

Willow Newsletter Spring 1



Important Information

Day	Timings of day	
Monday Mrs Booth	8.45am – 3.15pm	Reading extract sent home.
Tuesday Mrs Booth	8.45am – 3.15pm	PE Please come to school in PE kit, with hair tied up and earrings removed/or tape to cover.
Wednesday Mrs Booth	8.45am – 3.15pm	
Thursday Miss Eddershaw	8.45am – 3.15pm	PE - Please come to school in PE kit, with hair tied up and earrings removed/or tape to cover.
Friday Mrs Booth	8.45am – 3.15pm	

Dates for your diary

- Monday 6th January – return to school
- Monday 20th January – Friday 25th January – Science Week
- Tuesday 11th February – Safer Internet Day
- Thursday 13th February – Willow class assembly parents invited 2pm

Expectations

- **Reading** – The children will come home each Monday with an extract appropriate for their age group. We will be studying this extract in our whole class reading sessions throughout the week. Please encourage your child to read this extract aloud to you to practice their fluency. From Tuesday onwards each week the children will be reading sections of this extract aloud in class so please ensure they have it with them.
- **School uniform** – Please check that all of your child’s belongings are clearly labelled so that they can be returned to him/her if they go missing. There are some ‘lost property’ pegs in the cloakroom where staff will put all unlabelled items of clothing.

Ways to Help your Child

- **Reading** – Children are expected to read at least 4 times a week and record this in their learning logs. In addition to the whole class extract, which your child will bring home on a Monday, they will also have a library book. They may or may not need your support accessing this book as it will be one they have chosen themselves based on their interests. Please help them with this and enjoy reading it together. Children will be encouraged to change their reading books independently when they are ready however adult support and guidance will be available for those that request it.
- **Times tables** – Children will need to use Times Table Rockstars at home 3 times a week. All children have a login for this programme which is a fabulous resource to help children learn their tables <https://trockstars.com/>
- **Spelling** - We are continuing to work our way through the statutory spelling lists for each year group. Willow’s spellings for autumn term 2 are listed below. When we return to school after the Christmas break, we will test the children on these spellings.

achieve communicate disastrous government muscle queue
sufficient aggressive community embarrass guarantee necessary

recognise suggest amateur competition environment harass
 neighbour recommend symbol

We will continue focus on three spellings each week in class this half term but could you please continue to practice these at home. The full year 5/6 spelling list can be found in the learning logs as can the non-negotiable spelling word lists. The words below are the ones we will look at between now and February half term.

ancient conscience equip hindrance nuisance relevant
 system apparent conscious equipped identity occupy
 restaurant temperature appreciate controversy equipment immediate
 occur rhyme thorough

What we will be learning this term

<p>English our class text- I was a Rat by Philip Pullman</p> <p>Additional texts: There’s a Boy in the Girls Bathroom by Louis Sachar</p> <p>Focus Text genres – Balanced argument and persuasive advert.</p>	<p>Maths Concepts covered- Multiplication and Division (B) Fractions (B)</p> <p>As the children should know all their times tables by this point practising building up their speed of recall would be beneficial. Focus on those tables your child struggles to recall quickly. Please ask if you are unsure where to start with this.</p>
<p>Other Curricular areas:</p> <p>This half term our history focus will move to the Stone Age. The children will begin by thinking about the Paleolithic era before moving on to what life was like during the Mesolithic and finally Neolithic time periods. We will also be finding out more about the origins of Stonehenge. In Geography our focus will move to biomes, specifically marine biomes around the world. As part of this work, we will also learn about the water cycle. Science will see us completing our work on Earth and Space, in particular looking at the movement of Earth and the Moon and how this leads to day and night and the seasons.</p> <p>In Music we will look at some of the Great Composers from the Classical period (1750 – 1820). Since we have now finished our swimming sessions, we will have two PE sessions each week. One focusing on gymnastics and the other on Rugby. Our work on Our Happy Mind will continue, this term looking at the ‘Appreciate’ Unit. Our PSHE sessions will look at the children’s dreams and goals. Miss Eddershaw will continue to teach Spanish to the children on a Thursday along with running one of our reading for pleasure sessions and allowing the children time to share their reading recommendations.</p>	

Useful Websites

Website	Resources
www.activelearnprimary.co.uk	A variety of colour banded eBooks allocated to your child individually
http://www.harthillprimary.co.uk	Showcasing your child’s learning with photographs and information like the school’s Calculation policy. (Go to Key information. Curriculum. Maths)

www.topmarks.co.uk	A variety of activities across all subjects. Click on select an age group then key stage 2. Your child will recognise some of these games as we use them in class e.g. hit the button.
https://trockstars.com/	Times table rockstars - Your children will be familiar with this website as we will be using it in school. Try to use this 3x a week at home.

Note from the Willow team

We hope that you all had a lovely, relaxing Christmas break with family and friends.

As ever, thank you so much for all your support in the run up to Christmas. It was so lovely to see so many of you in school for our Christmas Crafternoon and the children were so excited to share their performance of ELF with you all. Seeing them all dressed in their Christmas outfits or as Elves was amazing.

Towards the end of January, we will be taking part in National Science week and completing many activities in school linked to this. During this week, I am looking for parents whose jobs are linked to science or technology in any way to come and talk to the children about their work. If this is something you would be interested in, please let me know so we can arrange a suitable time for you to join us in class. Science week begins on Monday 20th January (but if you can't make it that week please still get in touch and we can see what we can sort).

Kind Regards,

Team Willow 😊