



# Willow Class Newsletter

## Spring Term 2



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

The children will learn in a variety of ways during their time in Willow Class; they will be taught as a whole class for phonics, literacy and maths, they will learn through independent activities which are planned for and through small group work led by an adult. Throughout the term all seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum will be covered.

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

The children will be encouraged to develop and show a positive sense of self. We will spend time talking about right and wrong and how we show our understanding of this. We will encourage the children to show sensitivity to the needs of others.

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

The children will learn how to ask a good question and will spend time asking questions of others. We also learn lots of new vocabulary through the books we read and will find out the meaning of new words as well as trying to them in our play.

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

We will 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, in our outdoor area and in the school hall. The children are enjoying their twice weekly PE sessions and the main focus of these will be moving energetically.

*Please remove earrings on PE days: Tuesday and Wednesday*

### **Literacy**

We are using the texts 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson and 'Here's a Little Poem' collected by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters as our focus books in Literacy and will spend time exploring these books in a range of ways. The children will focus on developing their sentence writing skills during this term.

### **Maths**

We will focus on doubles to 10 and will use a song to help us learn these. We also learn about odd and even numbers. We will revisit addition and subtraction and explore this in more depth.

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

We will spend time focusing on special times in the Christian calendar; Shrove Tuesday, Lent, Mother's Day and Easter. The children will learn about the Easter story from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday.

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

We will spend time experimenting with different tools and techniques in relation to art. We will also try to learn and perform some poems.



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### **Phonics**

This half-term we will focus on developing the children's reading and writing stamina. We will read a range of questions and sentences. We will use of the sounds we have learnt to think of and write our own sentences.

### **Reading**

Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

Reading is one of the most important things your child will learn to do at school. Being able to read and developing a love of books and reading can have a hugely positive impact on your child's education, as well as bringing them lots of enjoyment.

It is vitally important that children read as often as possible at home. We really value all of the comments made in home reading journals. Every Friday I will write a question in reading journals for the children to have a go at answering but we would still appreciate a comment from you alongside this.

We will continue to change reading books on Tuesday and Friday but they will not be changed unless there is evidence that your child has read at home i.e. a comment from parents.

### **Tapestry**

Please can we encourage you to upload any photos or comments about things your child does at home such as swimming lessons, gymnastics, riding their bike, helping to prepare dinner. The children love to share things in school and often having a photo on Tapestry can be a helpful prompt.

### **Notes and Reminders**

Children under 5 are entitled to free milk in school however you need to register your details online to ensure we receive the milk in school. If your child turned 5 during the autumn term you will need to pay for milk if your child would still like it. Visit [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) to set up payment.

Please label every item of uniform (including shoes) that your child wears and brings to school. This ensures that if we find an item of clothing we can return it.

This newsletter only gives a brief outline of 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**