



Willow Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2026

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Dear Children, Parents and Carers

Hello and welcome back to school. I am excited about teaching in Willow Class and building relationships with all the children in Year 1 and Year 2 as well as with you, their parents and carers. Myself and Mrs Bryant, have already spent time getting to know the children who will be in Willow as we have worked with them at lunch and during some lessons. The first few weeks will be for settling in and continuing to build relationships. I am committed to providing a stimulating environment where the children will be kept busy and will grow to understand that everything they do is all part of their learning journey.

SOUNDS-WRITE

"You can find magic wherever you look.
Sit back and relax, all you need is a book" Dr Seuss



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 members of the Willow Teaching Team have received the training required to deliver the programme effectively.

ENGLISH

Much of our English this year will be based on books suggested by The Literacy Tree. This is a complete, book-based platform for primary schools that covers all requirements of the Primary English curriculum. The books we have chosen will help our children to grow ideas and expand their minds – they are books which are significant and important in children's literature.

Roots: As with all trees, it starts at the roots which embed complete curriculum coverage and engage children with clear audience and purpose.

Seeds: We sow a seed with Spelling Seeds where spelling and vocabulary are taught in context, through investigation and at the point of application. They complement the Writing Roots and use the same texts to provide further short writing opportunities.

Leaves: Literacy knowledge comes through Literacy Leaves (Guided Reading). There will be a range of sequenced activities that take our children through whole books to teach reading comprehension and create critic readers. We will use novels, poetry collections and high-quality, non-fiction books that connect to the Roots through Literary Themes.



Our first Writing Roots 'text' is 'Lubna and Pebble'. Lubna's best friend is a pebble. She found it on the beach when they arrived in the night, then she fell asleep in Daddy's salty arms. Lubna tells Pebble everything. About home. About her brothers. About the war. Pebble always listens to her stories and smiles when she feels afraid. But when a lost little boy arrives in the World of Tents, Lubna understands that he needs Pebble even more than she does . . .

This is a beautifully illustrated story of friendship and kindness in an uncertain time with strong links to PSHE. The overarching themes are hope, friendship, kindness, refugees, safety and the importance of special items.

MATHS

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

Our focus is to ensure that pupils develop confidence and mental fluency with whole numbers, counting and place value. This will involve working with numerals, words and the four operations (+, -, x, ÷), including using practical resources.



Know the number bonds to 20 and be precise in using place value.

SCIENCE

Over the year, the class will be taught practical scientific methods, processes and skills whilst exploring the world around them and asking their own questions. Areas covered will be: Plants; Animals, including humans, Everyday materials; Seasonal changes; Living things and their habitats



FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

Art	Portraits, Remembrance art work & Colour chaos, Fireworks
Computing	Computing systems and networks – Technology around us & Creating media – digital painting.
D&T	Our Fabric Faces
History	Events beyond living memory which are remembered through anniversaries or festivals. War and Remembrance.
Geography	Our School and Seasonal and daily weather patterns UK
Music	Hey You!
PE	Throwing and catching skills Gymnastics
PSHE	Making friends, Mental health and wellbeing and keeping safe online.
RE	Creation – Who made the World? & Who is Muslim and how do they live? Harvest

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 afternoon and PE kit will need to be brought into school for the children to change into. The kit is a green T Shirt, plain black shorts/joggers, PE Hoodie and suitable trainers.

HOMEWORK

To begin the term the focus for homework will be on reading and spelling. At appropriate points in the term we will introduce other topics such as times tables. If your child is moving into Year 2 they may already be carrying out some of this work and that will continue.

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