

Sports Newsletter - February 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and children of The Willows,

We have had a very busy few weeks in February with another Fitness Friday, football matches and our first cross country race of the year!

See below for our fantastic photos from Fitness Friday where we had the best time doing a range of different activities.

The team results are fantastic, my favourite thing about this month with sport at The Willows is the way that our children get involved and engaged with sport and have the most amazing sporting attitudes!

Please continue to email me your out of school sporting successes -
ssmalley1@willowsprimary.com

Miss Smalley

February's results

Myself and Mrs Punchard took a girls team and a boys team to a football tournament at Power League. There were 31 schools there from across the city and both teams played amazingly. We also took along 2 reporters who wrote match reports whilst the teams were playing. (see match reports at the end of the newsletter). The girls played against tough teams, including boys teams, but continued to fight in each game and lots of adults commented on their positive attitudes. Great sportsman ship and team spirit. Well Done Girls! Player of the tournament was Freya!



February's results

The boys played really well, they won their first game, drew their second, won their third and then lost their final game against Newcastle Under Lyme Prep School. They just missed out on going through to the next round. They showed excellent team work and support to each other throughout the whole morning. Player of the tournament was Ollie!



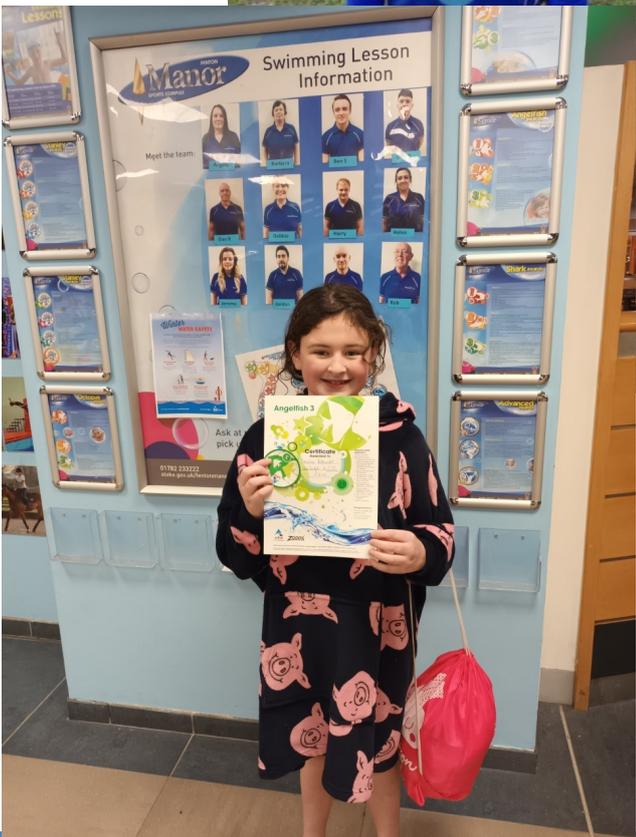
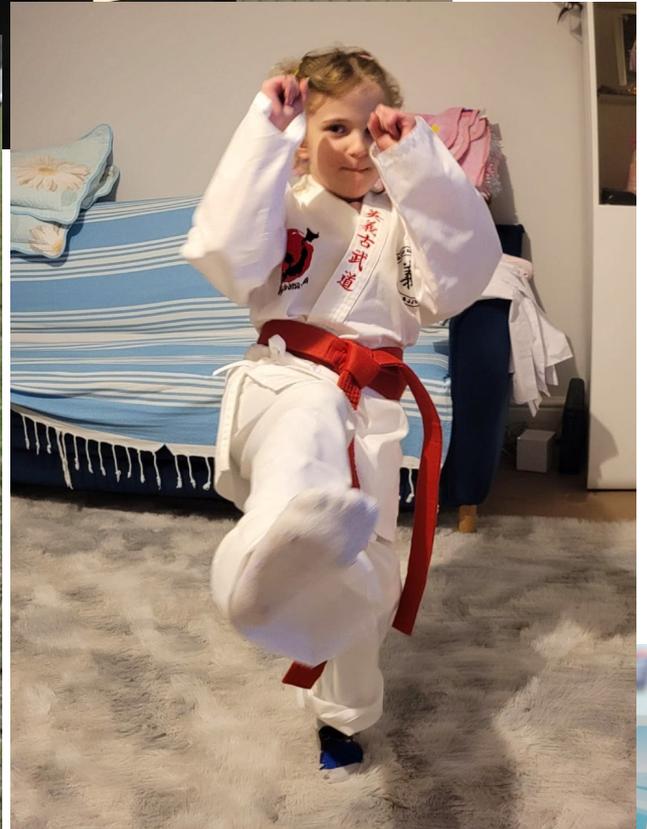
The boys played Harpfields at home on Monday 6th February and won 9-0! They played brilliantly and showed excellent team spirit, supporting each other and also being great sportsmen towards the other team. A great result boys! Player of the match was Euan! Well done! We then travelled to Harpfields to play away and won 2-0. Player of the match was Jacob! Well Done!



The cross country team had their first race of the year at St Teresa's. We took the biggest team we ever have with boys and girls from years 4, 5 and 6. They did an amazing job, showed great enthusiasm and determination and were all proud of themselves when they finished. There were 70 boys from across our town running and 60 girls. Our next race is after half term where I will get a photo for next month's newsletter!

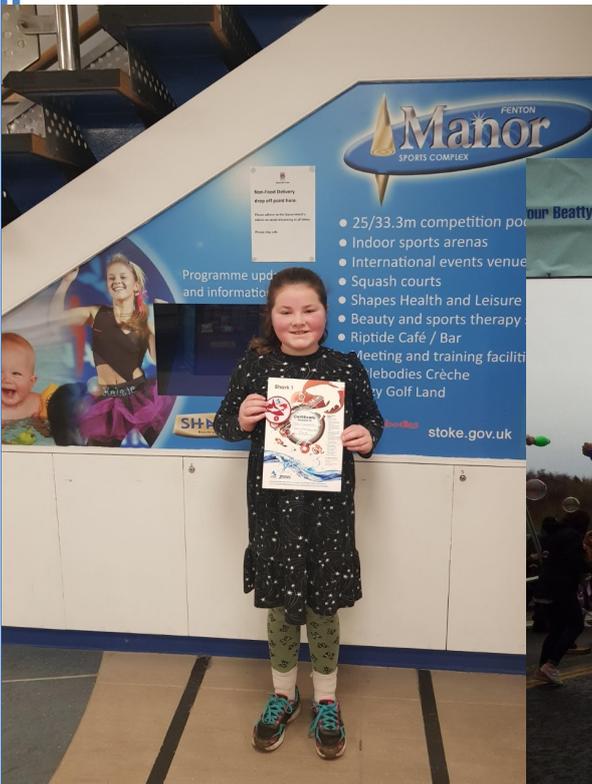
Out of school sporting successes!

Well done to all of these superstars!



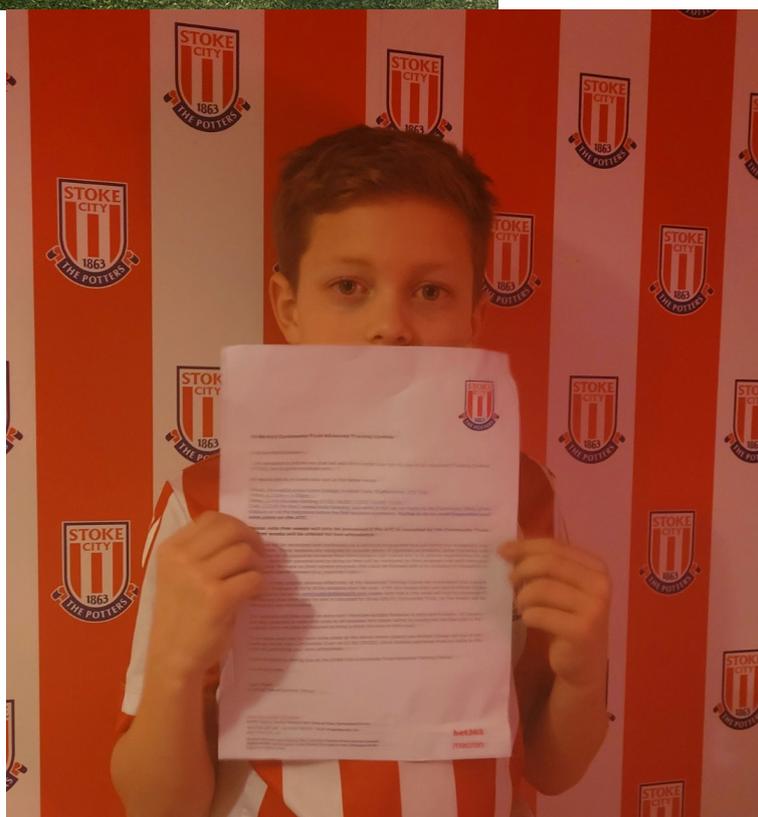
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Our inspirational person for this month is Mrs Keates (senior) who volunteers with lots of sport at The Willows. Read on to hear the answers to our sports ambassadors grilling questions...

What's your favourite sport?

Very difficult because I like all sorts of sports. My favourite is badminton, did really well in that. I love cricket, I still do cricket, I don't play myself but I watch the grand children play and I do some coaching. I played netball, lacrosse, hockey everything and I played football.

Who is your inspiration?

We didn't have media that we could see people in when I was your age. Didn't have telly until your age, so I didn't really have anyone inspirational. I just did sport, I had 2 big brothers and we used to go in the backs and we would play cricket. Little old man drew us some stumps on the wall and we would go and play cricket in the backs. I started very young.

Is there anything you have found challenging?

Not really, I don't know why, I could just do it. I just did it. At 15 I picked up a badminton racket because the head teacher needed someone and from that I went to the county team in about 6 months. I just did it. It was a talent I suppose, which I didn't realise. I didn't realise I was good.

Have you always loved sport?

Yes. I didn't know I loved sport. Age 7 or 8 I used to play by myself as my brothers were older than me. I used to play with balls against the coal house that's how I learnt to catch. I became the captain of the hockey ladies.

What did you do before you started teaching PE?

Nothing really much. I went to college at 18. I did hockey outside of school and it kept me busy and that's all we could afford. I played football.

I got to county athletics, badminton and hockey and we went to Lilleshall to train for a week which was amazing. I think I was about 13-14 which took you through to the county.

Tennis was one of the sports I didn't really like because I played badminton and the two different shots are completely different so it used to hurt my wrist.

The most important part for me was going to college and we used to do PE all day. Wednesday afternoon was maths and I used to try and get out of that. It was naughty. I prefer maths now than I did then. I learnt lacrosse at college because it's posh. I learnt it and I enjoyed it.

When your grandkids leave for high school will you still come and teach here?

Yes I would—if you will still have me! I am passionate about P.E.

The one thing I don't really like is swimming. I had to do my bronze medallion to become a teacher but I don't like swimming. I like going with the grandkids but other than that it isn't a sport I enjoy as much as the others.

Injuries I have had

Split my face, broke bones, broke my toe, my nose. Sport can be dangerous you have got to be brave.

What was the first school that you taught at?

Ball Green High school, I am secondary trained not primary trained. The school has been knocked down now. I enjoyed doing the teams and I played netball with some of the older girls in the ladies team.

When did you start in primary?

In the 80's, I was voluntary for a while and then I fell into a year 2 job for about 6 months and then I did PE all the way through the school. From Nursery up to Year 6, I did PE all day every week and a bit of maths with all the children. At St Thomas Aquinas and that is where I finished my teaching career.



FITNESS FRIDAY!

Reception and Nursery enjoyed a superhero assault course and some cardio drumming!



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Years 1 and 2 learnt a dance to Lionheart Fearless by Joel Correy. We then recorded the dance altogether - you can watch it on our school blog!

We didn't get chance to take many photos as we were having such an amazing time!!



FITNESS FRIDAY!

Years 3, 4 and 5 did a skipping workshop with Mrs Ball and some of the skipping club children! They learnt some fantastic skills and it was great to see children skipping at playtime and hearing about children skipping at home too!



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Year 6 had a football world cup where they were put into countries and competed first in classes and then battled through to the final where Spain won!



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February's Fitness Challenge

Our sports ambassadors challenge you to

Practise your skipping skills at home and send us any pictures of you skipping at home.

[16 Jump Rope Tricks From Beginner to Advanced - Bing video](#)

This is the link for the video that the children used with Mrs Ball during fitness Friday.

Girls Match Report by Bedi Tipirdamaz

Our first match of the morning was against Meir Heath. The game started very fast pace and we went 1-0 down. However, our girls kept battling and had a chance to score. This unfortunately did not pay off. The game continued being very fast paced with some great saves from our goalkeeper Jaz. The game ended 5-0 to Meir Heath.

Our second game of the tournament was against Packmoor Academy. This was a very even game until they sneaked one goal past us. 1-0 to Packmoor Academy.

The third game we played against Ash Green. This boys team were strong, fast and talented. Our girls never stopped running and were a credit to themselves. The result was 6-0 to Ash Green.

The girls final game was played against Meadows Primary started off with an unfortunate goal past us. The game was very even and we were very unlucky to lose. The result was 1-0.

This Stoke City tournament was a great experience for The Willows Girls football team. The player of the tournament was Freya.

Boys Match Report by Daner Majeed

The boys first match was against St Anne's Primary and Jenson was the captain. Game one commences by Riley narrowly missing. Oliver dribbles and scores to make it 1-0. Isaac claims the ball safely in his box. Riley dribbles past the defender and passes to Oli and he safely slots it in the bottom corner. Riley gets a free kick but boots it over the bar. St Anne's dribbled past our defenders and shoot and score to make it 2-1. Harvey powers the ball down the pitch to prevent his team from conceding. Riley shoots it and scores to make it 3-1. Isaac makes a brilliant save.

Boys Match Report by Daner Majeed

Game 2 was against Gladstone and the captain was Oli. Game 2 starts with Oliver the captain shooting and scoring in the 1st minute to make it 1-0.

Isaac makes a save which kept The Willows 1-0 up. Jacob makes a good tackle to keep The Willows on a clean sheet. The defence kept pushing up and then Gladstone scored 1-1 and then the full time whistle blew 1-1.

Game 3 was against St Peter's and the captain was Riley. Game 3 started with St Peter's shooting it wide then Oli passes to Riley and scores 1-0. Then after kick off St Peter's hit it and score to make it 1-1. After that goal we picked our heads up and scored 2 more goals from Oliver and Riley and then the full time whistle blew to end it 3-1.

The final game was against Newcastle Under Lyme and the captain was Isaac. Game 4 commences with Newcastle scoring, it was a good chance for The Willows but we couldn't get a shot against Newcastle. Newcastle scores to make it 2-0, when we hoped it couldn't get any worse Newcastle slots it in at the bottom corner, then the full time whistle blew 3-0 to Newcastle. Unlucky Willows.