

Note from the Willow Team

What a great start to the Spring term! We have loved seeing the children come back after Christmas with so many stories to tell of such lovely memories. We have been reminding the children about half termly spellings and they have risen to the challenge by learning them in lots of different ways at home. Thank you for supporting your child with this. We have noticed a great improvement in spelling and hope to see them succeed in the next test in the first week back. We are looking forward to our trip to Magna this half term which links to our Geography, the water cycle and biomes, and Science, solids, liquids and gases.

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 11th March – Trip to Magna

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

certain	circle	complete	consider	continue
decide	describe	different	difficult	Disappear
early	earth	eight	eighth	Enough
exercise	experience	experiment	extreme	famous

Year 5 spellings

ancient	apparent	appreciate	conscious	Conscience
controversy	equip	equipped	equipment	Hindrance
identity	immediate	nuisance	occupy	occur
relevant	restaurant	rhyme	system	Temperature
thorough				

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

Focused text: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tom's Midnight GardenPoetry English genres- Discussion, Non Chronological report, narrative and poetry	Maths concepts covered- A focus on fractions, area and perimeter, decimals and percentages alongside arithmetic fluency. 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.
Other Curricular areas: In PE this half term we will be continuing to focus on the sport, hockey, through Sport Education then move onto Rugby. In Science, we will study states of matter, properties and changes of materials alongside continuing to look closely our class tree, the willow tree. In History, learning will centre on Bronze age and the Iron age. Within Art, we will begin to explore paint where we will look at the works of Marianne North and will begin to create pieces towards the 'Picture This' exhibition. We will be using different instruments this half term to enable us to work to produce a piece of music together. Within Geography, we will explore the water cycle and aquatic biomes, with particular focus on freshwater biomes. Computing will continue to focus on programming and begin to look at repetition in games. RE will continue to explore worship and communities, Hindu and Christian and PHSE will explore the theme 'Dreams and goals' and 'healthy Me'. In Spanish, we will be moving on to looking at vocabulary and phrases linked to shopping and the wider world.	
Showcasing our learning this half term	

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