

WILLOW CLASS NEWSLETTER

Term 3 2026

Welcome back

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed some relaxed family time. It's been wonderful to see the children return with such enthusiasm, ready to get stuck into the new term. Thank you for the thoughtful Christmas gifts – they were very much appreciated.

The children have settled back in beautifully, and we're looking forward to a busy and enjoyable few months of learning together.

PE days

PE takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Willow Class will now have their Tuesday PE session with Mr Giles from JB Sport (this has changed from last term, when he taught on Thursdays).

Reminders

- Please send a water bottle each day (water only).
- Book bags, reading books, and yellow records should come into school daily.
- Coats, hats, and gloves are important in this cold weather.
- Earrings must be taped over on PE days.
- A few items of clothing have gone missing – clear name labels really help, especially on PE hoodies.

Reading at home

- YR: Daily reading sheets and reading books changed on Thursdays.
- Y1: Books are changed every third reading session in school.
- Library books can be swapped any day.

Thank you for your support with reading – those regular moments at home make a big difference.

English

Read, Write Inc – Learn set 3 sounds and read real and nonsense (alien) words containing these.

Writing – continue to write dictated sentences using capital letters, full stops. Explore sentence types – questions, commands and exclamations using a range of punctuation.

Maths

Addition & Subtraction (Within 100)– using number facts, place value, written methods.

Multiplication & Division – make equal groups, count in steps, solve problems.

Length & Height – compare / measure lengths & heights using standard units.

Statistics – collect / sort data, show it using simple charts.

PE

Gymnastics – travel in different ways, balance on small and large body parts, and create simple gymnastic sequences.

Games – move with control, explore sending and receiving skills, and play simple games with others.

DT

Textiles – Puppets
Design and make a simple puppet, joining materials safely and evaluating their work.

Music

Tempo
Recognise and respond to different tempos, performing and moving to fast and slow music.

RE

Islam – God
Children learn how Muslims describe Allah, why the Qur'an is special, and how stories guide Muslims to live in harmony.

Science

Living things – Habitats
Identify habitats, explore how animals and plants meet their needs, and group living things.

Geography

What is the weather like in the UK?
Observe daily weather, identify seasonal changes, and record simple weather data.

Computing

Data Handling
Collect simple data, sort it into groups, and present it using basic charts.

PSHE

Safety and changing bodies
How to stay safe, recognise trusted adults, and understand safe physical contact.

EYFS

The Magic of Nature and Play

We will explore winter and the natural world through hands-on investigation, noticing how weather, ice and seasonal changes affect animals and habitats. We will learn about Arctic and Antarctic environments, compare nocturnal and diurnal animals, and observe freezing, melting and other natural processes. Through celebrations such as Chinese New Year and by comparing past and present experiences, we will explore different places, cultures and ways of life.

We will experiment with a range of mark-making tools, explore joining techniques, and create winter art, animal masks, patterns and observational drawings.

In Literacy, we will act out stories, retell familiar tales and rehearse simple sentences using known sounds. In our daily Read, Write Inc sessions we will learn the Set 1 special friends (sh, ch, th, ng, nk) and continue to build confidence reading and writing CVC words. We will also read and write short captions through daily RWI sessions.

In Maths we will develop number sense through subitising, counting and exploring number composition, while comparing weight, capacity, length and height through practical play.

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