

Dear Parents,

I would like to say a huge welcome back to the new school year. It has been lovely to welcome the children to their new year groups and we are looking forward to a brilliant year ahead with new topics and learning activities.

This letter aims to give an overview of what is happening this term and some useful details about the timetabling of different lessons.

In Maths this term, the main focus will be on securing the children's understanding of the following areas: place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This work will involve both practical and written work, problem solving and investigations.

In English we are looking at a book called 'The Promise'. Following our work around the theme and the context of the book, the children will work towards creating a piece of writing about a promise which will make the world a better place. This term in guided reading our class book is 'An Alien and the jam factory' which the children are already thoroughly enjoying. The next book will be 'How to train your dragon'.

Our topic this term is 'The Ancient World' and we are lucky to be able to study four fascinating civilisations. Our focus will be on: Maya, Ancient Sumer, Ancient Egypt and the Shang Dynasty and understanding their key achievements. I aim to ensure the children are as enthused about the topic as possible.

PE

Can I please remind children to bring their PE kits on PE days (Tuesday and Wednesday.) The children now have their new PE t-shirts, and it would be helpful if they have a sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms for the colder weather. If your child has long hair, please make sure that it is tied up for PE sessions and all earrings (only small studs allowed) will need to be taken out or taped, for safety reasons.

Homework

Homework is slightly different this year for all classes including Willow:

Spellings: These will be taught in class and as directed learning time. We will not send spellings home to be learned and tested each week.

Reading: We would ask that the children read at least 5 times a week at home and that their reading diaries are signed by an adult. As an incentive, those children who read 5 times will receive a raffle ticket, which then means they can take part in a fun games session (15 minutes led by one of the teachers). Please make sure that you sign your children's reading record when you hear them read. In the reading record book you will see a login and password for SORA. This is an on-line site which gives access to a number of different books for your child to enjoy. This is a great resource and it may also be useful if your child forgets to bring a reading book home.

Times Tables: Having a good grasp of times tables and quick recall is an extremely helpful tool for children when approaching maths work. Since this is really achieved through repetition and rote learning, time spent on these at home is very valuable. We will continue to encourage the children to complete their times tables challenge books and have added in a new way to practice. The children will be given a log-in to Times Tables Rock Stars, a game that can be accessed on both computer and tablet. A separate letter will accompany this one to give details of how it will work.

If you do not wish for your child to complete any home learning on a device, we can offer written activities to complete. Please contact me if this is the case and I will make the arrangements.

If your child is inspired to do any additional work at home, either about subjects covered in school, or things that they have been inspired by outside, I would love to see it and would recognise this additional effort in the form of praise and merits.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Harris – Willow Class Teacher