

Note from the Willow Team

What an amazing start to the year! We were so grateful to have a visit from Santiago from Paraguay, linked to our Geography. Thank you so much to those involved with that, the children loved meeting the foreign exchange student and asking their questions. We also had a visit from Ian at LEGO Stem, where we had a fantastic day constructing and programming mechanised pieces of LEGO, using his amazing Bluetooth and motion sensor technology. The Macmillan Coffee morning was a personal highlight for me as it was great to meet some of you and have a chat. The children were so confident and committed to raising as much money as possible. Thank you to those who baked and provided raffle prizes, it was greatly appreciated.

The wellbeing of your children continues to be at the top of our agenda; if you have any questions or concerns related to your child, please don't hesitate to email or ring the school office and either Mrs Crapper, Mrs Bell or Mrs Hamilton will contact you as soon as we are able to.

*We are looking forwards to working in partnership with you this school year,
Mrs Crapper, Mrs Bell and Mrs Hamilton (Team Willow)*

Important Information

Day	Who's in class	Extra info
Monday	Mrs Crapper (all day) Mrs Bell (morning)	New spellings introduced in class New text introduced in whole class reading and sent home today Active 15
Tuesday	Mrs Crapper (all day) Mrs Bell (all day)	Active 15
Wednesday	Mrs Crapper (all day) Mrs Bell (morning)	Active 15 Dance with Mrs Crapper and Mack
Thursday	Mrs Crapper (all day)	Learning logs checked for reading practice at home Active 15
Friday	Mrs Hamilton (all day) Mrs Bell (morning)	Dance with Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Bell Active 15

Dates for your diary

- Monday 6th November – After school clubs start
- Tuesday 7th November Y5 and Y6 Internet Safety Session in school (South Yorkshire Police)
- Monday 13th November – Odd Socks Day
- Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th November – Parents' Evening

Key things to practise daily/weekly at home

Spellings

Spelling - There is an expectation for children to be practicing the spellings from their learning logs at home. We have decided to focus this more specifically and would like your child to work on the following 20/21 spellings this half term. This is unless your child is working from another spelling list (approx. 3 per week), ready for a half termly assessment:

Year 4 spellings

accident	actual	address	answer	arrive
accidentally	actually	although	appear	believe
bicycle	breath	breathe	build	busy
business	calendar	caught	centre	century

Year 5 spellings

accommodate	category	determined	foreign	lightning
profession	sincerely	accompany	cemetery	develop
forty	marvellous	programme	soldier	according
committee	dictionary	frequently	mischievous	pronunciation

stomach				
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Reading

Daily (or every other day) practise of reading from the whole class read text or reading for pleasure book and recording in their learning logs will also really help as reading is the absolute key to understanding all other areas of the curriculum. Please note that reading for pleasure books can be swapped on any day of the week.

All children will have their whole class read text (this will change weekly and be sent home on a Monday, studied in class throughout the week) as well as a book they will read for pleasure and if you could aim to read daily or at least 4 times a week before logging this (and any other reading) in their learning log, we can then see and support your child from there. We are encouraging the children to read widely and to talk about what they have read at home, at school and to focus on expression, fluency and then demonstrate the ability to discuss the text, talk about the vocabulary and their understanding. Online books are on Active Learn and new ones can be added - we check them regularly and update them; if your child needs more, please let us know.

Online Learning Platforms

Times Tables Rockstars, Active Learn and Bedrock Vocabulary are the 3 online platforms that we use in class and there is an expectation that your child can access these at home too independently. There will be 2 sessions a week in school of Bedrock Vocabulary and 1 session (approx. 20mins) for homework. Usernames and passwords are at the front of the learning logs. Please see us if there are any problems.

Website	Resources
www.activelearnprimary.co.uk	A variety of eBooks allocated to your child individually.
https://portal.bedrocklearning.org/	Vocabulary lessons.
https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/60522	Times Tables practice.

What we will be learning this term

<p>Focused text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kensuke's Kingdom • Poetry <p>English genres- Discussion, narrative and poetry</p>	<p>Maths concepts covered- A focus on addition and subtraction, multiplication and division alongside arithmetic fluency.</p> <p>Time tables to practise- Your child needs to have instant recall of all facts up to 12 x 12. They should respond to any times tables question such as 8 x 7 as quickly as they can respond to the question 'What's your name?' It would be beneficial for you continue to recap the 6s and 8s this half term.</p>
<p>Other Curricular areas: In PE this half term we will be focussing on dance and creating something towards our Christmas production, Shrek the musical. In Science, we will study living things and their habitats alongside continuing to look closely our class tree, the willow tree. In History, learning will centre on the Anglo Saxons and Vikings. Within Art, we will continue to explore drawing and add colour using watercolour. We will continue to learn to play the glockenspiel in Music and, within Geography, we will explore Europe as we link this with our Viking invasions. Computing will continue to focus on programming using a variety of different programs. RE will explore what happens to most Christians and Humanists and PHSE will explore the theme 'Celebrating difference'. In Spanish, we will be embedding colours, numbers, greetings and key phrases into oral composition then writing.</p>	
<p>Showcasing our learning this half term This half term will also see Willow work hard to produce a piece for the Christmas production. We hope that you will all be there to see the children shine in their chosen roles. If you would like any support with an outfit or costume please don't hesitate to contact myself.</p>	

Expectations of you and your child

- **Importance of school-** Ensure your child recognises the importance of coming to school ready to listen and learn.
- **Behaviours-** Demonstrate the behaviours you would expect from your child in school, being mindful and respectful to others.

- **Independence-** We place great emphasis on children developing a growing sense of pride and organising themselves well in preparation for high school independence. It would be most beneficial for you to encourage your child to be organised and prepared for their day in school and help facilitate them becoming more confident and self-reliant.
- **Growth Mindset-** We actively encourage a positive mind-set in everything that your child participates in (even if it is a skill or subject that they don't particularly feel that confident with yet). The key word is yet!

Ways to Help your Child

- **Reading** - To read daily or as often as possible and record in the learning log. If you are able to listen to your child read regularly at home, this will aid their inference and comprehension skills as you can focus on asking questions about the events/information, characters and language of the story/text. Please help to promote your child's love of reading by encouraging them to read often, widely and by reading other books written by authors that they have previously enjoyed. Access our online vocabulary program - Bedrock Vocabulary - at least once per week. Visit Active Learn for additional books- see the front page of the learning log for logins. If you require more books, please see one of the Year 6 team - we will refresh and add books regularly.
- **Times tables** - Focus on repetition and also quick recall in any order. Access Times Tables Rockstars and encourage your child to be fluent in their response to all questions up to 12 x 12.
- **Spelling** - Encourage your child to practice their year group's statutory words and zero tolerance words within their learning log as we will be checking these in your child's writing as the year goes on, as well as allowing for class time to teach and practice these too.
- **Writing-** This half term the children have loved the 500 words competition, put together each year by the BBC. They have worked so hard to produce stories of 500 words which include a great storyline, characters and vocabulary to entertain the judges. We are in the process of submitting these before the 10th of November. These stories have been printed and are available to the children in class. I, of course, will be keeping my eye out for the next writing competition but in the meantime if you could encourage your child to write creatively at home this would be fantastic. We love to read their pieces, display them and send them for special praise to Mrs Littlewood.