



WINNS WEEKLY

7.3.2025

Un week-end
bun să aveți!

Romanian
Have a nice weekend!



Headteacher: Fiona Judge / The Winns Primary School, Fleeming Rd. E17 5ET
020 8527 1872 / www.thewinnsprimaryschool.co.uk / office@winns.waltham.sch.uk

DATES FOR DIARIES WB 10.3.2025

Monday 10th March Book fair open after school - Y3, 4, 5, 6

Tuesday 11th March Book fair open after school - all year groups

Wednesday 12th March 3SH Class Assembly (9:10am)

Thursday 13th March 2CM Class Assembly (9:10am)

KS2 Book Swap

Friday 14th March EYFS & KS1 Book Swap

Please remember to subscribe to [our online calendar](#) so that you receive automatic updates into your own calendar.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We celebrated World Book Day this week. It was fantastic to see so many children embracing the spirit of the day and dressing up as their favourite book character. We also welcomed CJ Storyteller back into school to share some of their favourite tales with all the children from Early Years up to Year 6, as well as parent and author Jennifer Claessen visiting KS1 children.



PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION REMINDER

Closing date for submitting expressions of interest in becoming a school governor is Tuesday 11th March.



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OBSERVING RAMADAN AT THE WINNS

As we welcome the holy month of Ramadan, we extend our warmest wishes to all our Muslim families—Ramadan Mubarak! This is a significant time for many in our community, and we are committed to supporting our Year 6 pupils who have chosen to observe fasting. We have made arrangements to ensure their well-being during the school day, including providing quiet spaces for rest when needed. To encourage understanding and reflection, children across the school have taken part in assemblies exploring the significance of fasting in different religions. These discussions have helped pupils appreciate the values of self-discipline, gratitude, and empathy that fasting promotes. At The Winns, we are proud to foster an inclusive and respectful environment where all children can learn from one another's traditions and experiences. We wish everyone observing Ramadan a peaceful and meaningful month.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We will be running a scholastic book fair to celebrate World Book Day. Our book fair will be open after school 3.30-4pm from Thursday 6th March-Tuesday 25th March 2025. All books will have an additional £1 off for World Book day. You do not need to bring your £1 book token to this fair, you can use this at a participating bookstore too. Card/contactless payment will only be accepted.



CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

A group of our children competed at the Orion Harriers Cross Country event on Chingford Plains on Saturday. The previous event was unfortunately interrupted by the grazing cattle that live on the plains, but this time both the boys and girls were able to complete their respective events. Well done to all the children for strong placings in a big field of runners. A huge thank you to parent Penny for organising the team!



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WINTER FUN RUN

A group of our girls who have been attending the Waltham Forest & Orion Cross Country events this year took part in a fun run at Douglas Eyre playing fields. There was no competition, and instead, all the children were challenged to complete as many of the 1 mile laps around the field as possible in the time; our children managed three! Thank you to the parents who came along to support and participate.



Y2 GIRLS FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

It was a perfect way to celebrate International Women's Day on Friday as a group of our year 2 girls attended the Waltham Forest School Games Football Festival at Douglas Eyre playing fields. The girls took part in a series of fun skill-based activities in a team. They all represented the school wonderfully and will hopefully bring their newly-honed skills back to school to share with the other children in their year group. Well done girls!



RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

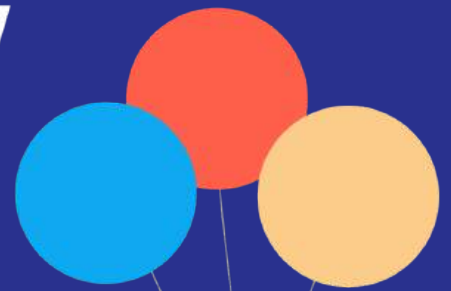
We are continuing to work towards the Silver Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award. Our group of Rights Respecting Ambassadors meet weekly to help gather information and share their peers views and ideas. This week, they have taken a questionnaire back to their classes to help them conduct a hand up survey.



The Winns

STORY WINDOW TRAIL 2025

The Winns
Primary School



And we're off!

Here is the link to the Winns Windows trail 2025, which starts tomorrow!

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1wx-RFXf7SJGjIXt8B8wM3Gta8DEOZQaU&usp=sharing>

So far we have over **35 homes** decorating a window to celebrate the month of World Book Day activities. Please email fotwvictoria@gmail.com if you would like to decorate too, there is still time to join in!

<https://tinyurl.com/2bbjbxz3>

The trail celebrates a love of books and World Book Day while also raising £750 in sign sponsorship towards new books for the school.

The trail runs from **1st–31st March 2025**
How many story windows can you find?



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FRIENDS OF THE WINNS NEWS

WINNS STORY WINDOW TRAIL

And we're off! 40 homes in the Winns community have decorated a front window in celebration of World Book day. And 75 homes have signed up for a sponsored Central Estates sign, generating £750 in funds towards books for the school.



Here's some pictures of our artists in action!

We will feature different windows across the newsletter over the month. The Trail runs 1st-31st March and you can find all the windows by following this map: <https://tinyurl.com/2v24dsu7>
How many story windows can you find?

Have ideas or feedback for FOTW? Email Karen, Co-Chair of FOTW: fotwchair@gmail.com





FRIENDS OF THE WINNS NEWS

BOOK SWAP - 13TH/14TH MARCH

Children can bring a book on the day from home and swap it for a different pre-loved book at school. This can be any book - fiction, non-fiction, graphic novel - in any language (home language books welcome).



We will also gratefully accept donations in the run-up to the event, and any child will be able to choose a book even if they haven't donated one!

Thurs 13th March - Years 3, 4, 5, 6

Friday 14th March - Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2

Please drop off pre-loved books to the school office from Mon 10th March

COSTUME GIVE AND TAKE THANK YOU!



A big, heartfelt thank you to everyone who made our World Book Day costume give & take stall such a success! Thanks for all your donations and thanks for taking costumes to re-use and re-home. (The few left overs were either given to nursery or the charity shop.)

If you'd like to get involved in the next team pre-loved event, we'll be hosting a second hand uniform sale on Friday 2 May.

QUIZ NIGHT - SOLD OUT!



The next 'Winns Nights Presents... The Quiz' is **SOLD OUT!**

Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets to this event. And don't worry, if you missed out, there will be more quiz nights in the future.

INSTAGRAM

Did you know that the Winns has an Instagram account?

You can follow what's happening at the school and FOTW will be sharing info on upcoming events too. Follow them here:

<https://www.instagram.com/winnsprimary/>



NEED LABELS FOR YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHES?

Then consider ordering from Stikins. As a member of **Stikins fundraising scheme** we receive a 30% donation every time you make a purchase. To order, visit <https://www.stikins.co.uk/> and quote the school's fundraising number - **25586** - when you check out.



Have ideas or feedback for FOTW? Email Karen, Co-Chair of FOTW: fotwchair@gmail.com



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THE FRIENDS OF THE WINNS

WHO ARE FRIENDS OF THE WINNS?

We are you! If you are a parent of a child at The Winns Primary School then you're automatically a Friends of The Winns member. Run by a committee of parents, the Friends of the Winns is a collection of volunteers who run events throughout the year to raise much needed funds for our school. But most importantly, we have fun!

WANT TO VOLUNTEER WITH FOTW?

The Friends of the Winns is a charitable organisation that is run completely by parent volunteers. You can volunteer at anytime and can give us as much time as you can (even an hour helps). You don't need to hold an official FOTW role or be voted in to be a volunteer!

We are also on the look out for people to help in a number of ways, whether that is with the Library Team, the Pre-loved Team on at one of our many events. Interested? Then please email fotwchair@gmail.com or join the FOTW Whatsapp group: <https://tinyurl.com/dk7jc2ef>



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT



SIGN UP TO EASYFUNDRAISING!

Easyfundraising is a simple way for you to support the school. Over 7,500 brands will donate to Friends of the Winns for free every time you use the app or browser extension to shop. **It costs you nothing extra!**

Sign up here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofthewinns>

ONLINE DONATIONS - You can set up a regular payment or make a one off donation through the Charities Aid Foundation. All the details can be found here: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/26249#!/DonationDetails>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FEBRUARY:

MARCH:

APRIL:

1st-31st - Winns Story Window Trail
13th/ 14th - Book Swap
20th - Quiz Night

Our events are included in the Winns [online calendar](#) and you can receive automatic updates into your own calendar by subscribing.



WINNS NIGHTS
PRESENTS...



QUIZ NIGHT

THURSDAY 20TH MARCH @ THE
WINNS PRIMARY SCHOOL

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE, WIN PRIZES AND
SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

6.45PM

(QUIZ STARTS AT 7.00PM)

TEAMS OF 4 TO 6 PEOPLE PER TABLE

[CLICK HERE TO BUY TICKETS](#)

SOLD OUT

Licensed bar
sponsored by

central
1992

CAN YOU BEAT
THE TEACHERS??
(WINNS QUIZ
REIGNING CHAMPIONS!)



COMMUNITY DROP-IN

WALTHAMSTOW SESSIONS ARE MOVING!

**FROM 1 AUGUST 2024
THE COMMUNITY DROP-IN
ON THURSDAY, 9.45AM TO 11.15PM
WILL MOVE FROM WALTHAMSTOW FAMILY HUB
TO WALTHAMSTOW LIBRARY, HIGH ST, E17 7JN**



WALTHAM FOREST

FAMILY HUBS

ACCESS, RELATIONSHIPS, CONNECTION

CAN YOU HELP?

**You can find
out how to
volunteer here:**



DROP IN FROM 9.45-11.15AM

FREE DROP IN SESSION, NO NEED TO BOOK

TUESDAY

**QUEENS ROAD
FAMILY HUB
215 QUEENS ROAD
E17 8PJ**

WEDNESDAY

**CHINGFORD
FAMILY HUB
5 OAKS GROVE
E4 6EY**

THURSDAY

**WALTHAMSTOW
LIBRARY
HIGH STREET
E17 7JN**

FRIDAY

**LEYTONSTONE
FAMILY HUB
2-8 CATHALL ROAD
E11 4LF**



Waltham Forest

SHOWKIDS

THEATRE SCHOOL

Easter Holiday Musical Theatre Course SISTER ACT JR.

5 days: 7th to 11th April, 9am to 4pm.

With a performance to families on Friday 11th.

At The Winns Primary School, Walthamstow, E17.

£295 (we accept childcare vouchers & HMRC tax free payments).

To book, go to showkids.co.uk
or call us on **0203 488 5384**



- Make new friends and have fun!
- Act, Sing, Dance
- Develop confidence, communication skills and creativity.

RA

Call for entries

An exciting opportunity for students aged 4–18, who are living and studying in the UK, to exhibit their artwork on site or online at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Open for submissions

6 January – 5 March 2025

Find out more and enter

roy.ac/youngartists

#RAYoungArtists

Young Artists' Summer Show

2025

Royal
Academy
of Arts

Made possible by Robin Hambro

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowrie is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College