



Willow Class

Information Letter Autumn A 2023

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back and to the start of a new school year. We are excited to be teaching Willow Class this year. We cannot wait to get to know the new Year Threes and are delighted to welcome back the lovely Year Fours. We are looking forward to getting started with a brand-new term and we have lots of exciting learning to be getting started with. We think we are going to have a very positive and successful year.

WILLOW CLASS ADULTS

We are very much looking forward to being the Willow Class teachers this year and we will be supported by Mrs Rowe. Mrs Rowe will support individuals as well as small groups during lessons and provide interventions for a variety of children in a range of areas across the curriculum.

Class Teacher: Mrs Emily Hadley (Monday, Tuesday)

Miss Eloise Skinner (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Rowe

A4A Coach: Mr Jordan Coley

If you have any queries about your child's learning, we are more than happy to discuss them with you and will try our best to help. Please feel free to book a telephone appointment with us at the office, catch us on the playground, or email the school's admin email address, which will get passed on to us so that we 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

As part of our school's ethos, there will be continued emphasis on supporting the children with their mental health as well as their physical health and wellbeing. This will be focused upon across the curriculum, including

PSHE lessons, through Mind Up activities and practices, and within our learning of Rights Respecting and British Values. The children will be encouraged to discuss their emotions and taught how their brain functions. They will be encouraged to take regular brain breaks throughout the school day and in between lesson, in addition to playing outside during break times and lunch times. 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, the children will have two PE lessons per week to build up their health and fitness, improve physical development as well as support their social, communication and thinking skills.

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: 8:40am – 8:50am

Registration: 8:50am – 9am

Morning break: 10:30am – 10:45am

Lunch: 12:15pm – 1:15pm

Assembly: Assemblies will take place every afternoon after lunch and there will be a special celebration assembly on a Friday afternoon 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, we ask that all jewellery is kept at home (except for 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 clothing, including PE kit, their coat and footwear. We 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.** 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. A reminder that we are a 'nut free' school as we have a number of children in the school with severe nut allergies requiring auto-injector medication. Your understanding of this is greatly appreciated.

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.

READING

During the first few weeks of the term, we will be helping the children to choose their new books. To do this, we will assess the children on their current Bug Club book level or give them the opportunity to take a 'Star Reading Test' for the Accelerated Reader system in the library. This process will provide us with a greater understanding of their reading and comprehension level so that we 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. **Reading records will be handed in daily so please try to keep them up to date.**

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 we 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 practise a short spelling list and some multiplication facts, again alternating each week. **Please note, the children will not always be tested on their spellings, but we would appreciate your support with practising them at home so that the children feel confident applying them to their writing in school.**

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 and/or the Year 3 and 4 Statutory Spelling list, as well as 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 (like 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. We 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.

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 Coley on a Friday afternoon and by Miss Skinner 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 (Wednesday and Friday).



One last note to say, thank you for your continued support. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all again in September and excited about getting started and getting to know you all. We think it is going to be an amazing year!

Many thanks,

Mrs Hadley, Miss Skinner and the Willow Class Team