

Willow Class Autumn Newsletter



Welcome to Willow Class. It has been lovely to see the children coming back after the summer holidays full of enthusiasm and already approaching Year 5 with great maturity. 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 Ground-breaking Greeks. This is a study of the lives of the Ancients Greeks and their legacy that can be seen throughout the world today. On Tuesday 14th September we will dress up as Ancient Greeks or mythical Greek characters and will explore Greek food and art. We will learn about the first Olympic Games and host our own 'Olympics'. 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 during this topic and will be in touch with more information at a later date.

In **RE** our first topic is 'Ourselves' where we explore identity and creation in the likeness of God. Following this, we learn about Passover in our Judaism topic before exploring baptism in 'Life Choices'. We end the term learning about and experiencing advent in our 'Hope' topic.

In **English** we will be reading a range of Greek myths and learning from these in order to write our own myths. We will also be inspired by Ancient Greek democracy to write balanced. We will later write narratives and autobiographies linked to our learning about WW1. Remembrance poetry will be a key feature during this topic. We will also be doing weekly reading skills, spelling and handwriting sessions.

In **Maths** we will build on key learning from year 4, including place value, the four operations, fractions, decimals and percentages. We will also learn about graphs, tables and area and perimeter. Please continue to support you child's learning and quick recall of times tables up to 12x12 as it underpins much of the maths we do in upper KS2.

In **science** we'll begin by learning about the properties and changes of materials through lots of hands-on investigations. We will think how we can test materials and what uses this has in the wider world. Following this, we will learn about the differences and similarities in the life cycles of different types of animals.

PE

Over the Autumn term, PE will be focused on tag rugby and children will develop key skills needed to partake in competitive team games. We will also do gymnastics and dance where we are now able to use more equipment to support our learning.

Our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday.

We continue to ask 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 will generally be set on a **Friday**.

It should be returned the following **Thursday**. Maths and English homework will mostly be set on online through IXL (login details to follow). 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 and timestables 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 available in our school reading scheme. The children will now be able to change their books more regularly and enjoy the variety of text types on offer. In continuation of the whole school initiative (Hi5 challenge), 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 does not 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 support and interest is vitally important. A bookmark will be sent home with questions on that might be helpful for you when engaging in discussion about your child's book. We have a quiet reading time most days and the children are welcome to bring a book or other reading material in from home for this if they wish.