

# Willow Class Autumn Newsletter



Welcome to Willow Class. It has been lovely to see the children coming back into school and being so enthusiastic and grown up about being in Year 5. They have adapted to all the changes so well. Thank you for all your efforts in supporting the new measures to keep us all safe. This newsletter gives you a brief guide to the highlights this term. If you have any questions at any time, please do ask me.

## Our Learning this Term

Our first **topic** this half term is Groovy Greeks – a study of the lives of the Ancients Greeks and their legacy that can be seen throughout the world today. On **1<sup>st</sup> October** we will dress up as Ancient Greeks or mythical Greek characters and try Greek food and art. Next half term, our topic will be 'Remembrance' looking at evidence from the past, how things changed and differences between men and women's roles during the First World War. We hope to arrange a trip or a visitor to enrich this topic.

In **RE** we will look at the *Creation* stories in the Bible, comparing and contrasting the different versions that exist here. Prayers, saints and feasts, Islam and Advent, will follow this.

In **English** we will be reading a range of Greek myths and learning from these in order to write our own myths, as well as writing information pages to share our topic learning. We will later write narratives and autobiographies linked to WW1. We will also be doing weekly spelling and handwriting sessions.

In **Maths** we will begin by recapping and building on key learning from year 4, including place value, the four operations, fractions, decimals, time and shape. Later in the term, we will focus on subtraction, addition, multiplication and division, including decimals. We will also be looking at measure. Please continue to support the learning of times tables up to 12x12 as it is vital that the children know them. This underpins much of the fraction, percentage and division work we do in Year 5.

In **science** we'll begin by doing some practical investigations exploring electricity, building circuits and problem solving. Later we will be looking at properties and changes of materials.

## PE

The PE taught this term will be slightly different as we adjust to new guidelines. We will focus on the development of skills for games (rugby) and learning how we can keep active and healthy to support good mental and physical health. Our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday.

For the time being, we are asking all children to come to school in their PE kits on PE days. This is to eliminate the need for changing and lower the risk of infection spreading. 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** will generally be set on a **Friday**.

It should be returned the following **Thursday**. Maths and English homework will often be set on online through IXL. If there are any problems setting this up, please let me know. 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 while we ensure books are left for enough time between borrows. If children finish their scheme book, they should read a book from home or use reading eggs.

In continuation of the whole school initiative (Hi5), children are expected to read at home at least five times a week. Please make sure that their reading records are signed to show they have read.

In many cases, the children will now be reading silently to themselves, but your support and interest is vitally important.

## Pencil cases

Thank you for providing your child with their pencil cases, pens and pencils etc.

They need to keep these in school and should be able to fit them in their tray (not too bulky or tall).

Pencils for writing and colouring, along with sharpeners and erasers, are the most useful items.

We will be sending out **logins** again for the online learning sites that have proven most useful to ensure everyone has access.