



WINNS WEEKLY

28.3.2025

Mitego weekendu!

Polish
Have a good 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 31.3.2025**

Monday 31st March Parental Consultation meetings (all week)
5BB Swimming Lessons (all week)

Tuesday 1st April KS1 Animal Workshop

Wednesday 2nd April 4KB Class Assembly (9:10am)

Autism Acceptance Day (wear something blue!)

Thursday 3rd April 2CS Class Assembly (9:10am)

Friday 4th April Last day of term

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

1JS CLASS ASSEMBLY

This week, 1JS wowed us with their fantastic class assembly, showcasing their learning about the seven continents and the six animal classification groups. As part of their Animal Kingdom topic, the children took us on a journey around the world, introducing us to incredible animals from each continent and explaining how they are classified into mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates.

With confident speaking, brilliant facts, and even some wonderful actions, 1JS truly brought their learning to life. Well done to all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm—it was a performance to be proud of! Thank you to Mr Search, Ms Carmela and the rest of the year 1 team for preparing the children so well, and to all the families who came along to support.





WISHING FAMILIES A HAPPY EID UL-FITR

As the holy month of Ramadan comes to a close, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our families and the wider school community. Eid-ul-Fitr! May this special occasion bring peace, joy, and blessings to you and your loved ones. We are grateful for the strength and unity of our diverse community, and we celebrate the spirit of kindness and compassion that Eid represents. Enjoy this wonderful time with your family and friends!



WATERSTONES AWARD EVENING

Miss Judge and Mr Millen were extremely fortunate to be invited to the Waterstones 2025 Children's Book Prize winners ceremony on Thursday evening. Film clips of Winns Primary School children talking about the shortlisted books were shown to a large group of established writers, publishers and industry figures. We were immensely proud to see our children up on the big screen sharing their love and enjoyment for the books they had read. We have to make special mention to one of our parents, Larrisa Coates, who has been instrumental in making the whole collaboration with Waterstones such a huge success. Thank you Larissa.



Please click on the links for the award winners:

<https://www.waterstones.com/the-waterstones-childrens-book-prize>

And to get the chance to see and hear our children once more:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RD4_SQnjIVM - Reception Children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUA4MeFH7Os> - Year 6 Children

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY - WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH

As we approach Autism Acceptance Day on 2nd April, we excited to share our plans and invite your support in raising awareness and understanding of autism in our school community.

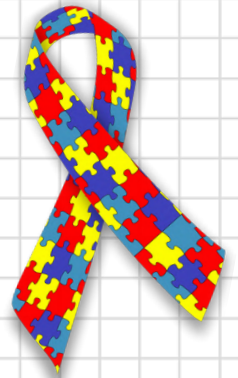
Autism Acceptance Day - 2nd April

- **Wear Blue:** We encourage all students to wear something blue (this could be something extra beyond their normal uniform!) on 2nd April. This helps promote awareness and demonstrates our support for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Upcoming Events - 28th April

In addition to Autism Acceptance Day, we will host further events on 28th April to continue promoting understanding and acceptance of autism. More details will follow, but please mark the date on your calendars.

Thank you for your support in making Autism Acceptance Day a meaningful and impactful event for our school community.



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YEAR 6 CAREERS FAIR – PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As part of our summer term activities, we are excited to be planning a Year 6 Careers Fair to run alongside their Enterprise Afternoon. This event aims to give our pupils a glimpse into the world of work and inspire them as they prepare to move on to secondary school.

To make this event a success, we would love to hear from any parents who are willing to come along and shine a spotlight on their careers. Whether you work in healthcare, the creative industries, business, technology, trades, or any other field, we know our pupils would benefit greatly from hearing about the variety of opportunities available to them.

The Careers Fair will be held on Friday 20th June, in the Year 5/6 hall, during the afternoon. If you are interested, please click the [link](#) to register your interest.

Thank you in advance for your support!



PANATHLON SWIMMING FESTIVAL



A group of year 5 & 6 children attended the Panathlon Swim Gala at the Aquatics Centre in Stratford on Monday. The children competed against schools from all across east London and Essex in a series of competitive, but fun events. The children acquitted themselves admirably and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to swim in the Olympic pool, even rubbing shoulders with the GB diving squad! Well done everyone!

YEAR 3 CYCLE REPAIR WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

Year 3 parents have been given the opportunity to receive some basic bicycle maintenance tips to keep their family's bikes in great shape. The first session will be kindly led by one of our parents who has extensive experience in cycle maintenance. At the moment, this is only open to year 3 parents, but we hope to extend this to other year groups over the summer term.



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FRIENDS OF THE WINNS NEWS

WINNS STORY WINDOW TRAIL - LAST OF THE FABULOUS WINDOWS



A big THANK YOU to everyone who took part and/or hosted a Central Estates sign. Here's our last set of pictures of our artists in action! The Trail runs up until 31st March and you can find all the windows by following this map: <https://tinyurl.com/2v24dsu7> How many story windows can you find? Here's some more pictures of our artists in action!



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



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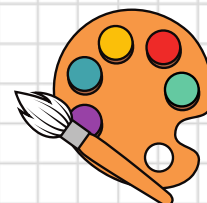


FRIENDS OF THE WINNS NEWS CONT..


FRIENDS FUNDRAISING FOR 2025

This year the Friends of the Winns are delighted to be raising money to support the creation of a new **Art Studio** and also to enhance and improve the **Wellbeing** spaces at the school.

The Art Studio will be an exciting addition to the experiences the children can enjoy at the school and we want to help make it full of opportunities for creative expression. Do let us know if you have any ideas to help launch the new studio as we're hoping to get arty !



And we're working with the staff to find out how we can make the Wellbeing spaces across the school even more calm and nurturing.

 Watch this space after Easter for news about this year's sponsored event which will be happening in the first summer term.....

SEN PARENTS GROUP

Would you like to join a SEN (Special Educational Needs) parents group? The parents group has been set up to support families of SEN children at The Winns, both those with a diagnosis and/or extra needs.

We have regular coffee mornings at school with members of the school SEN team to discuss how the school can best support us and our children, and we will also be meeting up outside of school to chat in a less formal environment.

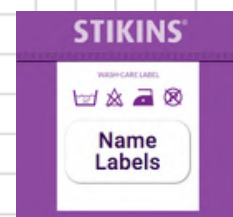


If you would like to chat with other parents please feel free to use the link to join and say hi. We look forward to meeting you !

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/E7BKXHgXHaJ0e53RUy2wws>

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.



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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!

WHERE DOES THE FUNDRAISING GO?

All money raised goes to the school to give the children the best educational experience possible. In recent years, we have supported a number of projects including the Main School and Reception playground transformations, the installation of a teaching kitchen, School Library improvements, and the purchase of new AV equipment.

Also, 10% of all money raised by Friends of the Winns goes to the Family Support Fund. This is managed by the school and offers support to those families that need it most.

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>

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





YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

Parent information session

Monday 28th April

Please join us to find out more information about the statutory test taking place for Year 1 pupils in June 2024.

- ✓ **9 - 9.20am - Please enter via large gates on Elphinstone Road and meet under the shelter.**
- ✓ **4.30 - 4.50pm - online - link will be emailed.**



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.

COMPETITION! WIN A FREE WEEK AT CAMP!

**PLUS £250 DONATION FOR YOUR
SCHOOL AND A MINI BILLY TOY!**

**WIN A
MINI
BILLY!**



KIDS COMPETITION

Task: Design a new activity for Easter 2025!

ACTIVITY COULD BE:

- ⦿ Based on existing activity with a twist
- ⦿ Repurposing equipment to play in another way
- ⦿ Add your theme to an activity
- ⦿ An activity you love already which you'd like to see at camp

WE WILL REPLICATE YOUR ACTIVITY IDEA AT CAMP!

**YOUR CHANCE
TO WIN!**

**ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO
FUN@BARRACUDAS.CO.UK
BY 25TH MARCH**

**INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE
& NAME & LOCATION OF
SCHOOL WITH YOUR
ENTRY!**

Winner announced 27th March
Camp open dates 7th - 17th April

BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS





WALTHAM FOREST HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME

EASTER 2025

7 APRIL - 17 APRIL

**ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN 5-16
AND IN RECEIPT OF BENEFIT
RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS?**

Funded by the Department for Education, this easter we have the opportunity for you to try a wide range of free activities, have fun, make friends and enjoy a free meal every day across the borough.

To book your place and find out more scan here:



or visit

WALTHAMFOREST.GOV.UK/HOLIDAYS

Booking is essential on all activities so book early to avoid disappointment

For queries please contact the Waltham Forest Holiday Activity Programme team on:

**WFHOLIDAYACTIVITYPROGRAMME@
WALTHAMFOREST.GOV.UK**



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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesman later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>