



Willow Class Newsletter Spring Term 2026

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

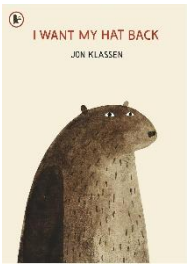
Dear Children, Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and 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: I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen. Through role-play, they explore a character's feelings. They create a short dialogue between the two main characters. They write a letter to Rabbit making suggestions about what he could do. After receiving a reply from Rabbit the children are asked to help Rabbit pack for the journey. After playing Kim's Game with items in a suitcase, and then write a packing list, children finally plan a sequel called, 'I Want My Friend Back'. The children create 3 new animals for Rabbit to ask if they have seen Bear. Through modelled and shared writing and peer and self- editing, the children write their sequel, 'I Want My Friend Back'.

Seeds: Many of the spellings are based on vocabulary used in 'I want my Hat Back'. The children will also look at common exception words; /aw/ sound, the /v/ sound at the end of words and adding the prefix – un.



Leaves: For our Guided Reading sessions we will be using Rabbit and Bear. This is a brilliantly funny story of a rabbit and a bear who discover that things are always better when they're shared with a friend. Bear wakes up early from hibernation. If she can't sleep, then at least she can make a snowman. Rabbit has never made a snowman, but he definitely wants to make one that's better than Bear's. But with an avalanche and a hungry wolf heading his way, Rabbit soon realises that it might be nice to have a friend on his side. From novelist and playwright Julian Gough, and the winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, Jim Field, this is a tale of friendship, gravity, and just a little bit of poo.

MATHS

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

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

SCIENCE

This term we will be covering everyday materials; materials and uses, objects and materials, changing shape, investigating suitability, where materials come from and Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. In the second half of the Spring Term we will start our topic on plants.

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

Computing	Programming – moving a robot
D&T	Fabric Bunting
Music	I Wanna Play in a Band
PE	Attacking and defending Circuit Training
PSHE	Living in the Wider World
RE	Who is Jewish and how do they live? / SALVATION: Why does Easter matter to Christians?
Geography	Magical Mapping

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 Monday and PE Kit should be worn to school for this day. 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, spelling and Maths.

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