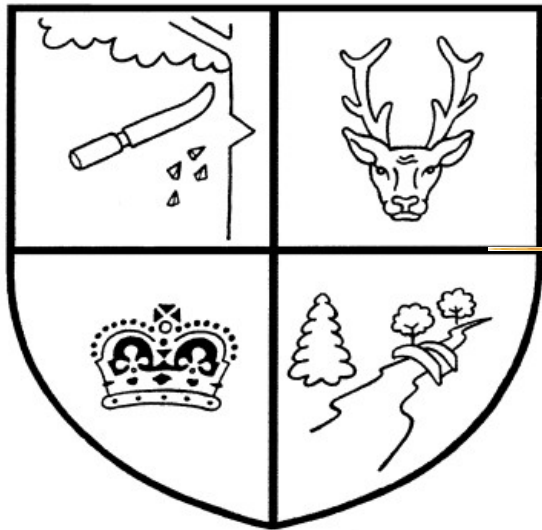




# Thomas Willingale School and Nursery



Your child.  
Their future.  
Our partnership.

“I think that there is something really, really special here at this school, really special- particularly in the wider areas of behaviour and personal development”

Ofsted April 2023



# Welcome

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**At Thomas Willingale School and Nursery,**  
We nurture the whole child – socially, emotionally, and academically.  
Our children thrive, making great progress from their individual starting points.

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We are proud of our school and excited to welcome you into our community.

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This presentation will guide you through what to expect and how we'll work together to support your child's journey.

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Have more questions? We're just a phone call or email away.

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# Our Reception Classes



- ▶ **We can admit 60 children;  
30 to each class.**

- ▶ **Beech Class – Mrs May Townsend**

- ▶ **Elm Class – Mrs Smith**

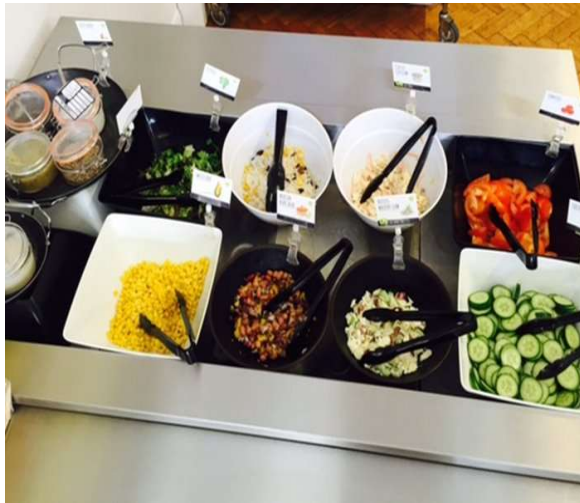




# Who are the adults?

- ▶ **Two class teachers:**
  - ▶ **Mrs Smith (Reception Elm)**
  - ▶ **Mrs May-Townsend (Reception Beech)**
- ▶ **Each class has at least one full time LSA**
- ▶ **A specialist Sports Coach sometimes teaches P.E.**
- ▶ **There may be other adult helpers in your child's class from time to time.**





# Lunch

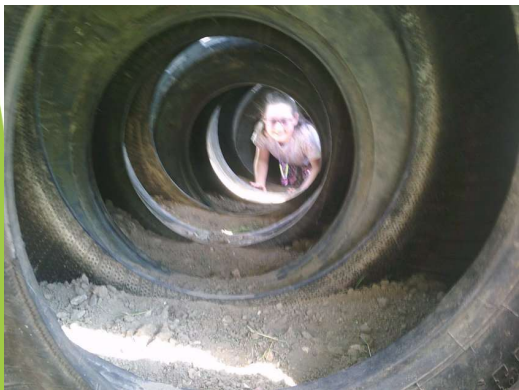
- ▶ We have our meals cooked by Accent catering - our menus are always available on the school app.
- ▶ There is always a selection of food- hot or cold food and there is a lovely salad bar daily too.
- ▶ Sometimes we have 'Special' themed lunch days. These are always popular.



# Opal OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING



Children in British Primary Schools spend 20% of their school attendance in play. Play is the process through which children learn everything they need to know that cannot be taught.



We offer our children brilliant play opportunities at TWS. We have happier children who have increased social skills; they are better problem solvers, with increased resilience, better independence, more are creative. Our children come back to class, having had fun and they are ready to learn.





# Forest School

Mrs. Lovell is an accredited leader. This year Reception will be taking part too.

# Uniform



- ▶ **We have a statutory uniform (see information in your packs).**
- ▶ **Footwear: plain black shoes or black trainers (preferably with a velcro fastening) NO jellies / open-toed sandals.**
- ▶ **Your child will need a pair of wellington boots. These will be kept in school.**
- ▶ **You will need to provide waterproofs for children to wear outdoors and a sensible winter coat.**



Jewellery: one simple pair of plain stud earrings (0.5mm).

Since September 2014, earrings are no longer allowed to be taped up for P.E. lessons. All jewellery must be removed or the child will not be able to partake in P.E. P.E days for reception from September will be Monday's and Thursday's. A Sports Coach will take one of these.



NO bangles, necklaces etc.



NO makeup or nail varnish.



Hair - if your child has long hair please ensure it is tied back.



All clothing must be labelled- if it is not and it is not collected quickly from lost property, the PTA will sell it.



# Attendance

- ▶ **Regular attendance is essential and one of the most important things to ensure your child does well in school.**
- ▶ **Advise school on the first session of absence.**
- ▶ **Use the Study Bugs app to advise us of your child's absence**
- ▶ **Poor attendance may result in a meeting with our Attendance Officer and our Headteacher.**
- ▶ **A fine may be given to parents of children who have poor attendance.**

# Holidays in term time



- ▶ **Your child should attend school every day.**
- ▶ **Help get your child, and you, into good habits now.**
- ▶ **When your child moves into statutory education there is NO entitlement to holidays in term time.**
- ▶ **A fixed penalty notice WILL BE issued for holidays taken in term time.**
- ▶ **Check term dates carefully.**

# Sickness/Illness

A dark glass bottle is tilted, pouring a dark liquid into a glass. The background is a solid dark grey color.

- ▶ **Do not bring your child to school if they have sickness/diarrhoea or have an infectious disease. Please refer to government guidelines in your pack as to whether your child can attend school.**
- ▶ **Keep them at home for at least 48 hours until symptoms have passed with no signs of sickness/diarrhoea.**
- ▶ **We will send any child home we feel is too unwell to be at school.**

**Poor attendance can have a negative impact upon your child's:**

➔ **Learning**

➔ **Friendships**

➔ **Self-esteem and confidence**



Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>



Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health

See what illnesses are going around

*Secure system, all communications encrypted*



Working in partnership with:



**Studybugs** 

## Bumps and scrapes



If your child has an accident at home, and comes to school with an injury, please let staff know.

If your child has an accident in school they will receive first aid and if it is deemed serious you may be telephoned or you will be informed at the end of the day.

If it is a serious injury you will be contacted immediately.

If your child bangs their head but the incident is not deemed serious, they will be issued with a red wristband by the first aider on duty which alerts staff and parents that they have had an accident.

# Contact details

Please ensure you give us your most up-to-date contact details. This includes postal address, home telephone number(s) and mobile number(s) and email addresses.

Up-to-date contact details for emergency contacts including telephone numbers and addresses - ensure that you provide alternative contacts other than just parent/guardian contacts if possible.

Consent to hold yours and your child's data is within this pack. We are asking all parents to review and sign this document.

You can update your details using the Sims parent app. Termly reminders will be sent out with instructions on how to do this. Or please come to the school office.

# Finances



## □ Universal Free School Meals

**At present, your child is entitled to receive Free School dinners during their time in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Please take full advantage of this as studies have shown the many benefits (health, academic performance, behaviour, concentration, attendance) that children get from having a main meal at lunchtime. We do also have an alternative cold option every day (please refer to the school dinner menu in your pack which is updated termly).**

**We have an annual Christmas dinner day which is always enjoyed by the whole school with lots of good food, music, crackers and laughter.**

# Pupil Premium Funding

This funding stream generates £1,515 per eligible pupil per year for the school. To establish if your child will attract this funding, we ask you to supply your NI numbers and indicate if you are in receipt of any universal credit benefits. We then use this information to claim this funding from the local authority.

The funding is used to help support those children who are vulnerable or in need of any extra help (e.g. individual academic support, support resources, paying for school trips, some after school clubs)



# Breakfast Club

Available every day from 7.45am to 8.45am - Charge £7.50.

Breakfast includes cereal, toast, yogurt, juice or milk. The children then take part in fun activities before being escorted to their classrooms by the breakfast club staff at 8.45am.

# Finances continued

## Reception Class School Trip

**The Reception class children usually go on a school trip in the Summer term – typical cost of this outing is approx £25 which covers entrance, travel and additional staffing fees.**

## School Gateway On-line Payment System

**We use an on-line payment facility in the school. We ask parents to use this facility to pay for your child's school related costs as we are a cashless school. Once your child has started, you can access School Gateway via our School app, where you can sign up.**

**Please contact Miss East in the school office if you have any queries / issues with the set-up process. If your child is currently in our nursery, you will already be using School Gateway.**

# Finances continued

- Book Bags / PE Bags

**Book bags and Forest School / Opal play bags are available for purchase online at [myclothing.com](http://myclothing.com). They have the school logo on them.**

**We ask that your child is provided with a water bottle to keep in class (this is sent home every day for cleaning).**

# Thomas Willingale School



Come and  
have  
breakfast  
with us at  
our fun  
**BREAKFAST  
CLUB**



Only £7.50 a  
session

**Available for children from  
Reception to Year 6  
Children will be taken to class by a  
member of staff.**

**Opening hours 7:45 - 8:45 am**

**Any Breakfast Club queries**

**Email :  
[clubs@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk](mailto:clubs@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk)**

**Mobile : [07907-524097](tel:07907-524097)**

**Use the QR code to book or book  
online at KIDZClub HQ**

# After School Clubs

## ▶ After School Clubs

- ▶ We have an extensive after school programme (current cost £5 per club per week).
- ▶ Clubs are run from 3:30pm to 4:30pm and this year the Reception children have had access to Gymnastics, Football Skills and Multisports. The club programme changes each half term. Spaces can be booked via Kids Club HQ. Reception children will be offered after school clubs from October half term when they have settled in.
- ▶ Happy Dayz- our after-school care is run by Willingale Staff.

## ▶ Other Clubs

- ▶ Outside companies also hire our halls to provide additional clubs which the children can access. Examples include Mini Ninjas Karate, dance, various school holiday sports camps etc.
- ▶ Details are normally available to access on our website or please ask for details at the school office.



# After school care at Thomas Willingale School

Price: £18 per session.

Available for children from Reception to Year 6. Price includes hot and cold food from our daily menu, crisps, biscuits, and unlimited drinks.

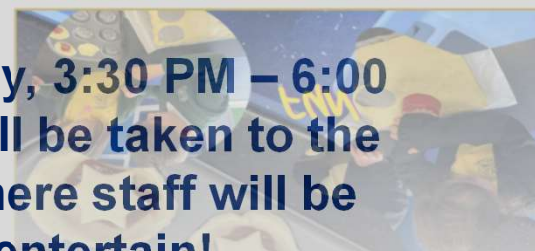


Daily fun activities include cooking, arts and crafts, music and dancing, role play, Lego, ICT time, board games, sports, team games and outdoor fun

For more information, please feel free to contact us at

[Clubs@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk](mailto:Clubs@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk)

Or phone 07907524097  
USE QR CODE TO BOOK



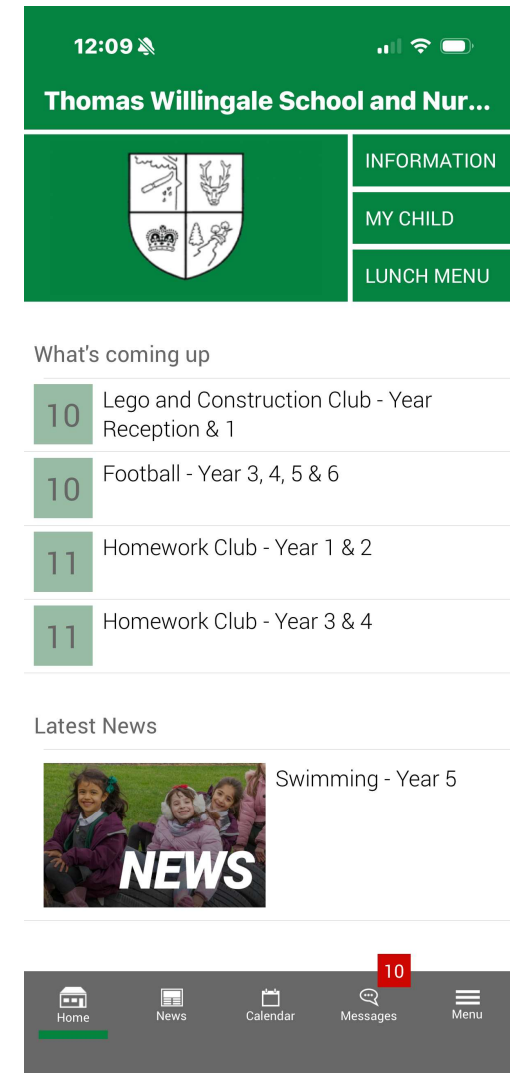


mySchoolApp

We have launched a brand new school app. This will be available to you on the day after your child starts school.

If your child is in our nursery, you are able to download this now.

A leaflet with instructions on how to download is in your pack.



# What will my child learn?

- ▶ **The Early Years Foundation Stage is divided into seven areas: three prime:**
  - ❖ **Communication and language**
  - ❖ **Physical development and**
  - ❖ **Personal, social and emotional development**





▶ **Four specific areas which include essential skills and knowledge:**

- ❖ **Literacy**
- ❖ **Mathematics**
- ❖ **Understanding the world, and**
- ❖ **Expressive arts and design.**

# Early Learning Goals



- ▶ **In Reception children are moving towards achieving all their early learning goals by the end of the school year. They will hopefully meet a good level of development making them KS1 ready.**
- ▶ **Children are said to be ‘emerging’ or ‘expected’ for each ELG.**
- ▶ **End of Reception reports are shared with Y1 teachers.**

# Reception School Day

- ▶ **Reception classes have their own separate entrance gate.**
- ▶ **Children start at 8:45 a.m.**
- ▶ **Lunch is from 11:45 – 1pm. Teachers stay with the children until 12 and then hand over to the midday assistants.**
- ▶ **Children should be collected by 3:30p.m. The gate opens at 3:20pm. Children dismissed from 3:25pm**
- ▶ **Please ensure that children are collected on time.**





# Phonics Bug

**Bug Club Phonics** is a systematic synthetic phonics programme used at Thomas Willingale School & Nursery to teach children how to read.

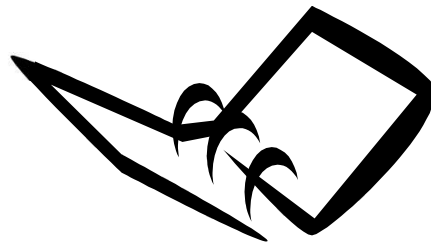
## ✨ Key Features:

- ▶ **Daily structured lessons** focusing on letter sounds (phonemes) and how to blend them into words.
- ▶ **Interactive online books and games** that match each child's reading level.
- ▶ **Real physical books** to reinforce phonics skills at home.
- ▶ Helps children build confidence and fluency in reading step-by-step.

Bug Club Phonics encourages a love of reading while giving children the tools they need to become successful, independent readers.

- ▶ The reading books are designed to support your child in practising and consolidating the letter sounds that they will have been learning in school.
- ▶ Children will have their own username and password where they can access interactive phonics games and earn rewards. This is all designed so that your child can experience the pleasure and pride of reading their own books and become a successful reader.

# Learning Journeys & Resources



- ▶ **We use a system called Tapestry to build a record of your children's learning successes.**
- ▶ **You can contribute to this with photographs, comments and examples of learning from home.**
- ▶ **Log-in details for all systems will be given to you during your child's first week at school.**



## Your child's Individual Learning Journal



Tapestry allows teachers and school staff to capture moments of a child's progress using photos, videos, and written observations. These entries are linked to areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Parents can log in to view their child's learning journey, add their own observations from home, and stay connected with what their child is experiencing in school.



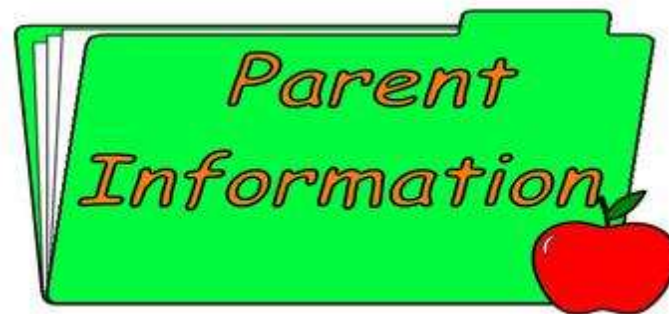
Your child will be allocated a Tapestry log in when he/she starts in Nursery or Reception. Please look out for the activation email which will be sent to your email address at some point during their first week. The email is sent directly from Tapestry and not from Thomas Willingale School and Nursery and so may go into your junk file.



If you do have any problems with Tapestry, please contact Mrs Jones in the school office on 020 8508 7287.

# How can I help?

- ▶ **See the information and help cards in your packs.**
- ▶ **Read with and to your child every day.**
- ▶ **Help your child learn nursery rhymes; these help with their listening skills.**
- ▶ **Teach your child to retell stories.**
- ▶ **Look at the information which comes home from school (APP, email and class pages).**



# Reception School Readiness Checklist

## Self-Care & Independence:

- Can go to the toilet independently (wipe, flush, wash hands)
- Can dress and undress with minimal help (e.g., coat, shoes, PE kit)
- Can manage own belongings (book bag, water bottle, lunchbox)
- Can open and close lunch containers or packaging
- Knows how to use a tissue and cover mouth when coughing/sneezing

## **Communication & Social Skills:**

- Can say their full name and recognise it in writing
- Can follow simple instructions (2-3 steps)
- Can express needs clearly (e.g., feeling unwell, needing the toilet)
- Can take turns and share with others
- Can sit and listen to a short story or group activity

## **Early Learning Skills:**

- Can hold a pencil, crayon or marker with some control
- Can recognise some letters (especially those in their name)
- Can count up to 5 (or more) and recognise some numbers
- Enjoys looking at books and can talk about pictures
- Can sing or recite nursery rhymes

## **Healthy Habits:**

- Eats a variety of foods (including some hot/cold options)
- Can use a fork and spoon independently
- Sleeps well and has a consistent bedtime routine
- Has had time away from parents/carers before (e.g., nursery or playgroup)

## **Practical Prep for School:**

- All clothes and items are labelled with their name
- Book bag and water bottle are ready
- Knows who will drop them off and pick them up
- Has visited the school or met their teacher (if possible)

# INCLUSION AT THOMAS WILLINGALE SCHOOL

We pride ourselves at being an inclusive school know that some children find learning or aspects of school life more challenging than others and may need extra support to achieve their full potential.

As a school, we assess all children to identify their strengths and needs. We use this information to help us to decide how best support them. Children who need extra help with their learning may receive additional support known as "School SEN Support".

We will work with you, as parents, when agreeing what support we will provide and what it will achieve.

If you have any questions about Special Educational Needs at Thomas Willingale then please contact our Inclusion Manager- Jackie Burgess.

If your child already has identified additional needs then we ask you to share this information with our Inclusion Manager so we can work with you to plan your child's support for when they start school.

More information can be found on our School Website.



# If I am worried?

- ▶ **Firstly, talk to your child's Class Teacher**
- ▶ **Other people who will be able to help you include...**
- ▶ **Mrs Piper – our EYFS Phase Leader.**
- ▶ **Mrs Burgess our Inclusion lead**
- ▶ **Mrs Ford Richards - Our EYFS and KS1 SENDCO**
- ▶ **Mrs Hinton – our Family-School Co-ordinator.**
- ▶ **Mrs Collins- Our Deputy Headteacher**
- ▶ **Miss Phillips- Our Headteacher**
- ▶ **We are an open-door school and welcome you, we believe that a good partnership is essential in providing the best education and experience for your child.**

PROUD TO BE A

myHappymind

SCHOOL





## **Schools, nurseries and families create a culture of positive mental wellbeing**

### **What is Ready to Shine?**

**Ready to Shine** is our school readiness programme. School readiness is about far more than early academic skills. Children need secure foundations in emotional regulation, communication, independence and learning behaviours in order to thrive when they start school.

When these foundations are in place, children are better able to settle into routines, build relationships, engage in learning and develop confidence in new environments.

Building on the foundations of the myHappyMind programme, **Ready to Shine** focuses on the emotional, social and physical skills children need to feel confident and capable as they begin school. Through stories, play, movement and shared language, children practise the habits that underpin focus, resilience, communication and independence.

The programme consists of the following 5 weeks: I can focus and learn, I am kind and confident, I can care and be grateful, I can talk and listen, I can try new things.

**I CAN FOCUS AND LEARN**

**I AM KIND AND CONFIDENT**

**I CAN TRY NEW THINGS**

**I CAN CARE AND BE GRATEFUL**

**I CAN TALK AND LISTEN**



### Aims of Ready to Shine:

- Build emotional confidence - children learn to recognise feelings and calm their brains through breathing, rhythm, and connection.
- Strengthen communication and social skills – develop listening, turn-taking, and the ability to play cooperatively.
- Encourage curiosity and perseverance -nurture the confidence to try new things and keep going when it's hard.
- Foster independence through structure and routine -preparing children for the rhythms of school life.
- Embed consistency across home and school - giving parents, teachers, and children a shared emotional vocabulary.

This will be delivered at the start of Reception to help children settle quickly into new routines, build relationships and feel safe and ready to learn.



# Additional Information

- ❑ Website - [www.thomaswillingaleprimary.co.uk](http://www.thomaswillingaleprimary.co.uk)
- ❑ School email address - [admin@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk)
- ❑ We mainly communicate via the School App (see next page for details, we also use Email & Text messages. Make sure we have your current details.
- ❑ Class pages on school websites will tell you what the children are doing weekly as well as finding out their timetables and curriculum information
- ❑ You will have regular communication from teachers through Tapestry, Please make sure you use access this regularly.
- ❑ School Offices:
  - The Broadway Office
  - Willingale Road Office

# Bringing your child to school

When you come to school - be positive! Don't let your tears upset your child. SMILE!

Remember to let them know when you will be back.

Remember to say "goodbye".

Make sure you are here to collect your child on time at the end of the day.

Put the phone  
away when you  
pick up your  
children and listen  
to their day.

