



Reception Spring Term Newsletter

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year as your children begin their second term in the Reception class at The Willows. We have got a busy term planned and have already begun our part of The Willows Explore-Dream-Discover Curriculum of 'Traditional Tales' with 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', which the children are extremely enthusiastic about.

As you already know **Read Write Inc** is the structured phonics programme that we follow. As you can imagine, there is a very wide range of ability with some children being able to read simple words and sentences, while some children need to have letter sounds reinforced. This is absolutely normal as all children develop at different rates. In order that we can meet the needs of all of the children we will continue to group the children by ability. The website below will help you to support your child with phonics at home: <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents/>. This webpage includes 'Fred' games, to practice oral blending in a fun practical way. Handwriting phrases to help support correct letter formation. If you need any advice of how to support your child with phonics please speak to your child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

We use White Rose Maths as a basis for our maths curriculum. We ensure all activities are practical, fun and challenging, giving your children a deeper understanding and life-long knowledge. This term we will be looking at comparing, we will be comparing numbers within 5 in lots of different ways. We will be using lots of resources to support comparing, fingers, 5 frames, subitising patterns and Numicon to name a few. We will be paying close attention to the composition of numbers to 5. 'Numberblocks' are a great resource to help support your child with maths at home:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

We will also be comparing mass and capacity and exploring key vocabulary such as full, empty, heavy, narrow, shallow, light and thin to name but a few.

Over the coming weeks we will be looking at a number of **Traditional Tales** which will include, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'The Three Little Pigs', and 'The Gingerbread Man'. We will be using an approach called 'Talk for Writing' and a 'stem' activity to introduce these stories. This will involve listening to the stories, putting actions to the stories, acting them out and writing story maps which will then be used to either write stories or label pictures from the story. This will allow the children to become very familiar with the stories and support them in developing important language skills. There will be a variety of activities for the children to access that are linked to the stories and will encourage the use of a variety of number skills, creative and physical skills while also requiring them to explore and investigate in a range of ways. The children will be counting and writing numbers, working on their pencil control to produce correctly formed letters to make words, cutting, sticking and being creative. In our P.E lessons we will be using music and movement to explore a variety of themes including some of the traditional tales mentioned above.

- Reading books, reading diaries, letter sounds etc. need to remain in your child's book bags at all times. While we aim to read with our child on their allocated day, there may be times throughout the week when we would like your child to do some extra practice and it is really important that the books, sounds, etc. are available for us to use. Equally we may need to correspond with you about any reading practice we have done and therefore need to have the reading record available to use. Your child will make much more progress if we can regularly update words, sounds, etc. and if we can inform you about what your child needs to do next. Please remember library books are changed every Friday if the current book is returned. Unfortunately, we will need to charge £5 for lost or damaged books.
- Reminder- for children to achieve their weekly stamp they need to read 5x per week and the dairy needs to be signed.

- PE/WOW Workshop will continue to take place alternate weeks. We will let you know via Dojo if any changes occur. Please ensure **ALL** your child's uniform is clearly named, this helps us to ensure all belongings go home with their rightful owner.

Diary Dates:

- Willows Outdoor Workshop will take place on the alternate Friday with PE.
- School opens for children Tuesday 3rd January 2023.
- Half -term holidays begins on 20th February 2023
- Bikeability 27th February 2023- 3rd March 2023.
- World Book Day – 2nd March 2023

Thank you for all of your support during the last term and we look forward to your continued support in the coming term.

If you would like to speak to any of the Reception team regarding concerns or worries that you may have please do not hesitate to do so. We are available each morning or afternoon at the beginning and end of the school day or you can make an appointment for longer discussions. Alternative you can always contact us by dojo or email, a reminder of which are listed below:

Alison Flanagan – aflanagan@willowsprimary.com

Melissa Isaacs – misaacs@willowsprimary.com

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