



# Willow Class Newsletter

## Spring Term 1



Here is a summary of what your child will be learning this half term:

**This half term our topic is ‘The World Around Us’; we will spend time using a range of non-fiction texts including atlases to find out about different countries around the world. We will learn about the countries that make up the United Kingdom, London and our local area.**

### **RECEPTION CHILDREN:**

#### **Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)**

The children will be encouraged to ask questions of their peers, to talk about their own ideas in their play and to work with other children in small groups.

#### **Communication & Language (CL)**

The children will be encouraged to respond to questions asked of them with a particular focus on ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions. When speaking to adults and friends the children will be encouraged to stick to a theme or intention.

#### **Physical Development (PD)**

We will continue to do a range of activities to improve and develop the children’s fine and gross motor skills. PD activities will take place in the classroom and in our outdoor area. The children have enjoyed their PE sessions with Top Score coaches and these will continue each Thursday afternoon.

#### **Literacy**

Our Literacy lessons will be based around a different text each week. We will use a range of non-fiction and fiction books which will all be linked to our topic.

#### **Maths**

The children will be learning and focussing on numbers between 0-20. We will also learn about estimating, number bonds to 10, time, money and measuring objects according to their height and length.

#### **Understanding the World (UW)**

The children will explore Australia, Antarctica, London and our local area through a range of books and walks around the village.

#### **Expressive Arts & Design (EAD)**

The children will explore art and music from around the world.

#### **Phonics**

This half-term we will teach digraphs (2 letters which make 1 sound) such as ch, sh, th, ng, oi, ai, ar. We will also teach a range of common exception words including he, she, we, was, my, you.



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### **Spellings**

Today (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January) your child will bring home their spelling journal. There is some useful information inside the front cover. The spellings which are in the journal will be a representation of the sounds and common exception words which have been taught during the fortnight before the spelling lists are put into the journal. Please leave spelling journals in book bags so new lists can be added when necessary.

### **Explore Outdoors**

Sessions take place every Tuesday afternoon; please ensure your child has a suitable kit in school for these sessions.

### **YEAR ONE CHILDREN:**

#### **English (including grammar)**

The children will learn how to write a report which will be linked to a range of non-fiction books based on our topic of The World Around Us. Towards the end of the half-term we will focus on story writing and extending what we learnt last term. In grammar the children will learn about full stops, exclamation marks and question marks as well as extending their knowledge of using capital letters.

#### **Maths**

The children will focus on addition and subtraction within 20 which is also the focus for the arithmetic journals this half-term. We will move on to teach place value within 50 with a focus on multiples of 2, 5 and 10.

#### **Phonics**

The children will continue to work on Phase 5 sounds including adjacent consonants, irregular words and double vowel sounds. They will also look at alternative spellings of long vowel sounds. Year one children will also spend time reading nonsense words in preparation for the Year One phonics screening test in the summer term.

#### **Music**

The children will experiment with a range of instruments and learn songs from different countries around the world.

#### **Science**

The children will be taught about and explore materials.

#### **Computing**

The children will be taught how to log on and off the computers and will explore a range of simple programmes.

#### **Forest School**

Sessions take place every Friday afternoon; please ensure your child has a suitable kit in school for these sessions.



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### Notes and Reminders

Reading books are changed every Tuesday and Friday; it is very important that children change their books as regularly as possible to give them the best chance of making progress. If you wish to keep a book for longer then please let me know on a Tuesday or Friday morning. It is helpful to us if you comment in the journals at least once a week so we have an idea of how your child is getting on with their home reading. We do encourage the children to write in their journals (especially Year One children) but we need input from parents too.

We will now teach PE on Tuesday mornings (as well as Thursday afternoons). Please ensure children do not wear earrings on PE days. After PE kits were taken home over the Christmas break a few parents have said there are items missing from their child's bag; if you have something that belongs to another child please return it ASAP. Can we remind parents to name ALL items of school uniform, including PE kits?

Reception parents, please continue to add your own observations to Tapestry as it's such a great way for us to see what your child learns and gets up to at home. This all forms part of our assessment of each child.

Some of the children are struggling to fit their book bags into their trays each morning for a couple of different reasons. If your child has a keyring on their book bag to make it easily identifiable can you ensure there is only one keyring and that it is not big and bulky? Please check your child's book bag every day after school and take out any work and letters from that day.

This newsletter only gives a brief outline of our topics this half term – if you need any further information about any aspect of the curriculum or your child's progress please do not hesitate to speak with me.

**Thank you!**

Mrs Sage