



Willow Class - Autumn Term A – 2023

As Readers and Writers

We will begin the term, in English, by spending a week recapping basic skills including our use of capital letters and full stops and establishing our sentence structure, use of vocabulary, presentation and handwriting.

We will be moving onto a fiction writing unit linked to our geography topic (How can we navigate around the world?) with the text 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett. The children will focus on using the present tense accurately, writing simple and compound sentences and learning about using apostrophes for possession. They will be aiming to write fiction postcards from the perspective of a character from our whole class novel.

Meanwhile, within our whole class reading sessions, we will be reading and studying the text: '**The Train to Impossible Places**' by P.G. Bell. The children will develop their comprehension skills through well-structured whole class reading sessions. We will then link our writing to the text later in the term with focus on setting descriptions.

Handwriting and spelling will be taught and practised in discrete sessions.

As Mathematicians

We will be starting the school year with basic number revision and **place value**, where we will focus on:

- Representing and partitioning number
- Counting
- Placing numbers on a number line
- Comparing and ordering numbers
- Rounding.

Then, we will move onto **addition and subtraction** where we will look at: adding and subtracting 3-digit (Year 3) or 4-digit (Year 4) numbers mentally, using formal written methods building up from no exchange to multiple exchanges. We will then focus on pattern spotting within addition and subtraction as well as developing our reasoning and problem-solving skills within this unit.

As Designers

Children will begin by exploring kinetic art by artist Heather Hansen before moving on to explore the question '**Can a robot be an artist?**' We will investigate existing robots before using our research to design our own. Then, we will then make the robots, testing and improving them before using them to create a collaborative piece of large-scale kinetic art. Finally, the children will evaluate their robot against their original design criteria.

Religious Education

We will be exploring the question: **What is like for someone to follow God?** We will do this by focussing on Christianity and specifically the story of Noah and the promises he made to God. We will then make connections to our own lives.

As Musicians

We will be exploring how music has been impacted by electricity and technology over time. We will listen to and appraise music from different decades. Then we will be exploring the use of 'Music Lab' by creating our own pieces of music using electronics.



As Sports Stars

We will be developing our skills within PE based on the sports; Ultimate Frisbee and Netball. Within this, we will gain an understanding of good sportsmanship and the benefits of exercise. We will also be learning about health and fitness.

PSHE- Being Me in my World

We will look at the children's place in community and being part of a group. How democracy works and how pupil voice allows children to have their say at school.

As Coders (Computing)

We will be exploring Purple Mash to design and create code that simulates a physical system. The children will work towards using timers and variables to repeat commands. We will also recap Online Safety within Purple Mash and by using Internet Legends.

As Language Speakers

Je Me Presente

The children will learn key vocabulary and phrases to introduce themselves and other people in French.

As Scientists

We will be learning about Electricity through the question: **What is electricity and why is it so important in our lives?**

- Identify common appliances that run on electricity and construct a simple series electric circuit.
- Identify and name the basic part in a series circuit, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers.
- Identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery.
- Recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit. Associate a switch opening with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit.
- Recognise some common conductors and insulators and associate metals with being good conductors.

As Geographers

We will be learning key geographical skills through the question: **How can we navigate our way around the world?**

- Name and locate countries, counties and cities within the UK.
- Use 8 compass points to describe location.
- Name main rivers and seas of the UK and identify on a map and/or atlas.
- North or South: explain the position and significance of the Equator, the Northern Hemisphere, and the Southern Hemisphere.
- Identify lines of latitude and longitude and use latitude and longitude to identify places on an atlas, map or globe.
- Describe the key features of the polar regions and tropics and compare them with the UK.
- Explain the position and significance of the prime Meridian.
- Explain the position and significance of world time zones.

