



Reception Autumn Term Newsletter

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big hello to you all. We have really enjoyed getting to know your lovely children a little better this week and we hope that they have enjoyed their very first week in Reception. Thank you for the fantastic 'When I grow up' photos, pictures and drawings that you have been working hard on over the summer, they look amazing and the children are really enthusiastic about sharing them with us.

Writing

Once we have completed all of our assessments on the children over the next few weeks we will begin to teach writing through our Read Write Inc programme. The children will be introduced to the letter sounds and taught how to write them using a pre-cursive script as explained in the Meet the Teacher meetings. Children will be practising their name writing skills regularly and again these will need to be written pre-cursively. Some children may be able to write their name already but it is important for them to write it using the correct letter formation with a capital letter for the beginning of their name.

Maths

During our Maths sessions we will be learning a number of concepts in a practical and fun way. We will be making repeating patterns using colour and shapes e.g. red/blue/red/blue encouraging the children to decide what comes next. These may be simple or complex using more combinations depending upon your child. We will also be naming shapes and describing some of their properties. We will be finding one more and one less using objects and from a given number. The children will be exploring size, weight and capacity in a variety of ways and finding out about ordinal numbers.

Over the coming weeks our topic will be 'This is me'. We will be using the story of 'Elmer', to discuss and celebrate everyone's unique characters, personalities and physical attributes. Elmer day will be on Thursday 22nd October and the children will be asked to come into school wearing colourful clothes. We will use the story of 'Funnybones' and a variety of songs and games to introduce children to the way in which their bodies work. After half term our topic will be 'Celebrations' and we will be exploring Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas. We will alternate P.E and W.O.W Workshops on a Friday. In our Friday P.E lessons we will be delivering gymnastics where the children will be asked to travel in different ways, make shapes, balance and roll. In our W.O.W Workshop we will be looking at changes in the environment and also learning different types of knots. You will be invited to a number of coffee mornings which will focus on different aspects of our Early Years curriculum.

- **Brain builders** - homework will be sent home every other Wednesday starting on 23rd September and will need to be returned on Monday 5th October for the first piece. Please ensure that homework books are returned in the plastic homework bags provided. These should not be used for reading diaries or books as they will need to be looked at more regularly. Please support your child in doing their homework independently – we love to see their efforts even if it's not perfect.
- **Proud Clouds** -We would also like to give you the opportunity to tell us about your child's 'wow' moments and significant achievements e.g. they sing a particular nursery rhyme from beginning to end, they count to 5, 10 or even more. We want to know about the things your child does that stand out and make you want to say 'wow, they've not done that before'. The proud clouds are for you to use to record these achievements on and to send back into school whenever you've got something to tell. We will share them with the rest of the class and then put them on display. Your child will also get a stamp on their chart for their achievements. When you need more proud clouds let us know and we will provide you with them.
- **Fitzy Fox** – Fitzy will come home with two sporting stars each week. He will be sent home on a Friday and we ask that he is returned on a Monday so that he can be washed ready for the next children. We love to hear what you have been up to with Fitzy so please email your class teacher with some information and photos.

Reminder – Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child’s name.

All children will need a labelled water bottle and snack, which they will bring into school everyday.

We also ask that you send a spare set of clothes that can be kept in a bag on their peg in case of any accidents. These do not need to be school uniform but should include underwear and socks.

COVID-19 Updates and Information – Please see school website www.willowsprimary.com

Dates for your Diary

Elmer dress up day (Wear bright coloured clothes) – 22nd October 2020

Diwali week – 16th November 2020

Remembrance Week – 9th November 2020

A big well done to everyone for a fabulous first week and we look forward to getting to know you all a little better over the coming weeks.

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. Alternatively you can always contact us by email, reminders of which are listed below:

Alison Flanagan (EYFS Leader) – aflanagan@willowsprimary.com

Jessica Tellwright – jtellwright1@willowsprimary.com

Sheila Cash – scash1@willowsprimary.com

Kate Manning – kmanning@willowsprimary.com