Willow Class Newsletter
First Half of Spring Term 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year. We are changing some of our procedures this term to help streamline the workload in the class.

- There will now be only one record book in the book bag and this will be used for reading records and home/school information. It is the red notebook.
- **Year 1** spellings will now be issued on a "Look, Cover, Write" sheet. We have noted that the children practise more readily using these sheets. **Year 2** children will still have their spellings in the green spelling book.
- Homework. As you know, homework is set on a Wednesday for return on the following Monday. MyMaths, the online homework resource, will now also be set on a Wednesday and should be completed by the following Monday.

Below is an outline of the plans for the second half of the school term.

English: Our first text is 'The Disgusting Sandwich' by Gareth Edwards.

Reading: The message on reading is still the same.

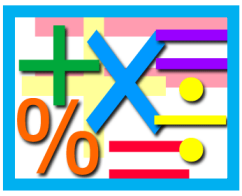
You can help your child by hearing them read every day, ideally it should be 2 to 3 pages from their school reading book but this can be added to by reading from a home book or one from the library.

Phonics: The class will continue to look at phonics at least twice every day. We look at individual sounds, tricky words, alternative prono unciation, segmenting and blending.

- **Year 1:** Focus on Phase 5 sounds leading up to Phonics Screening Test.
- **Year 2:** Looking at suffixes and prefixes.

Spellings: See note above about spelling books/sheets.

As before, spellings are sent home on a Monday and will be tested the following Monday. The spellings will be written in the green book or on the sheet but will also be available on the Willow pages of the school website.



Maths: Continuing work on all aspects of mathematics (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, problem solving, time, shape, space and measure).

Year 1: Please practise counting forwards and backwards initially up to 20 but as they achieve fluency go on to 30 and so on. Backwards is always more challenging but it is important!

Year 2: Please start practising times tables, x2, x5, x10.

Topic work and other subjects:

Our topic for the Spring Term is Growth. The study of seasonal changes will continue so we will be going on at least two welly walks (weather permitting)! We are also recording the growth of our bulbs and wheat. We will investigate how we use wheat to make bread and how this shows how materials change.

Music: Exploring pitch.

PE: Please make sure kit is in school **at all times**. White/green 'T' shirt (available from Tesco), black shorts, trainers and socks.

RE: Myself. Who am I? Why am I special? Who, or what, is God? What does God look like?

ICT: Exploring the use of ICT in our daily lives.

We hope to organise an afternoon for you to come into class to see our work and we will let you have a date towards the end of this half term.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. We are always happy to listen to your questions and talk through any concerns. Please either speak to one of the team in the morning, at the end of the day or by email mdunning@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk.

Mr M Dunning - Teacher
Mrs T Jeffries - Teaching Assistant
Mrs S Holohan -Teaching Assistant