

## Willow Class Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term (2) 2023

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

Subject	Topic this half term	Additional notes
<p><b>English</b></p>	<p>This half term all of our English work will be based on the novel: Plague – A Cross on the Door by Ann Turnbull Our reading focus will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse an author's style of writing.</li> <li>Define vocabulary, thinking carefully about its meaning and impact in particular historical language.</li> <li>Retrieve information to sequence and summarise events.</li> <li>Understand and emphasise a characters' thoughts, feelings and attitudes.</li> <li>Use clues from the text to infer information about a character and what they might be thinking or feeling.</li> <li>Identify evidence to support opinions</li> </ul> <p>As our novel links in with our history unit, we will be creating informative pieces of writing. Along with this, the children will write their own version of 'Ring a Ring a Roses' using knowledge of the plague.</p> <p>The novel does touch on sensitive matters of our British history. This is taught in a delicate way and the children are only taught what they need to know at this age. (Please see history section for more information)</p> <p><b>Spellings:</b> This half term, Willow will be focusing on different spellings rule each week:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Words ending in -ture</li> <li>Words starting with the prefix -re, -dis -mis (3 weeks)</li> <li>Words where '-ing', '-er' and '-ed' are added to multisyllabic words</li> <li>Words with the digraph 'ai' and the tetragraph 'aigh'</li> <li>Words with the digraph 'ei' and tetragraph 'eigh'</li> </ol>	<p><b>Reading</b> 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><b>Spellings</b> 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>I have provided the children with a username for Spelling Shed. The children can log in and practise spellings by playing games.</p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p>	<p>We are continuing to 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</p>	<p>Times Tables Rockstars is still available to use at home. The children really enjoy it and it does make a difference to their knowledge of the times tables. By the</p>

	<p>by embedding their learning through fluency, reasoning and problem solving questions.</p> <p>In maths this half term, Willow will focus on: Subtraction, multiplication, division and starting to look at time.</p>	<p>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 should be confident in recalling all times tables facts up to 12x12.</p>
<b>R.E</b>	<p>Our theme this half term is 'Christmas'. In this unit, the children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop their understanding of the Christian belief that Jesus is the, 'Light of the World'.</li> <li>• explore the multi-faceted metaphor of bringing light into people's lives.</li> </ul>	<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>
<b>Computing</b>	<p>This half term, the unit is: Events and Actions in programs. The children will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creating a Sprite and programming the Sprite to move to different locations.</li> <li>• Drawing lines (by using the Sprite)</li> <li>• Debugging</li> <li>• Completing a project to move a sprite around a maze, with the option to leave a pen trail showing where the sprite has moved.</li> </ul>	
<b>Science</b>	<p>This half term, Willow will be learning about Teeth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions.</li> <li>• Look at what damages teeth and how to look after them.</li> <li>• Comparing the teeth of carnivores and herbivores and suggesting reasons for differences</li> </ul>	<p>Later in the unit, I will be asking the children to bring into school a toothbrush and some toothpaste. This is so the children can brush their teeth and look closely at the benefits of the techniques given by the NHS.</p>
<b>PSHE</b>	<p>This term we will be looking at and answering the question: How do we treat each other with respect? Willow will be looking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how people's behaviour affects themselves and others, including online</li> <li>• rights and responsibilities</li> </ul>	
<b>History</b>	<p>This half term we will be learning about the Plague. The key objectives which will be covered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The outbreak of plague in London in summer 1665. What was the cause and how did it spread.</li> <li>• The devastating impact of the disease outbreak</li> <li>• How people responded to the outbreak for example looking at plague doctors, crosses on doors, bills of mortality and quarantine.</li> <li>• Exploring how the plague spread to other places in England.</li> </ul>	<p>This unit, which is part of the national curriculum, does include sensitive matters such as death. However, this is delivered in a very delicate way. It will taught in a creative way so Willow will focus more on the impact of the devastation and the decision made by Charles II.</p> <p>At some points, there will be a video that will show what life was like in 1665. However, I always give the children the option to sit out if they do not want to watch it. This video has been created for</p>

		KS2 children and it focuses on how the streets of London looked.
<b>ART</b>	Our unit this half term focuses on the artist Ruth Issett. This art focuses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating repeating patterns.</li> <li>• Using techniques such as dyeing, weaving and stitching to create textural effects.</li> <li>• Developing skills in stitching, cutting and joining.</li> </ul>	
<b>P.E.</b>	This half term Willow will continue with Swimming and starting Dance.	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 other PE lesson will take place on Thursday.
<b>French</b>	This half term, Willow will be learning how to say, read and write 10 different animals in French in their singular form (using the indefinite articles "une" and "un").	
<b>Music</b>	In music this half term the children will continue the exciting opportunity to learn how to play a new instrument: ukulele.	Children will have access to a ukulele through the Wider Ops Association.

## 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** (the children can record 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, we have even more exciting learning taking place this half term. I am very excited! As always, work your hardest and do your best. ☺

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.