

Willow Class Spring Newsletter



Well done Willow class for a fantastic first term in Year 5! The class have worked so hard and adapted quickly to any changes and challenges that came their way. I am sure they will continue this wonderful approach in the Spring term. This newsletter gives you a brief guide to the highlights this term.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO THE LOCKDOWN ANNOUNCEMENT 5/1/21 SOME PARTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER HAVE NOW CHANGED - HOME LEARNING, PE DAYS, READING BOOKS.

Our Learning this Term

Our first **topic** this term is Stargazers – a study of our solar system, the planets, stars and space travel. We will be learning about major advances in science and technology, key historical figures and even designing space rockets. In the second half of the term, our topic will be Winding Rivers looking at geographical features of rivers and their surrounding areas. We will explore the importance of rivers for the environment, changes over time and flooding. There will be plenty of opportunities for hand-on learning using maps and developing fieldwork skills. This will include a visit to a river in our local area.

In **RE** we will be exploring community and mission, and what life choices are made within these. We will learn about inspirational missionaries, the difference that working together as a community can have in the wider world and the scripture that inspires and challenges us to follow the example Jesus set.

In **English** we will be learning from example texts of newspaper reports and recounts that inform us about space exploration. We will look at the purpose of these texts, their composition and grammar to then write our own. In the second half of term, we will be learning to write persuasive texts and visitor guides linked to caring for our rivers and local environment.

In **maths** we will begin by recapping the formal written methods taught in the first term and continue to use these in different contexts including measure. We will be spending more time on fractions and decimals before introducing percentages. Please continue to support their learning of times tables up to 12x12 as it is vital that the children know them. This underpins much of the work we do in Year 5 and onwards.

In **science** we will begin by delving deeper into our space topic with learning about orbiting planets, night and day, time zones and exploring gravity. After this, we will explore the water cycle alongside our river topic. The main science learning will focus on living things and their habitats, learning about the different life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds.

PE

The PE taught this term will continue to be slightly different as we adjust to new guidelines. We will focus on the development of skills for games (football) on Wednesdays and the children will participate in forest school on Fridays. Please ensure children are appropriately dressed for wet and cold weather every Friday for the first half of the spring term. In the second half of term, we will have PE on Tuesdays again.

A reminder that we are asking all children to come to school in their PE kits on PE days. It is recommended that on these days, you send a spare pair of socks and shoes in with your child to avoid them having wet feet for the remainder of the day. If the weather looks like it's going to be wet, please send spare 'bottoms' too as will be doing PE outside as much as possible.

Homework

Homework will generally be set on a **Friday**. It should be returned the following **Thursday**. Maths and English homework will continue to be set on online through IXL (details to follow). This ensures we have a good learning platform for use at home. All homework will relate to, and be a consolidation of, class work.

There will be weekly spellings to learn and, occasionally, there will be an additional piece of homework relating to our current topic.

Reading Books

The children continue to enjoy the wide range of books now available in our school reading scheme. These may not be changed as frequently as previous years whilst we ensure books are left for enough time between borrows. If children finish their scheme book, they should read a book from home, use Reading Eggs or Oxford Owl. In continuation of the whole school initiative (Hi5), children are expected to read at home at least five times a week. Please make sure and that their reading records are signed to show they have read either a school or home book etc. If your child doesn't read then they will be asked to read for 5 minutes during playtime to encourage their reading. In many cases, the children will now be reading silently to themselves, but your continued support and interest is vitally important. The bookmark sent home with children last term may be helpful to provide ideas for the question types that would aid children in developing a deeper comprehension of the texts they are reading.