



# Willow Class

## Information Letter Autumn A

### **WELCOME BACK!**

Welcome back and to the start of a new school year. I am really excited to be teaching you all as the new year 3s and 4s in Willow Class. I cannot wait to get started with lots of exciting learning, for you to see a slightly different classroom layout (including a cosy book corner), and I am looking forward to getting to know you all a lot better. I think we are going to have a very positive and successful year.

### **WILLOW CLASS ADULTS**

I am very much looking forward to being the Willow Class teacher this year and I will be supported by Mrs Rowe and Miss Beer as the teaching assistants in Willow Class. They will both support the learning within lessons by working with individuals and small groups, as well as providing interventions for different children in a range of areas across the curriculum.

**Class Teacher:** Miss Eloise Skinner

**Teaching Assistants:** Mrs Rowe and Miss Beer

**PE Teacher:** Mr Rhys Malone

**Art and Design Teacher:** Miss Crathorne

**Music Teacher:** Mr Kip Pratt

If you have any queries about your child's learning, I am more than happy to discuss them with you and will try my best to help. Please feel free to book a telephone appointment with me at the office, catch me on the playground, or email the school's admin email address, which will get passed on to me so that I can contact you at a time that is convenient.

### **MEDICATION**

The school can only administer prescribed medication which needs to be left in the office with a signed permission form. Any other medication, including over-the-counter medications, will need to be administered by parents/guardians.



### **DAILY BRAIN BREAKS AND EXERCISE**

This year, there will be continued emphasis on supporting the children with their mental health. This will be focused upon during PSHE lessons through Mind Up activities and practices, but also incorporated in other lessons throughout the day, and the children will be encouraged to take 'brain breaks' throughout the school day. This will give the children an opportunity to take a short rest from learning so that they can relax and recuperate their brains, which in turn will make them ready for learning. In addition to supporting the children's mental health, we will be having 2 hours of P.E. each week and regular physical exercise breaks where the children can partake in fun games that give them the opportunity to be physically active.

### **TIMETABLE**

An example timetable for a week in Willow Class will also be uploaded to the school website where you can expect to see the general timings and lessons for each day. Please note that this is only a guide. It remains flexible



so that we can accommodate ambitious activities for the different subjects which may require extra time. Therefore, the timetable is subject to occasional changes where the teacher feels it is beneficial or necessary.

Below are some general timings for the school, for your information.

**Arrival time:** 8:50am – 9:00am

**Registration:** 9:00am - 9:15am

**Morning break:** 10:45am – 11:00am

**Lunch:** 12pm – 1pm

**Afternoon break:** In KS2, there is no requirement for afternoon break however we will now be incorporating daily exercise into the afternoons.

**Assembly:** Assemblies will continue to take place in school. For Willow Class, they will usually be held on a Monday and a Wednesday with Miss Crathorne, and on a Friday afternoon there will be a celebration assembly where the children's achievements will be celebrated each week.

**End of day:** 3:10pm

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

As always, the children will be expected to wear the correct uniform to school each day. Details of the school uniform requirements can be found on the school website. As Health and Safety is so prominent these days, we ask that all jewellery is kept at home with the exception of stud earrings. All children with long hair must tie it back and children's hair should be a natural colour. Please note that the wearing of nail varnish is not permitted in school. Please ensure your child has a raincoat in school, preferably that can fit into their bag. We ask you to label all items of footwear and clothing with your child's name or initials, including items in their P.E. kit and their coat. I also ask that both your child's drink bottle and snack are marked with their initials or name, to avoid confusion when children have the same bottle or snack. Given the current situation we are in, this is especially important and if something is not named, we will label it for your child.



### **STAYING HEALTHY**

As a school, we encourage the children to bring healthy snacks into school for break time and to have a balanced lunch. We would also like to ask for your co-operation in not bringing birthday treats to share with the class when it is your child's birthday. Although we appreciate the gesture, it will help us promote a healthy school environment.

May we also take the opportunity to remind you that we are a 'nut-free' school and, as such, we have in place school-wide measures that will keep all individuals with allergies safe. We are asking for wider parental support in the following ways:

- Please avoid sending nuts or products containing nuts (where known or possible) into school. This includes peanut butter.
- Please talk to your children about the importance of not sharing their food with other children.

- Please talk to your child about the importance of washing hands thoroughly both before and after eating. Whilst we do not want to limit the food choices for our families, we do want to make sure that everyone at our school is safe and well and hope that you understand the reasons behind our above requests.

### **READING**

During the first few weeks of the term, I will be helping the children to choose their new books. To do this, I will assess the children on their current Bug Club book band level or give them the opportunity to take a 'Star Reading Test' for the Accelerated Reader system in the library. This process will provide me with a greater understanding of their reading and comprehension level so that I can plan whole-class reading sessions to the appropriate level and ensure that they are choosing independent reading books that will support their fluency and understanding of texts. As a school, we expect the children to be reading every day at home, whilst also providing them with opportunities to read in school throughout the week. For maximum reading development, it is recommended that children read for 30-40 minutes every day. This could include time that they have read in school and might also include times when children have been engaged in a story or book that is being read to them, enjoying a magazine or a newspaper article or even an online text or audio book. Please continue to encourage your child to develop a love of reading by listening to them read, letting them see you enjoying reading and by sharing stories with them.

This year, the class will be receiving whole-class reading sessions for 45 minutes per day. These are designed to support the children's comprehension skills through a range of techniques such as, individual work, partnered talk and whole class discussion. They will have the opportunity to read/listen to rich, high-quality texts and receive support and ideas for structuring their answers to higher level questions.



### **HOMEWORK**

Following a similar format to last year, the children will continue to receive homework every Thursday which should be handed in the following week on Tuesday. The homework will either be a piece of maths or English from the homework books (alternating each week) that supports their learning. This continues as a school wide approach. The homework can be set to consolidate learning that has taken place in class or practice a new skill that we will be moving on to in the upcoming weeks so that I can assess the children's prior knowledge before teaching a new unit of work.

### **SPELLING**

In addition to the short piece of maths or English homework the children receive on a Thursday, they will also be expected to practice a short spelling list and some multiplication facts, again alternating each week. This will coincide with the maths and English homework set every other week. The home spellings will include words from a Key Stage 2 high frequency word list or the Year 3 and 4 Statutory Spelling list, as well as words from spelling patterns that we have been learning in class.

### **TIMES TABLES**

For pupils in Year 4, there will be a times table check towards the end of the academic year, where all Year 4 pupils are required to recall times tables facts up to 12 X 12. The check is delivered through a government online platform (similar to TTRS). Therefore, it is important that the children practice their times tables as much as possible, both on Times Tables Rockstars and verbally. It would be greatly appreciated if you could support with this at home by providing as many opportunities as possible for them to practice, even if just spending 5 minutes doing so on a short car journey for example. I will be sending home times tables folders to help them practice, alongside their maths homework and providing all the children with the opportunity to practice their recall during the school day. times tables however if you or your child do have any queries, please let me know.



### **P.E. & GAMES**

This year, all children in the school will have P.E. for two hours each week. Willow class sessions will be taught by Mr Malone on a Monday afternoon and by myself on a Wednesday afternoon. More information will be sent about these as needed. Please ensure that the children come to school in PE kit on both our PE days (Monday and Wednesday).

One last note to say, thank you for your continued support. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all and the children at the beginning of September. I am excited about having a completely new class and getting to know the individuals within it. I think it is going to be a fantastic year!

Many thanks,  
Miss Skinner