

6th March 2026



CLAYBROOKE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Message from Mr Rock

This week we celebrated our love of reading as part of the 'Go All In' Year of Reading programme.

On Thursday, the school took part in World Book Day. A huge well done to all of the children and the staff team for coming into school dressed up in some fantastic book character costumes. Throughout the day the children took part in a series of online workshops, reading quizzes, comprehension activities and a time for the older children to take the time to read to the younger children. It is always a highlight of the day to see the delight on the children's faces when being read to by their peers.

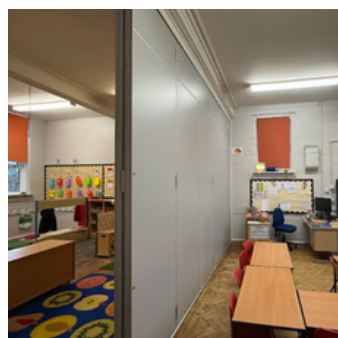
A huge well done to all those who took part in the 'decorate a potato' as a book character competition. You have all worked so hard creating some fantastic characters. Please check some of them out further down the newsletter. Our pupil Wellbeing Ambassadors will be choosing their winners shortly. Fantastic job everyone!

Thank you to all those parents and carers who came into school for the stay and read session on Wednesday morning. It was great to see so many of you giving up your time to help support the importance reading (and a love for reading) makes in our lives.

**Be safe,
Be ready,
Be respectful.**



This week we also saw the installation of a new room divider in Willow Class. This will help us to further develop the flexibility of our learning spaces moving forward. A huge thank you to the PTA who have funded the vast majority of the cost of this as well as the Trust for supporting this much needed development of our classroom environment.



Please ensure that you have booked your consultation appointment for next week via Arbor.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Rock



**Congratulations to our
certificate winners this week.**

Excellent Work:

Elise, William & Oliver

Values:

Poppy, James & Freddie



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LEICESTER

Accredited School
ROUTE TO RESILIENCE





Go above and beyond!

Upcoming dates

Monday's this half term: Forest School for Willow Class

w/c 9th March: Spring parent consultation meeting. (Invites have been sent out via Arbor. Please book in)

Monday 23rd March: Topic Showcase 2:55pm

Friday 27th March. School breaks up for Easter

Tuesday 14th April. Y6 trip to The Warning Zone

Today we said goodlye to Mrs Wills, who has been working in Willow Class for the last few weeks. We would like to thank her for all her hard work during her time at Claybrooke and wish her all the best for the future.

Team points this week:

Red: 64
 Green: 86
 Blue: 112
 Yellow: 37



WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
 w/e 06.03.26



Oak: 83.96%

Maple: 86.34%

Willow: 85.77%

School 85.47%

MOMENTS MATTER. ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Willow Class Newsletter

It's been incredibly busy in Willow Class this half term. The children have been going to forest school on Monday afternoons and it has been wonderful to see the children loving paddling through the stream, building dens and creating fairy bracelets. Please can you ensure your child has Wellington boots in school every Monday.

EYFS children have studied the stories 'Tad' and 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' so far this half term with many writing opportunities taking place including a shopping list for ingredients Mr Wolf needed for his pancakes. We have been learning about the life cycle of a frog, digging in the soil, and exploring the Spring changes in our environment. The children have been painting frog pictures and engaging in sensory play with pretend frogspawn (chia seeds).

Our DT topic has been about exploring what materials are waterproof and which are not, therefore what would be suitable for shoes and outdoor clothing! It ties in directly with our materials topic in science last half term, and it has been great to see children using their previous knowledge.

Phonics and handwriting are a high priority in Willow class this half term. Some of our Year 1 and 2's are beginning to explore joining letters during hand writing and we hope to transfer our skills to their general lessons soon. The reception class has been practising caterpillar letters (c,o,a,d,s,e) which start with a curl and ladder letters (l, t,h,b,j) that start at the top. We are seeing great progress.



The Reception children's maths, has been focused on developing and demonstrating a good number sense. This week they have built the number seven, exploring how to make this number in different ways, finding missing numbers on a number track, and making comparisons.

For Maths, the year 1 & 2 children have begun their multiplication unit. We have been exploring repeated addition and multiplication using images and arrays. We have been using phrases like 'lots of', 'times' or 'multiplied by'. The children also practiced counting in their 2's, 5's and 10's.

Reading festival week has been wonderful to excite and inspire the children's imagination. Thank you to all those who were able to stay and read on Wednesday. The children's costumes and decorated potatoes were fantastic!

We are most excited that the divider is coming to Willow Class, meaning that EYFS and Year 1/2 can have slightly different learning taking place. The children have been incredible over the last two days working in the hall. Well done Willow Class!

World Book Day 2026



**Well done everyone.
You all looked fantastic!**



Stay and Read session



*Thank you to everyone who came into school
for our Stay and Read session this week.*





POTATO CHARACTERS



You created some fantastic book characters out of potatoes Claybrooke! Well done.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel, however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as *Authorly* and *Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live*.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like *Polylingo* and apps like *Goodreads* for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever, it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College