



# Willow Class Newsletter

## Spring Term 2



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

**This half term our topic is 'They Changed the World!' We will learn about inventors and scientists.**

The Reception children will learn in a variety of ways during their time in Willow Class; they will be taught as a whole cohort 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.

The Year One children will be taught phonics as a cohort by Mrs Baker Monday to Thursday mornings. All other subjects will be taught by Mrs Sage.

### **RECEPTION CHILDREN:**

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

The children will be encouraged to follow multi-step instructions. We will explore the idea around knowing right from wrong and will be encouraged to show sensitivity to the needs of others.

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

The children will be encouraged to act out narratives. They will also be encouraged to speak and listen carefully to adults and peers.

#### **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 and in our outdoor area.

#### **Literacy**

Our focus text is Lila and the Secret of Rain. We will spend time writing sentences; using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

#### **Maths**

The children will be learning about money and will also learn about patterns of numbers such as odds and evens.

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

Linked to our topic we will learn about a range of scientists and inventors. The children will continue to explore the outdoor environment during Explore Outdoors each Wednesday.

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

The children will spend time retelling familiar stories and will learn a range of songs for Mother's Day and Easter.

#### **Phonics**

We are focussing on a new set of words that cannot be sounded out. These will be put into spelling journals each week.



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### Tapestry

Thank you to those parents who post onto Tapestry; it's lovely to be able to talk to the children about the things they do at home. 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.

### **YEAR ONE CHILDREN:**

#### English

The children will focus on constructing and writing good quality sentences in the context of writing a story and an explanation text linked to our focus text, Lila and the Secret of Rain.

#### Maths

The children will be taught about place value within 50 and will then focus on measurement in the context of length, height, weight and volume.

#### Phonics

The children will take part in a range of activities to help them prepare for the Phonics Screening in June. You will have received a letter and resource pack earlier this week to support with this at home.

#### Computing

The children will learn how to code and will explore a range of activities to develop their coding skills.

#### Science

Linked to our topic we will learn about a range of scientists and inventors. The children will continue to explore the outdoor environment during Explore Outdoors each Wednesday.

### **WHOLE CLASS:**

#### PE

We will have two weekly PE lessons. Thursday afternoon will be taught by the Top Score coaches. Friday morning will be taught by Mrs Sage. Children cannot wear earrings for PE; please ensure they are removed on these days.

#### RE

The question we will focus on this half-term is: Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?



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### **Toys**

Please do not allow your child to bring their own toys into school.

### **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.

### **Explore Outdoors**

Explore Outdoors will continue this half-term and will still take place on Wednesday afternoons. Please ensure you send your child with a rucksack / bag with wellies, long trousers and a jacket or an all-in-one suit every Wednesday. Explore Outdoors happens in all-weather so please be mindful of this when sending in their change of clothes.

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**