AUTUMN 1 NEWSLETTER

Windrush Charlton Primary School Autumn Term 1 Newsletter 2026

Welcome from Sally McAvoy, Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

The term has got off to a calm and purposeful start, and the pupils have settled into their new classrooms, for many with new friends and staff. Routines have been established and pupils' attitudes to learning have been really positive.

Just a reminder Parents' Evening will be taking place straight after half-term, so please look out for the letter explaining how to book your slot.

As always, as the weather is now turning colder and wetter, we are an OPAL school and we play in all weathers. On wet days, please ensure your child has some spare clothes if they have a tendency to get wet, as well as wellies so they can make the most of playing in the puddles. Coats need to be warm and waterproof.

I hope you all enjoy the October break and come back refreshed and ready for the rest of the autumn term, starting back on Monday 2nd November.

With best wishes,
Sally McAvoy
Headteacher

Attendance for Autumn 1

Overall –95.97%

Current national –94.09%

Did you know?

Did you know that the school puts updated information e.g. club timetables, admissions on their school website every month?

Visit our website:
https://windrushcharlton.org.uk/



School Values Launch

We have also launched our new school values, and I am sure many of you have enjoyed talking to your child when they have come home with a sticker and discussed why they have received it. Our commendation assemblies each week have focused on pupils who have demonstrated one of our values, and you have fully supported these by attending. It has been lovely to see you all burst with pride when a member of staff stands up and speaks so positively about your child. There is no better feeling! We have only had a few parents who have been unable to attend, but I would urge you, if you cannot come, to send a family member or family friend so that they can say well done to your child, take a photograph or video, and you can still be part of that special moment. Emails to parents whose children have been chosen will be sent on Wednesday afternoons to give parents some notice to attend our Friday assemblies.

We would also like to invite parents to email in their weekly shout-outs for pupils who have demonstrated our values outside of school. As a reminder, our school values are:

Respect Treating people, places and things with care and showing that everyone matters.
Resilience When something is challenging, we learn from it and do not give up.
Responsibility Being reliable and taking ownership for your choices.
Integrity Doing the right thing even when no one is watching
Kindness Choosing words and actions that make people feel happy, safe and included.

If your child has shown one of our values outside of school, no matter how small the moment might seem, please email the school office or your child's class teacher. We will love to hear how they 'live out' these values, outside of school too.

Open Afternoons

We opened our doors and invited you all in for our open afternoons to see the classroom where your child is learning, meet the teacher and hear some important messages for the year ahead. We also shone a spotlight on areas of the curriculum where you can support your child at home. If you were unable to attend the meeting, the PowerPoints that were shared are now on our website for you to look at. Our past presentations are also there under each phase group, so do have a look, as much of the information from last year will still be relevant.





Dates & News

General Dates

Fri 16th Oct – Last Day of Autumn Term 1; Maths Reading Breakfast 8:15am
Mon 19th Oct – Fri 30th Oct – Half Term SCHOOL CLOSED
Mon 2nd Nov – First Day of Autumn Term 2; Parents Evening 1
Wed 4th Nov – Parents Evening 2
Thur 5th Nov – Reception 2027 Open Morning 9:15am
Fri 13th Nov – Reading Breakfast 8:15am
Mon 16th Nov – Reception & Year 6 Height & Weight Checks
Fri 20th Nov – Reception 2027 Open Morning 9:15am
Fri 27th Nov – Maths Breakfast 8:15am
Fri 4th Dec – Reception 2027 Open Morning 9:15am
Wed 9th Dec – Homework Due In
Thur 10th Dec – Reception, Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance
Fri 11th Dec – Reading Breakfast 8:15am
Tues 15th Dec – Years 4 & 5 Christmas Sing-along 9:15am & 2:00pm
Wed 16th Dec – Christmas Dinner Day
Fri 18th Dec – Last Day of Autumn Term 2
Mon 21st Dec – Fri 1st Jan – Christmas Holidays SCHOOL CLOSED
Mon 4th Jan – Inset Day SCHOOL CLOSED ALL PUPILS



Assemblies

Thur 12th Nov – 3B Class Assembly 9:15am

Wed 18th Nov – 6C Class Assembly 9:15am

Wed 2nd Dec – 6B Class Assembly 9:15am

Trips/Workshops

W/B 9th Nov – Year 6 School Journey Week

Mon 9th Nov – Year 5 Fim Festival

Wed 11th Nov – RB Maryon Wilson Park

Wed 18th Nov – RA Maryon Wilson Park

Online Safety



Our theme in e-safety this half term has been Self-Image and Identity which covers the Conduct and Content areas of the "4 Cs of Online Safety".

In Years 1 & 2 children will have been learning about how to keep themselves safe and what to do when the conduct of other people online make them feel uncomfortable. Our children are empowered to say "no" and "please stop" to anyone that makes them feel uncomfortable, sad or afraid as well as identifying the trusted adults they can reach out to if this should happen.

In Key Stage 2, they have been introduced to the concept of their online identity or "online footprint" turning the focus onto their own actions and how their actions online build a reputation around them. Children have been taught positive ways of interacting with others online and how this will reflect positively on how others perceive them.

Safeguarding

Staying safe online

Online safety remains an important part of our safeguarding curriculum. This half term, children have been learning about Self-image and Identity. Children have explored how we present ourselves online, how people may appear or behave differently online and, as they get older, how online identities can be changed, copied or even faked. Over the break, please continue to talk to your child about what they are doing online, remind them to keep personal information private and encourage them to tell a trusted adult if anything online worries or upsets them.

Darker evenings

The clocks go back on Sunday 25 October, so evenings will soon be getting darker earlier. If your child travels independently, please revisit safe routes, road safety, what to do if plans change and the importance of being visible.

Staying safe over half term

Please encourage safe road use, sensible use of phones when out and about, and make sure older children know how to contact home in an emergency.

Safeguarding is something we do together. Keeping conversations open helps children recognise when something isn't right and gives them the confidence to ask for help.

Year Group News

Reception

For Black History Month, Reception have been learning about Mary Seacole and her significant contribution to nursing. To support their learning, two local nurses visited the children and shared their knowledge and experiences. The children enjoyed practising how to apply bandages and listening to their heartbeats and blood flow. It was a wonderful hands-on experience that helped bring their learning to life.





Year 1

Year 1 had a brilliant trip to the Tower of London. We've been learning about rulers and leaders in history and visited a fantastic historical landmark. The children enjoyed scaling the walls, seeing the crown jewels and meeting the Beefeaters!









Year 2

Year 2 had a fantastic trip to the Greenwich Field Studies Service in Greenwich Park, where they explored a variety of habitats and microhabitats. The children enjoyed investigating different living environments, searching for minibeasts, and learning how plants and animals are specially adapted to survive in their habitats. Through hands-on exploration, the children observed wildlife up close and developed their understanding of how living things depend on their environment.







Year 3

Year 3 have been enjoying Art this half term, where they explored the different colours and techniques that Van Gough used when painting. They looked at circulism, swirls, stippling and short brush strokes. They then used these techniques to create their own version of one of Van Gough's most famous paintings, 'Starry Night'. They choose the colours to represent themselves and their mood that day, using the colour mixing techniques they had learnt earlier in the term. I think you'll agree, they have come out brilliantly!





Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about Ancient Greek pottery and the work of contemporary artist Grayson Perry. They explored the shapes, patterns and stories shown on Greek pots and looked at how Grayson Perry uses pottery to share ideas and tell stories. Using inspiration from both themes, the children designed their own pottery and have begun bringing their ideas to life by creating their pots using paper mâché. The pupils have shown great creativity and care as they develop their designs into three-dimensional artworks.





Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have been learning about forces in Science. They have done many different experiments for this unit, for example testing out the impact of surface area on air resistance as well as investigating the impact of the shape of an object on water resistance. The children wrote up their investigations, including listing all the variables that they must keep the same to ensure a fair test. They also made sure to repeat their investigations and find averages to eliminate any anomalies in their findings.





Year 6

Year 6 have been studying Climate Change and how we all can change little things in our lives to make the world a better place. The children decided they want to make our Charlton community a nicer place to live, so they all went litter picking in the local area. It was shocking how much litter is just discarded and ends up blowing around our streets and parks. They were proud of themselves and were brilliant environmental activists.





School Events/News

Mrs Lynch – Year 2 Teaching Assistant is retiring

We have some sad news to share as we prepare to say goodbye to Ms Lynch, who will be retiring from her role as Teaching Assistant in Year 2 at the end of this half term.

Ms Lynch has dedicated an incredible 17 years to Windrush, beginning her time with us at Windrush Thamesmead before moving to Windrush Charlton. Over those years, she has supported and cared for hundreds of pupils and has become a much-loved and highly valued member of our school community.

Ms Lynch has always been a calm, steady and reassuring presence, someone who children and colleagues know they can rely on. Her kindness, patience and dedication have made a real difference to so many children over the years, and she will be greatly missed by us all.

We would like to thank Ms Lynch for everything she has given to Windrush over the past 17 years and wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement. We hope she enjoys every minute of this exciting new chapter!

Year 1 Library Trip

On Wednesday 14th October, Year 1A enjoyed a visit to Woolwich Library.

The trip helped strengthen the children's relationship with our local library service and gave them the opportunity to learn more about what the library offers.

The children explored the library, became more familiar with the space, returned and changed their library books, and borrowed exciting new books to enjoy at home.

It was a wonderful opportunity to encourage a love of reading and help children develop confidence in using their local library.



Basecamp Half Term Club

Basecamp Half Term Club is running from 19th-30th October, with arts and crafts, sports, games, creative challenges and themed activities to keep children busy and having fun throughout the holidays.

Don't miss the Halloween Party on 30th October, featuring party food, games, a disco and optional fancy dress!

Book now via Magic Booking. New families can register at: https://basecampchildcare.magicbooking.co.uk/Register

Spaces are limited, so early booking is recommended.



Maths Breakfast – Friday 16th October (with a very special guest!)

Set your alarms early and join us for our Maths Breakfast on Friday 16th October! We're delighted that the Mayor of Greenwich will be joining us for this special morning. Come along, enjoy a bite to eat and have fun taking part in lots of exciting maths activities with your children. You'll also have the opportunity to meet the Mayor!





Well Done – Nico!

We are incredibly proud of Nico in Year 3, who recently achieved his first gold medal in Judo! Through determination, skill and composure, he won all four of his fights. Nico summed up his achievement perfectly: "If you believe, you can achieve." A fantastic example of resilience, focus and believing in yourself. Well done, Nico!



If your child has something special to celebrate outside of school, just like Nico, then please let us know by emailing the school office. We love celebrating the wonderful achievements of our pupils.

Other School Messages and Reminders

Absence Reporting

Please remember to report all pupil absences directly to the school office, rather than to class teachers. In the mornings, teachers are busy preparing classrooms and welcoming pupils and are unable to check emails before lessons begin.

Reporting absences to the office ensures messages are received promptly, recorded accurately and calling parents unnecessarily. Thank you for your cooperation.



Office Email

The office email address will not be monitored during the October Half Term. If you need to contact us, please email: Donna - dcorrigan@endeavourpartnershiptrust.org.uk

Lost Property

Please ensure you check lost property (ask a member of staff if the box is not out at the end of the day) before the end of this half term. Anything not collected will be disposed of.

Please ensure that all of your child's property is clearly labelled with their name and class.

Payments for School Trips

We kindly ask parents to support the school by contributing towards the cost of school trips. The school subsidises all trips but is unable to cover the full cost. These experiences greatly benefit the children and play an important part in their learning, which is why we continue to offer them. Thank you for your continued support.

Checking attendance on MCAS

If your child arrives at school after the class register has been taken, they will initially be marked as absent. The school office will then update the register with the correct late mark; however, this process may take some time.

To ensure that attendance information has been updated, please wait until after 10:00am before checking your child's attendance record in the MCAS app.

Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance Matters

Every school day brings new opportunities to learn, make friends and grow in confidence. By attending school regularly and arriving on time, children can make the most of every lesson and experience. We understand that life can sometimes present challenges, and we are here to support families wherever we can. If attendance is becoming a concern, please speak to us - together, we can help every child thrive and achieve their very best.

Every Day Counts – Let's Work Together to Give Every Child the Best Start. 🌟📚🏫

Reception 2027 Open Mornings

The application process for a Reception place for September 2027 is open;

Deadline to apply: 15th January 2027

Offer day is on: 16th April 2027



Our Open Mornings will be on the following days:

Thursday 5th November 2026 - 9.15am

Friday 20th November 2026 - 9.15am

Friday 4th December 2026 – 9:15am

Please click on this link to book a place at one of our open days:

Windrush Charlton Primary School (SE7 8FE) Open Mornings 2026 – Fill in form

Please visit our website for more information: https://windrushcharlton.org.uk/Reception-Admissions-2027-28/

If you have any friends/family that have a child that is due to start Reception in September 2027, please share our open days with them.

Year 6 Secondary School Application Deadline

The closing date of applying to secondary schools is Friday 31st October 2026.

Please click on the link below for all information about applying.

https://windrushcharlton.org.uk/Year-6-Secondary-Transfer-2026-27/



We are always keen to hear your feedback about our newsletter. Please email: office@windrushcharlton.org.uk with any of your comments and/or suggestions





Is your child starting Year 7 in 2027?
Need help with their secondary school application? We're here to support you.

Families Information Service are able to support you to complete your application. Appointments will be held at The Woolwich Centre, Wellington Street SE18 6HQ
On -
Monday 19th October 2026
Tuesday 20th October 2026
Thursday 22nd October 2026
Friday 23rd October 2026

For further information or to book an appointment, please contact FIS on – 020 8921 6921 or fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

ROYAL borough of GREENWICH

NHS
South London Children and Young People's Community Immunisation Service

Children's Flu information webinar

Join us to learn more about the children's flu vaccine, and protecting your child this winter

10 November 13:00 – 14:00

Scan the QR code to register



NHS
South London Children and Young People's Community Immunisation Service

Missed your flu vaccine?

Do you live or attend school in the borough of Greenwich? Aged 4 - 16?

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and protect yourself!

Thursday 15 October, 15:15 - 16:15
Charlton Family Centre, SE7 7EL

Monday 26 October, 10:00 - 14:00
Clockhouse Community Centre, SE18 5QL

Tuesday 27 October, 10:30 - 14:00
Greenwich West Community Centre, SE10 8JL

Call 020 3903 3345 or scan the QR code for more information or to book an appointment

CONTACT:
07763636011
INSTAGRAM: _SPORTS4EVERY1
SPORTS4EVERY1SE@GMAIL.COM

MUST BRING:
WATER BOTTLES
TRAINERS (NO FOOTBALL BOOTS)
PACKED LUNCH (NO NUTS)

Sports4Every1 HALLOWEEN

PRICE:
£55 PER WEEK
£15 PER DAY

MON 19TH OCT - FRI 23RD OCT
MON 26TH OCT - FRI 30TH OCT
(FRI 30TH COSTUME DAY!!!)
EVERYDAY 9AM - 3PM

LOCATION:
HAWKSMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL
BENTHAM ROAD
THAMESMEAD
SE28 8AS

SPORTS:
FOOTBALL
BASKETBALL
DODGEBALL
NETBALL
CRICKET
ROUNDERS
HOCKEY
TENNIS
HANDBALL
MINI GAMES
ATHLETICS
TAG RUGBY