



Spring Term 2026 Newsletter Willow Room



Welcome to all the new children and families who have joined us in nursery this term. We are very excited for you to be part of our wonderful school community. Please do not hesitate to ask any member of staff if you have a query. Or alternatively email us at rosemary.lane@durhamlearning.net or telephone 0191 5271168.

Our planned curriculum for the Willow room children

The nursery environment within the Willow room has been carefully created with resources to encourage exploration and investigation. The provision has been selected to follow the interests of the children whilst promoting the development of the PRIME areas of learning – Personal Social and Emotional, Communication and Language and Physical development. Resources are displayed to encourage independence and child led enquiry. Children in the Willow room often explore through schematic play. They gain a fascination and become very engrossed in this repeating it over and over. For example, transporting objects around by using their hands, pockets, bags and baskets. Children in the Maple room meet together with their peers to share snack, sing some familiar songs and rehearse some favourite nursery rhymes.

Celebrations

- Pancake snack
- Easter hunt
- Red nose day

Core Songs

- Friends song
- Twinkle star
- Incey Wincey Spider
- Hop little bunnies

Core Books

- Whose stripes?
- Pets
- Jump
- Orange Pear Apple Bear
- Dogs
- Elephant Wellyphant
- Goodnight Moon
- Doing the animal bop
- Walking through the jungle
- Oh Dear
- Hooray for Fish
- Dear Zoo
- Where's Spot?

Termly focus introducing a dry toothbrush

Family engagement

- Spring Family day – a lovely afternoon to end the Spring term with free activities and refreshments

Parent workshop

- Screen time (to be confirmed)

Parent evening dates - 9th March 3-5pm. All parents are invited to sign up for an appointment to find out about their child's progress and engage with setting outcomes for their child to work towards.

Nursery fees are paid via your code. We ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of snack food and baking/play dough materials. 15hour places pay £2 and 30 hours places pay £2.50. This should be given to your child's teachers in the Willow room each week or as a lump sum for the half term. Thank you

Independence in dressing and toileting

Please help us to support your child's journey with independence by sending them to nursery in clothing that helps this. Ideally dress your child in leggings or jogging bottoms to allow for movement when children are engaging in active learning opportunities and when using the toilet or potty. Please do not dress in all-in-one romper suits, dungarees and vests with press stud fasteners. These items of clothing are not appropriate for nursery as they significantly extend nappy changing times and make it challenging for children to access toilet facilities independently. Shoes should be easy to take off and on as we ask the children to change into wellies for outdoor play. Please practice dressing at home. A good place to start is dressing and undressing for bed. Little hands need lots of practice. Starting with loose fitting clothing promotes a positive "can do" attitude.

Outdoor clothing

All nursery children are given the opportunity to access the outdoor learning environment each day. Research confirms that **"Outdoor learning improves child development, supports mental health and wellbeing, deepens nature connection and promotes more inclusive and engaging learning"**.

We kindly request that you provide your child with:

- A warm outdoor coat
- A warm hat
- Gloves or mittens

These items will enable your child to comfortably participate in daily outdoor learning. Please store gloves in your child's coat pockets and tuck hats inside your child's coat sleeve. Make sure to name all items of clothing.

Please do not send children to nursery in dress shoes, crocs and scarves as these can be dangerous when children are using outdoor climbing equipment.

Nursery provision

If your child takes home some nursery toys please return these to us. We understand there are lots of exciting resources that the children love to play with and these may end up in little pockets. Please do not feel embarrassed, this happens quite often. It costs a lot of money to replace missing items and sometimes these are taken from sets and cannot be individually replaced. Please pass any resources back to nursery staff to ensure that they are put back into the correct places. Thank you.

Safeguarding Reminders

- Please **do not leave any young children unattended** in cars when dropping off and collecting.
- Please **ensure all children coming to nursery are strapped into a suitable car seat**. This is UK law.

Parents and carers who do not use the correct car seats and those who leave children unattended can be **reported to social services for failure to safeguard a child.**

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thru	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Return to nursery	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Pancake snack	18	19	20	21
22	23 Half term	24 Half term	25 Half term	26 Half term	27 Half term	28

If your child is unwell and unable to come to nursery you must let us know by either telephoning 01915271168 or emailing rosemary.lane@durhamlearning.net

As a school we have to follow safeguarding policy and this requires us to find out where a child is when they do not attend school

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Parent evening 3-5pm	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Red Nose Day- wear red	21
22	23	24	25 Stay & Play AM 11-11.30 PM 2-2.30	26	27	28
29	30	31 Easter hunt 1				

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 Spring Family Day- all children to be accompanied from 2pm	2 Easter Hunt 2	3 School Holiday	4
5	6 School Holiday	7 School Holiday	8 School Holiday	9 School Holiday	10 School Holiday	11
12	13 School Holiday	14 School Holiday	15 School Holiday	16 School Holiday	17 School Holiday	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

A parent workshop – “Supporting families with screen time” for younger children will be running this term. Dates and more information will be shared on Seesaw.