

## Note from the Willow Team

What a busy Spring term we have had so far! We have seen the return of Mrs Perkins this half term and all of the children have shown great resilience in facing this staffing change. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Magna and have loved carrying out their follow-up work in class. We have seen a huge improvement in the half termly spellings; thank you for any work you are doing at home. We hope to see Willow succeed in the first week back after Easter. We had some fantastic entries into the writing competition which the children should all be proud of – we even had winning entries! The children have thoroughly enjoyed starting both rugby and football alongside each other this half term. We are really encouraging sportsmanship through the use of good communication and positive language during these sessions.

### Year 4:

As part of our PSHE lessons during the summer term, the children will be working through the 'Changing Me' unit. The children will find out about internal and external reproductive body parts, body changes in girls and menstruation. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from lesson 2 'Having a baby,' if they wish. A letter explaining how to do this will be sent home at the start of the summer term.

### Year 5:

As part of our PSHE lessons during the summer term, the children will be working through the 'Changing Me' unit. The children will learn about puberty for boys and girls and conception. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from lesson 4: 'Conception' should they wish. A letter explaining how to do this will be sent home at the start of the summer term.

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 continuing to work in partnership with you this school year,  
Mrs Perkins, Mrs Crapper and Mrs Bell (Team Willow)*

## Important Information

Day	Who's in class	Extra info
Monday	Mrs Perkins (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 Perkins (all day) Mrs Bell (morning)	Active 15
Wednesday	Mrs Perkins (all day) Mrs Bell (morning)	Active 15 Football with Mrs Perkins and Mack
Thursday	Mrs Crapper (all day)	Learning logs checked for reading practice at home Active 15
Friday	Mrs Crapper (all day) Mrs Bell (morning)	Rugby with Mrs Crapper and Mrs Bell Active 15

## 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

favourite	February	forward	forwards	fruit
grammar	group	guard	guide	heard
heart	height	history	imagine	Important
increase	interest	island	knowledge	learn

### Year 5 spellings

attached	convenience	especially	immediately	opportunity
rhythm	twelfth	available	correspond	exaggerate
individual	parliament	sacrifice	variety	average
criticise	excellent	interfere	persuade	secretary
vegetable				

### 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
<a href="http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk">www.activelearnprimary.co.uk</a>	A variety of eBooks allocated to your child individually.
<a href="https://portal.bedrocklearning.org/">https://portal.bedrocklearning.org/</a>	Vocabulary lessons.
<a href="https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/60522">https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/60522</a>	Times Tables practice.

### What we will be learning this term

<b>Focused text:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oranges In No Man's Land</li></ul> <b>English genres-</b> Narrative, explanation, non-chronological report and poetry	<b>Maths concepts covered-</b> A continued focus on fractions, statistics, shape, decimals and percentages alongside arithmetic fluency. <b>Time tables to practise-</b> 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 7s and 12s this half term.
<b>Other Curricular areas:</b> In PE this half term we will be working on Football and Rugby alongside each other through sport education where the children will work across the half term in teams. In Science, we will study electricity and continuing to look closely at the changes to our class tree, the willow tree. In History, learning will centre on the Tudors. Within Art, we will begin to explore paint where we will continue to look at the works of Marianne North and will begin to create pieces towards the 'Picture This' exhibition. We will be using different software to put a piece of music together thinking about the key components to achieve this. Within Geography, we will explore trade around the	

world and with a focus on deforestation in Argentina. Computing will continue to focus on programming and begin to look at repetition in games. RE will look closely at how Christians use the Bible and PHSE will explore the theme 'Relationships' and 'Changing me'. In Spanish, we will be moving on to looking at vocabulary and phrases linked to my routine and the free time.

### **Showcasing our learning this half term**

We will be holding an open classroom this half term and we will let you know a date when this is confirmed.

### **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 were introduced to 'Writing for Pleasure books' where they can produce any writing they wish with no restrictions, just be creative! We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children produce such fantastic pieces which they are so passionate about. We hope to see this continue into the New Year. If they write anything at home they would like to share please don't hesitate to send these in as we would love to celebrate their