

Willow Class Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term (1) 2023

Please find information listed about the curriculum which will be taught throughout this half term.

Subject	Topic this half term	Additional notes
<p>English</p>	<p>This half term all of our English work will be based on the novel: The Creakers by Tom Fletcher.</p> <p>Our reading focus will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse an author's style of writing and identify different techniques and vocabulary being used. • Define vocabulary, thinking carefully about its meaning and impact. • Retrieve information to sequence and summarise events. • Understand and emphasise a characters' thoughts, feelings and attitudes. • Use clues from the text to infer information about a character and what they might be thinking or feeling. • Identify evidence to support opinions <p>After reading the novel, as a class we will then focus on developing our writing skills by creating our very own 'Woleb' map and write a story with description to explore Lucy's adventure in finding the Creakers.</p> <p>Spellings: This half term, Willow will be focusing on ta different spellings rule each week:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. i sound: y middle spelling e.g. mystery 2. u sound: ou spelling e.g. young 3. k sound: ch spelling e.g. scheme 4. sh sound: ch spelling e.g. machine 5. g sound: gue spelling e.g. league 6. k sound: que spelling e.g. antique 	<p>Reading At the end of each day, we will have dedicated reading time where the children will listen to an adult reading.</p> <p>Please may I ask for your child to read most nights as this will help build their confidence when asked to read aloud, thank you. I have explained to the class that they can fill out their own reading records to indicate when reading.</p> <p>When a child has read a book (or 30 pages for children on Free Readers) they place a hot air balloon on our display. Each hot air balloon is worth 10 miles. At the end of the week, we will work out together how far we have travelled in the week and locate the destination on our map. I wonder how many wonderful destinations we can travel to by the end of the half term.</p> <p>When required, children are asked to change their books when they arrive to school in the morning. This is a great way to build independence and to allow them to choose a new book. Banded reading books will be sent home this week.</p> <p>Spellings We do not have weekly spellings tests as we check the spellings daily. However, at the end of the Autumn Term, the children will be tested on a selection of the Y3/Y4 statutory spellings. Please note, these spellings are stuck into the front of the homework books.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>During our mathematics lessons, we teach the children with their year group. This means we can focus on the Y3 objectives and then the Y4 objectives. We start every lesson focusing on developing arithmetic skills such as recalling number facts and times table facts. Then the children focus on the main objective by embedding their</p>	<p>Times Tables Rockstars logins will be sent home this week. This is a brilliant website where the children can practise their times tables facts. It is fun, engaging and adds an element of competition. By the end of the year, Y3 pupils should be confident in recalled their: 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s, 4s and 8s. By the end of Y4, the pupils</p>

	<p>learning through fluency, reasoning and problem solving questions.</p> <p>In maths this half term, Willow will focus on: Place value and addition and subtraction. Key skills will be for Y3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • count from 0 in multiples of 4, 8, 50 and 100; find 10 or 100 more or less than a given number • identify, represent and estimate numbers using different representations • read and write numbers up to 1000 in numerals and in words. • recognise the place value of each digit in a three-digit number (hundreds, tens, ones) • compare and order numbers up to 1000 • solve number problems and practical problems <p>Key skills will be for Y4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000 • count backwards through zero to include negative numbers identify, represent and estimate numbers • read Roman numerals to 100 • round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000 • solve number and practical problems 	<p>should be confident in recalling all times tables facts up to 12x12.</p> <p>Please note that Y4 pupils will be completing the official Multiplication Times Tables Check in May. I will provide more information nearer the time.</p> <p>Times Tables tests will happen at the end of each week. This half term, Y3 will focus on recalling their 2, 5, 10 and 3 times tables. Y4 will focus on recalling 2, 5, 10s or 3, 4 and 8s. A slip will go home at the start of the week showing you the times tables to practise.</p> <p>Please support this at home through the use of Times Tables Rockstars.</p>
R.E	<p>Our theme this half term is 'God, David and the Psalms'. In this unit, the children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the Story of David and his strengths and qualities. • Read the Psalms and use them to discover more about the nature of God. 	<p>In Willow, we keep an RE scrapbook. If your child creates any artwork, written prayers or anything creative it would be wonderful to add these to our collection.</p>
Computing	<p>This half term, the unit is: Desktop Publishing. The children will be using both Chromebooks and iPads to help develop their computing skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recognise how text and images convey information • To recognise that text and layout can be edited • To choose appropriate page settings • To develop skills such as copy and paste 	
Science	<p>This half term, Willow will be learning about Electricity. Children will be learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify common appliances that run on electricity. • Construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic 	

	<p>parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify whether circuits are complete or incomplete and know how to fix it. • Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors. 	
PSHE	<p>This term we will be looking at and answering the question: What strength, skills and interests do we have? In particular the children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop self-worth by identifying positive things about themselves and their achievements • Know how to set realistic goals • Know how to manage when there are setbacks, learn from mistakes and reframe unhelpful thinking 	
Geography	<p>This half term we will be learning about North America. The key questions which will be covered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To name and locate the countries, capital cities and surrounding oceans of North America • That the United States is a large nation made up from 50 smaller states and a federal capital • To name and locate the environmental regions of North America e.g. the Great Plains, the mountainous west, the Canadian Shield, the Caribbean • To locate the Arctic Circle and the Arctic Ocean 	
DT	<p>Our unit this half term is all about Electrical Systems. Willow will be using their scientific knowledge to make working torches. The children will research different designs; make prototypes looking at different joins and strength of material, then make, and test out the final product.</p>	
P.E.	<p>This half term Willows PE lesson will be Swimming and Outdoor and Adventurous Activities. This will focus on team building and orienteering skills.</p>	<p>Willow Class will be swimming every Friday until the end of the Spring Term 1. As our swimming slot is: 2pm – 3pm. The children will not be back at school until around 3:30pm due to time taken for changing and travel. The second PE lesson will take place on Friday.</p>
French	<p>This half term, Willow will be learning how to say, read and write 10 shapes in French in their singular form (using the indefinite articles "une" and "un"). Willow will also recap prior knowledge of colours and numbers 1-20.</p>	

Music	In music this half term the children will have the opportunity to learn how to play a new instrument: ukulele.	Children will have access to a ukulele through the Wider Ops Association.
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Other Useful Information

Homework

- Please note, homework will be sent out on Fridays and will then be marked in class by the children the following Friday. May I ask that only 30 minutes is to be spent on homework each week. 15 minutes for English and 15 minutes for Mathematics. If the work isn't complete, please do not worry.
- Please ensure children are reading at least three times a week (recording this in their reading records) and frequently practicing their times tables.

Equipment

Just a reminder about equipment. Children may bring to school:

- A small book bag and packed lunch box.
- If you want to bring in a pencil case, it needs to be small enough to fit into their trays
- A small, named bottle of plain water
- A healthy snack e.g. fruit, cereal bar
- Wellingtons for outdoor learning.
- A change of footwear e.g. trainers, pumps (can be kept in school in a named string/carrier bag)
- Sunhat and sun lotion for warmer weather

Please ensure children are in full school uniform, with no jewellery (apart from a watch if they wear one). Please label all items clearly with your child's name, especially cardigans and jumpers!

A note for children and parents from Mrs Marston

Welcome back Willow, I hope you all have had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed the sunshine. I am looking forward to a fantastic year where we will be having lots of fun and learning about exciting topics and themes.

This year Mrs Bennett and Mr Marston will be supporting in Willow.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact. Thank you.

Mrs L Marston
Willow Class Teacher.