



# **THOMAS WILLINGALE SCHOOL AND NURSERY**

The Broadway, Loughton, Essex. IG10 3SR. Tel: 020 8508 7287 Fax: 020 8502 5364

Headteacher: Miss T. Phillips B.A. (Hons.), PGCE

**22 July 2026**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

As another wonderful academic year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an exceptional year for Thomas Willingale School and Nursery. Looking back over the past twelve months, I feel an enormous sense of pride in everything our pupils, staff and wider school community have achieved together. This year has been filled with success, laughter, ambition, kindness and countless memorable moments that have made our school an even more special place to learn.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge congratulations and heartfelt farewell to our amazing Year 6 pupils. They have been exceptional role models throughout their time with us and have left a lasting legacy within our school. We are immensely proud of everything they have achieved, not least the outstanding SATs results they produced this year. They truly smashed their assessments and thoroughly deserve every success as they move on to the next stage of their education. We wish each and every one of them the very best for the future and know they will continue to achieve incredible things.

I am equally delighted that this year's statutory assessment outcomes across the school have once again been well above national averages. These achievements reflect the determination of our children, the expertise and dedication of our staff, and the fantastic support we receive from you, our parents and carers. Together, we continue to provide an education that allows every child to flourish, and for that I sincerely thank you.

Attendance has also been a real success story this year. Following a determined whole-school effort, attendance improved significantly from the Autumn Term onwards, ensuring more children benefited from every learning opportunity on offer. It therefore gives me enormous pleasure that so many pupils have earned our

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attendance reward and will be joining us for our exciting trip to **LEGOLAND** on **7th September**.

Please remember that children **must attend school on the first three days of the Autumn Term** in order to take part in this reward trip. Should your child be genuinely unwell, medical evidence will be required to authorise their absence. We are already planning another exciting attendance reward later in the year, but please remember that children with unauthorised absences will unfortunately not be eligible to attend.

One of the things that makes Thomas Willingale so special is that our offer extends far beyond the National Curriculum. We are passionate about creating memorable experiences, broadening horizons and giving every child opportunities to discover new interests, talents and aspirations. The experiences our children receive are second to none, and whilst this list is extensive, it only captures a snapshot of another extraordinary year.

This year our children have enjoyed:

- Rock Steady music lessons and performances.
- Space Dome experiences that brought science to life.
- Show Racism the Red Card workshops.
- Breck Foundation online safety talks.
- Rock Kidz performances promoting resilience, confidence and wellbeing.
- Aspirations Day, inspiring children to dream big and think about their futures.
- My Futures careers talks, introducing children to an exciting range of professions and opportunities.
- CPR training, equipping pupils with life-saving skills and helping us achieve the prestigious **CPR Smart Award**.
- Graduation of another fantastic cohort from **The Brilliant Club**.
- Junior Duke challenges, developing resilience, independence and essential life skills.
- Forest School sessions.
- World Book Day celebrations.
- Parents to Lunch events.
- My Happy Mind, through which we proudly achieved the **Gold Award**.
- Rudolf Runs and many other fundraising events.
- Countless educational visits, workshops and visiting speakers that enriched learning across every year group.
- An extensive range of after-school clubs, giving children opportunities to develop new skills and passions.

We are incredibly proud of our sporting achievements this year. Our pupils have represented Thomas Willingale with determination, enthusiasm and exemplary

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sportsmanship at numerous competitions and festivals, resulting in us once again achieving the **School Games Gold Award**.

Another highlight has been achieving **Platinum OPAL Play**—the highest recognition for outdoor play. This prestigious award reflects years of dedication to creating exciting, imaginative and inclusive play opportunities for every child, every day.

One of the most meaningful additions to our school this year will be the stunning metal stag and tree sculpture, designed by our departing Year 6 pupils and beautifully crafted by the incredibly talented Heather Downing. It will remain a lasting reminder of this wonderful year group and the legacy they leave behind.

Our children continue to amaze us through the leadership they demonstrate every day. Whether serving on our Multi-Schools Council, School Council, Eco Warriors, Sports Leaders, Reading Ambassadors, Happiness Heroes, Digital Leaders, Willingale Wire Journalists or one of the many other ambassador roles across the school, they continually show responsibility, compassion and pride in their school. They are wonderful ambassadors for Thomas Willingale.

Our PTA continue to make an enormous difference to school life. Their commitment, enthusiasm and generosity have once again been incredible, raising over **£3,000 towards our new outdoor classroom**, alongside organising events that bring our community together and create lasting memories for our children.

Our families have also shown tremendous generosity throughout the year, supporting numerous fundraising events including the **Lions on the Loose Trail for St Clare Hospice**, alongside many other worthy causes. Your continued kindness and community spirit make me incredibly proud.

This year also marks an extraordinary personal milestone for our Deputy Headteacher, **Mrs Collins**, who celebrates **30 years at Thomas Willingale School and Nursery**. Thirty years of service to one school is an exceptional achievement and speaks volumes about her commitment to our children, our families and this wonderful community. Generations of pupils have benefited from her kindness, wisdom and unwavering dedication, and we are incredibly fortunate to have had her as such an integral part of our school for three decades. I know you will join me in congratulating Mrs Collins and thanking her for everything she has contributed to Thomas Willingale.

I would also like to recognise our exceptional Inclusion Team, who work tirelessly every day to ensure every child receives the support, care and encouragement they need to thrive. Their expertise, compassion and commitment often go unseen, but the difference they make to the lives of so many children and families cannot be overstated.

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To every member of staff, thank you. Your passion, professionalism and unwavering commitment are the reason our children achieve so much and enjoy coming to school each day.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our Governing Body, who generously volunteer their time to support and challenge the school. Their dedication behind the scenes plays an invaluable role in helping Thomas Willingale continue to grow from strength to strength.

As we prepare for another exciting year, there are two important reminders.

From September, **smartphones must not be brought into school**. Thank you for supporting this important initiative as we continue to prioritise children's wellbeing, online safety and positive social interaction.

Please also take the opportunity over the summer to ensure that your child returns in full school uniform, including appropriate footwear, PE kit and hairstyles that meet our school expectations. Starting the year looking smart helps children feel proud, confident and ready to learn.

To those families whose journey with Thomas Willingale comes to an end this summer, thank you. It has been a privilege to be part of your children's lives and to watch them grow over the years. Whilst they may be leaving our school, they will always remain part of the Thomas Willingale family, and we hope they leave with memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

To everyone returning in September, we cannot wait to welcome you back for another year of exciting opportunities, new experiences and continued success.

Everything celebrated in this letter is **in addition to the National Curriculum** and reflects our unwavering belief that education should inspire, challenge and enrich every child. Although this letter highlights many achievements, it cannot possibly capture every success, every smile or every special moment that has taken place this year. It has truly been another remarkable year.

Finally, a reminder that **school closes tomorrow at 1.30 pm**, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

On behalf of all the staff at Thomas Willingale School and Nursery, thank you for your continued support, encouragement and trust. Together we have achieved so much, and together we will continue to achieve even more.

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Have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer holiday. Enjoy every moment with your families, make lots of happy memories, and we look forward to seeing you all in September for another fantastic year at Thomas Willingale.

**With very best wishes,**

**Ms Teresa Phillips**  
**Headteacher**

*On behalf of the Thomas Willingale School and Nursery Team*

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