



Willow Class Newsletter Spring Term 2025

aphillips@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk
wbardot@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk
mbryant@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

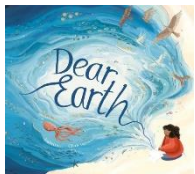
Dear Children, Parents and Carers

Welcome back – we hope you have all had a good break and are now ready for the new term.

SOUNDS-WRITE

The ability to read opens the door to all learning. Our Sounds-Write structured synthetic phonics programme will continue; this multisensory, code-oriented and comprehensive approach to literacy, combining as it does reading, writing and spelling, is proving successful and all three members of the Willow Teaching Team have received the training required to deliver the programme effectively.

ENGLISH

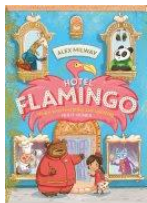


Writing Roots: Dear Earth. When Tessa writes a love letter to the Earth, it's the beginning of a glorious adventure. She blows bubbles with whales, soars with birds and joins in with the noisy rainforest hullabaloo!

Tessa wants everyone to know how special our planet is. She believes that there is a chance to save the Earth if enough of us share the message...

The children will learn to write setting descriptions of landscapes around the world and turn these into poems about exploration. They will also write their own extended informative leaflet about protecting the environment and will finish with a letter to the earth, using Tessa's letter from the text and celebrating their own dreams and aspirations.

Seeds: Many of the spellings are based on vocabulary used in Dear Earth. The children will also look at the spelling rules and patterns for the possessive apostrophe (singular nouns) and the suffixes –ment, –ness, –ful, –less and –ly



Leaves: For our Guided Reading sessions we will be using Hotel Flamingo. When young Anna inherits a dilapidated once-grand hotel from her Great Aunt Mathilde, she's determined to restore it to its former glory. But this is no ordinary hotel - all of her staff and guests are animals! Hotel Flamingo starts with children retrieving information so they can infer later. Further activities explore the characters presented within the text, the language choices made by the author and reasons for particular events taking place. There are also planned opportunities to summarise the story and to write in role.

MATHS

Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones
Th	H	T	O
4	5	2	8

We will continue with place value (within 100), look at shape and we will also be covering multiplication and division, length, height and statistics.

SCIENCE

This term we will be covering everyday materials, names and properties, animals including humans (Lifecycles) and comparing animals. Children will begin by looking at animal young and comparing them to their adults. The children will look at how animals change as they grow up and be introduced to the life cycles of several varied common animals, including humans.

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

Art	Nature sculptures – life cycles
Computing	Programming – moving a robot
D&T	Paddy's packed lunch problems
History	Nurturing nurses
Music	In the Groove
PE	Attacking and defending Circuit Training
PSHE	Living in the Wider World
RE	What do Christians believe God is like? Who is Jewish and how do they live?
Geography	Our School and Seasonal and daily weather patterns UK

House-keeping notes:

- The school gates open at 08:35. We take the register at 08:45 and will start work straight after that with reading and additional support sessions. It is important therefore that all children are in class by 08:45.
- PE will be on a Wednesday and Thursday and PE Kit should be worn to school for both those days. The kit is a green T Shirt, plain black shorts/joggers, PE Hoodie and suitable trainers.

HOMEWORK

The focus for homework will continue to be on reading and spelling. At appropriate points in the term we will introduce other topics such as times tables.

As a Teaching Team we welcome constructive conversations and interaction and are always prepared to make the time to speak to parents either by email, phone or in person. We would ask that you respect that the mornings are busy and an important time for all children as they settle in to school – sometimes an advance email is a good idea.

Willow Teaching Team