

Willow Class

Spring term

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you are all well-rested and excited for the start of another exciting term in Willow class!

Homework

Homework will be sent home on a Friday. There will be an, English and Phonics activity and MyMaths homework will be set weekly online via the MyMaths website. If you are having any trouble logging in, please ask me at the end of the day or at the school office. Please complete and return these by Wednesday. A spelling list will also be sent home – these spellings are words that all children should be able to spell by the end of the year.

Any other important notices, requests or information can also be found on that week's homework sheet.

Times Tables Rock Stars

Each week, the class will be set a specific times table or group of times tables for use on Times Tables Rock Stars. This is available as an app on Android and the Apple App store. Log in details were sent home in the Autumn term, however if you need help logging in, please contact me or the school office. The phrase 'little but often' describes how the children should work on their tables until that almost instant recall becomes natural as they move through the school.

Library

Children will have the opportunity to visit the school library on Thursdays and choose a book to enjoy at home. Please ensure that they have their library book in school so that they are able to change their books.



Reading

In Willow class, we try to read with the children as often as we can and books will be changed at least once per week.

It is crucial that children talk about what they are reading, as well as working out what the words say. Take some time to talk about the book with your child. Please write down which pages have been read in the record and please sign each time so that we are able to change their book when it is finished.

SATS and Phonics Check

The year 2 children in the class will be spending this term getting ready for their SATS tests; there is no need to worry about these tests as we try to ensure a stress-free environment in the run up. If you have any questions about the SATS, please feel free to ask.

Year 1 children will be preparing for their phonics check, which will take place early in the summer term – this involves the children reading 40 words, some of which are real words and some of which are pseudo words (or simply made up). When your child is reading at home, please ensure that they use their 'robot arms' to blend the word.

Phonics

Phonics plays an important part in helping children to read and developing their decoding skills. Phonics will take place every day for around 25 minutes. In this time, children will learn new sounds, or 'phonemes' and will then use these skills in their reading.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk has some fantastic, free games that your children will be able to use at home so why not have a go as often as you can?

P.E.

PE lessons will take place on Wednesday afternoon and on Mondays we will be lucky enough to have some specialist sports coaches in from Preston North End.

The children will need a clearly labelled bag containing a white top, navy shorts and pumps. Please ensure that each item is labelled with your child's name. In accordance with school policy, long hair must be tied back, and it would be appreciated if pupils could have a spare band in their bag.

This term's topic: **Around the world**

English

This term, we will be looking at the story of 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers; maybe you could find some other books written by this author and see which is your favourite. We will also be looking at writing recounts from Antarctic explorers.

History and Geography

In this topic, we will be finding out all about the different countries that make up the United Kingdom. Later on in the term, we will be finding out about the Antarctic and delving deep into the history of explorers who tried to get to the South Pole.

Art / DT

In Art this half term, we will be creating observational drawings of Antarctic landscapes, as well as looking at the animals that live there. We will also try and create our own penguins out of clay.

Computing

In Computing, we will be looking at coding, which is like writing instructions on a computer. The children also will write their own algorithms on the I pads and attempt to 'debug' their instructions if there is a problem.

PE

In PE, the children will be using their throwing, catching and rolling skills to hit a series of targets. We will also be working with Team Theme after the February half term, who are our specialist external coaches that work in school.

Finally, if you have anything you wish to discuss, please feel free to grab me for a chat after school in the playground.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Goulds
