time (including over the holidays) then please e-mail her on Danielle.MacKintosh@willows.cardiff.sch.uk If you are a pupil that needs help, please also contact Danielle via this e-mail address.





















Chat Health

A reminder that all secondary school pupils can text the school nurse service for any medical support and advice. This may be useful if your child is too anxious or embarassed to talk to a doctor in the first instance. Please chat about this with your child and make them aware of the service and number (below):



Cardiff Foodbank

Willows High School is a partner agency for Cardiff Foodbank.

If you need a Foodbank Voucher please contact the school using karen.hunt@willows.cardiff.sch.uk. or by phone using 07733889062. Where we can help, we will do so confidentially.

Period Dignity

We have been working hard to reduce the stigma over periods for the last two years in line with all Wales objectives. We are hoping to achieve the 'Period Standard' award soon. Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the document featured in the link below:

https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-02/period-dignity-strategic-action-planyoung-people%27s-version.pdf

Just a reminder that school can provide tampons, pads, menstrual cups and period pants for pupils which are provided by the LA. Please direct pupils to form tutors, the Welfare Office, the Main Office or to Mrs. Bubbins if you think they may need help with this.

All of Year 8 and all of Year 9 have now been handed free pants but they are available for all.

We would like to hear your views on improving period provision. We have implemented many of your ideas from our last survey and value your opinions. The link to the Parent Questionnaire is here:

https://forms.office.com/e/RBkJKggA1Z

Likewise, we would like more feedback from our pupils in this area. The link to the Pupil Questionnaire is here:

https://forms.office.com/e/i2wscPQX7s

Please take time to help us, help you have a dignified period.

A reminder that pupils can collect free period products from school at any time. Pupils can ask any trusted adult for these or can access them in the school office, from Mrs. Bubbins or from the Welfare Office.























Cardiff Youth Service

Cardiff Youth Service can support young people on a variety of topics such as emotional health, housing, finance and help lines. More information can be found on their website:

http://cardiffyouthservices.wales/

Key Services

Here is a reminder of some of the key services available for young people and their families:

- School nurse pupils can text 07520615718 or 'chat' on 'Chathealth.NHS.UK' for confidential advice and support.
- Family Gateway 03000133133 provides advice for families no matter how big or small the problem.
- **Food Bank** our nearest food bank can be found at St. Saviours Church on Splott Road. For dates and times, go to https://cardiff.foodbank.org.uk/
- **Period Poverty** Please e-mail Mrs. Bubbins at Kelly.Bubbins@willows.cardiff.sch.uk if you need feminine hygiene products and we'll do our best to help.



Safe learning environments for pupils and staff

We are committed to ensuring Willows High School is a safe place where our pupils and staff are treated with respect and dignity, in a nurturing and positive learning environment.

Cardiff Council has recently launched a publicity campaign to highlight its commitment to pupil and staff safety and well-being, and to remind school communities that pupils and staff have a right to attend school free from abuse and any form of aggression.

Any form of written, verbal or physical abuse towards staff in our school will not be tolerated. The Council is committed to supporting schools and governing bodies to take any necessary action to keep staff safe. This may include restricting contact and communication with certain individuals, exclusion from the premises and reporting matters to the police when necessary.

Thank you for helping us to create a safe and nurturing learning environment for the children and young people attending our school by treating staff with dignity and respect.





















Diolch

As always, thank you for your support. If there are any problems, we would appreciate that you contact the relevant person in school straight away rather than using social media platforms. We will always try our best to reach a solution and this will ensure your concern is seen and avoid any misinformation and miscommunication.

Recently, there has been an increase in family members arriving at the school to collect their children early, without letting us know in advance.

To ensure all of our pupils are safeguarded, we will not be able to release a pupil from our care until 3.10pm unless we are notified of a necessary appointment in advance. These can be communicated through the Report Absence tab on the Classcharts Parent app. Instructions on how to do this can be found in this Newsletter. We are grateful for your understanding and would appreciate your cooperation with this



Please could parents refrain from turning up at the school reception without an appointment. Heads of Year, Teachers and Support Staff are incredibly busy during the school day looking after our pupils. If there is a problem, please arrange an appointment with your child's Head of Year in the first instance. To organise this, please ring the school reception on 029 20414243.

Alternatively, you can e-mail the relevant member of staff, details below.

Headteacher	Mr. Christopher Norman	Christopher.Norman@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Welfare Manager	Miss. Kimberly Williams	Kimberly.Williams@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 7 – Head of Year	Miss Savannah Reed	Savannah. Reed @ Willows. Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 7 – Leadership Link	Mr. Marcello Lo Celso	Marcello.Locelso@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 8 – Head of Year	Miss Marcella Sansom	Marcella.Sansom@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 8 – Leadership Link	Mr. Jack Smith	Jack.Smith@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 9 – Head of Year	Mrs. Roisin Cherrett	Roisin.Cherrett@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 9 – Leadership Link	Mrs. Kelly Bubbins	Kelly.Bubbins@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 10 – Head of Year	Mrs. Tara David	Tara.David@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 10 – Leadership Link	Mrs. Suzie Warren	Suzie.Warren@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 11 – Head of Year	Mrs. Catherine Watkins	Catherine.Watkins@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Year 11 – Leadership Link	Mr. Simon Thomas	Simon.Thomas@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Edison	Ms. Helen Amos	Helen.Amos@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Tesla	Ms. Jane Crawshaw	Jane.Crawshaw@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
Family & Engagement Officer	Mrs. Karen Hunt	Karen.Hunt@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk
SRB Leader	Mrs. Zahra Nurmohamed	Zahra.Nurmohamed@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk

Team Willows











































	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meal of the day £3.40	Spinach ricotta tortellini in a mushroom cream sauce Garlic bread	Chicken Kiev served with cheesy vegetables mashed potatoes	Hunter chicken served with herb rice	Katsu chicken	Fish and chips Salmon fishcake (every other week)
Vegetarian option	Spinach ricotta tortellini in a mushroom cream sauce Garlic bread	Cheese, leek and potato pie served with cheesy vegetables mashed potatoes	Red pesto and roasted veg pasta	Veggie katsu	Vegetable and macaroni cheese bake
Sides of the day	Diced squash / salad Courgettes Onions, peppers and mushrooms	Green beans / salad potatoes / carrots onions / butternut squash	Rice Boiled potatoes Peas / salad	Noodles Stir fry mix Beansprouts / salad	Mushy peas Chips Beans / salad
Dessert	Toffee muffin with custard	Fruit jelly	Trifle	Rhubarb crumble with custard	Brownie
Hot and cold snacks	Cheeseburger £1.75 or Cheese burrito £3.00 Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Calzone £1.75 or Katsu curry wrap £3.00 Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Hotdog £2.60 or Veggie hotdog £2.60 Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Cheese and onion panini £1.75 or Minted lamb wrap £3.00 Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50	Cheesy chips and beans £2.75 or Chicken burger £2.75 Jacket potato £2.50 with Tuna mayonnaise £2.80 Cheese £2.80 Beans £2.80 Sandwiches £2.40 / £2.75 Cold wrap £3.00 Chicken Caesar Salad £2.80 Yogurt £0.90 / Fruit £0.50













