

Willow News Autumn 2018

Welcome to Willow Class, I hope that you have all had a restful and fun summer break

Over the next couple of weeks we will be introducing the children to Accelerated Reader following successful completion of the entry assessment. They will then be allocated a book matched to their reading level. I will send a separate letter to explain how this system works and what is expected of the children. It is still vitally important that you listen to your child read daily and discuss the content with them to support the reading skills of inference, decoding of unfamiliar words, the understanding of what's happening in a story and how it might progress. Please record any comments in their record book and date and sign it to confirm they have read.

Homework

Homework will be set for the term with 'due in dates'. There will be the expectation to complete at least **three** pieces each half term. The pieces will be discussed in class when the children present their work to their peers, feedback will be verbal and instantaneous. Please encourage your child to employ the same strategies taught in class to complete their task and to use neat legible writing in blue or black ink, or pencil. In addition to the piece of homework sent home the children need to continue to learn their times tables via Doodle and complete the set activities that relate to the skills covered in our lessons.

Curriculum

PE will be on a Monday and Thursday afternoon this half of term, it will change to a Wednesday afternoon in the second half of term. The children will continue to have a music lesson with Mrs Moore and will also take part in Sing Up with an external teacher; a concert will be held later in the academic year that the children will take part in alongside other local schools.

In English we will continue to use Big Write as a means to allow the children to use their creativity and the VCOP (vocabulary, comprehension, openers and punctuation) elements they have learnt in a longer piece of writing. We will look at elements of non-fiction, chronological reports, instructions and familiar stories, and where possible, we will link these written skills with the topics we cover to allow the children to write in these different genres. They will continue to learn the spelling of the common exception words relevant for years 3 and 4 through the Tracks system of look, say, cover, write, check. As in Elm Class the words they learn to spell are specific to each child and this will take the place of a formal spelling test. Tracks is a paired Morning Activity with children reading the words to a partner and checking the spelling is correct before moving to the next word.

There is an emphasis on problem solving and reasoning in maths; each unit has a range of problem-solving questions that draw upon the elements and strategies taught. It is an excellent opportunity for children to demonstrate their understanding on how to use the new skills and strategies they have learnt. Children will be encouraged to find all the solutions to a problem and to offer an explanation for their answers to reinforce their understanding.

In Science we will focus on light and electricity. The children will look at sources of light and electricity and how a circuit is constructed. To make their learning more relevant they will design and make a torch with a switch to turn it off and on. Please could you save Pringle crisp style tubes, I will confirm when they are needed to be brought into school.

A study of the locality and Europe forms the basis of our Geographical enquiry and this links to the work we will do in History on World War II. We will be undertaking some fieldwork and walking around the village as part of the local study work looking at land use and local materials used in the construction of buildings. We will also cook some biscuits using the ration portions allowed for a family and the substitute ingredients used to make foods consumed during the period.

In RE we will look at the deeper meanings to religions of the festivals they celebrate; in particular our focus will be on the Muslim faith. Our SEAL topics are New Beginnings, and Getting On and Falling Out; the children will investigate ways to be more proactive and how to have harmonious friendships with each other. We will also look at Growth Mindset and how the children can apply these principles to their learning styles

In ICT the children will think about E-safety and how to protect themselves online, they will also look at communication, presentation and data analysis.

We will look at the work of LS Lowry and create a picture using his style and techniques in our art lessons using watercolour and building up layers of the picture.

Communication

As always please catch me at the end of the day if there's anything you need to discuss, alternatively you can email me on my class email: ajenkins-wood@aspleyquiselower.co.uk, I will endeavour to respond to you as soon as I am able.

This term promises to be an interesting one finishing with the Christmas production, lots of things to fit in! If you have any talents or interests in the areas we are studying and would like to share them with us please let me know. Please also let me know if you would like to continue to hear children read, or, would like to start.

Thank you in advance for your support and interest in your child's learning, I look forward to working with you.

Alison Jenkins-Wood