



Willow Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024

A huge welcome to all our Willow Class members and families. Hoping you had a lovely summer! We are thrilled to have you back after the super time we had on our transition days! We are really looking forward to the fun learning opportunities and achievements we know are coming for you all this term.

With the excitement of entering into a new class, we want to outline some of the expectations we have for Willow Class as we start this new academic year.

Although our first week is set to be full of sunshine, we expect this term to see the change from warmer weather to the cooler chills of autumn, so we ask that children come to school suitably dressed for this.

Homework for the first term will be based on regular reading, phonics practice and consolidating our Maths learning. It will be set on a Thursday and will be expected to be completed by the following Wednesday.

Lastly, we will need you to bring in your reading books and reading logs daily. We will not require any other materials or toys from home to be bought in our school bags unless we specifically ask for them in relation to learning in school.

Top tips of what's needed in school each week.

Every day

Reading book and reading journal

Water bottle

Lunch (if not school dinners)

Suitable outdoor clothing

Special days

Monday and Wednesday- PE kit

Reading

Reading at home is one of the biggest supports you can do with your child. This provides opportunities to discuss their book and ensure comprehension of the text and vocabulary. Good readers will become better writers, as they begin to use the sentence structures and vocabulary they have been exposed to in their reading almost subconsciously. In school, the children will be reading a mixture of their home reading books and other materials, supporting our learning throughout the curriculum.

We check on a Monday for evidence of at least 3 ten-minute reads for the previous week. Supporting adults should be recording this as a sentence or two explaining what they have read. Willow members who demonstrate this positive reading behaviour or more are rewarded with dojo points and win extra reward time too!

PE

We will be participating in PE on Monday and Wednesdays each week this term.

Your child will need their PE kit in school every Monday and Wednesday. They should come in their school uniform and we will change into and out of our PE kit during the school day. We ask that PE kits are kept in the classroom for the half term so we can ensure students are equipped with their uniform each week.

It will be sent home at half term with children unless we think it needs to go home sooner - the weather will influence this!

Our lessons will be based on playground games and skills, as well as dance later in the term. Therefore, children will need to ensure they are bringing in sensible kit for PE which will largely be outside as long as the weather permits.

PE kit should include:

- A pair of trainers
- A pair of black shorts or plain sports bottoms
- PE t-shirt
- PE sweater (if the weather is cooler)
- A pair of PE bottoms (for days where the sun is not shining)
- Ear tape for pierced ears if required



Curriculum Learning

Here is some key information about what your children will be learning in school this half term. For our themed learning, we are beginning with the unit 'Movers and Shakers'. Through this project, we'll learn all about historically significant people who have had a major impact on the world like Neil Armstrong and Rosa Parks. We will use the words year, decade and century to describe dates and times when thinking about their lives and the impact they have on people.

We will also touch on the Science companion project 'Habitats' which teaches children about habitats and what a habitat needs to provide. They will explore local habitats to identify and name living things and begin to understand how they depend on one another for food and shelter.

For Art we will be undertaking a project called 'Mix it'. This project teaches children about basic colour theory by studying the colour wheel and colour mixing. It includes an exploration of primary and secondary colours and how artists use colour in their artwork.

There is definitely lots of exciting fun in our themed learning to look forward to.

Across the rest of our curriculum, we have other skills and knowledge sessions to develop and inspire us. Within Music, our learning will begin with exploring West African Call and Response Songs by exploring the theme 'Animals'. Computing will see us looking at online safety, investigating how we can use skills to access online tools safely. BRAVE will develop our knowledge around areas of Judaism, where we will be investigating 'what special things will Jewish people in their homes'.

In English, we will begin by working on writing composition and recognising parts of a sentence. Then we will be reading fiction like 'Greta and the Giants' and non-fiction in the form of 'Little People, Big Dreams' books. These texts will inspire some of our writing outcomes this term including posters, non-chronological reports and narrative descriptions.

We will be consolidating and expanding our knowledge and application of place value at the start of this term in Maths, before moving onto using the four operations. Children develop their skills through small group work, practical activities and focused tasks.

A final note...

As we begin a new year, we want to invite parents and carers to our **'Meet the Teacher' session on Thursday 19th September** from 3.20pm to 4:00pm. This will give you a chance to come and see our learning space, get an idea of a typical day for your children and meet teaching and learning support staff.

We also plan to hold a 'share' afternoon in celebration of **National Poetry Day on Friday 4th October**. More details will follow.

Finally, our **Harvest Festival** will be held on **Tuesday 22nd October** and we would love you to be able to come and enjoy with us!

Please keep an eye out for pictures and updates on Class Dojo. Similarly, if you need to speak to us, the best way to contact us as a first point of call is via Class Dojo.

With best wishes,

Mrs Thompson and Mrs Shilling

Willow Teaching Team

