



# Willow Class Information

## Letter Spring 2022

### WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed time with your families over the holidays. I am very much looking forward to starting the new year back at school. I know that you will all continue to make excellent progress and I am looking forward to seeing all your achievements for 2022.

### WILLOW CLASS ADULTS

I am continuing to have the pleasure of being Willow Class teacher this year, and I will be supported by Mrs Beer and Mrs Rowe towards the end of the term. We will work together to 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 Beer and Mrs Rowe

**PE Teacher:** Mr Mansell

**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, we will be continuing to work on Mind Up and PSHE lessons to support the children with their personal, social, health education, including promoting positive mental health. This will be focussed upon during specific lessons, through Mind Up activities and chime practices, but also incorporated in other lessons throughout the day. 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 more ready for learning. In addition to supporting the children's mental health, we will be having 2 hours of PE 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:** 12:30pm – 1:30pm

**Assembly:** The school values and wider curriculum will be taught to the children during assembly time 3 days per week, at the end of the day, just before home time. In addition to this, 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



### 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. Reading at home could include them reading their Bug Club or Accelerated Reader book with you or independently, sharing their school library book with you, a sibling or a pet, looking at a book, magazine,

newspaper or reading anything else from home. It could also include listening to an audio book, reading an eBook or reading signs, menus, timetables whilst you are out and about. I would be grateful if you could support this by helping them to record in their reading records and encouraging them to bring it to school every day.



We will be continuing our 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 patters 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. If you or your child do have any queries, please let me know.

### **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.

### **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 another action-packed term!

Many thanks,  
Miss Skinner.