



Willows Termly Newsletter

Spring 1 - 2024

Starts Tuesday 15.04.2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely and relaxed Easter break and that all children are ready to restart their hard work.

Our Termly Project

This half term we will be following children's interest in outdoor learning, bugs, and creepy crawlies to encourage them to investigate and ask questions about minibeasts and their habitats.

We will build on previous knowledge of 'growing and changing' by observing and investigating the life cycle of a butterfly and exploring what minibeasts, such as snails and worms, need to survive. Pupils will compare the features of minibeasts and learn the names of their body parts.

Literacy

This term we will see the children's progress with their sound knowledge in their writing. They will use their sound knowledge to draw and label bugs, write shopping lists and describe their chosen bugs to create a fact card. By the end of this term, we expect most of our Willows to get closer to their end of year target and your help is very important.

End of year target

- Read and write the taught letter sounds and letter groups. For example -sh, (as in shop) ng (as in sing), ay (as in play).
- Form lower-case and capital letters correctly.
- Write short sentences with words with known letter-sound correspondences using a capital letter to start and full stop at the end.
- Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense!
- During discussions and small group interactions children are able to make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.

Phonics

As usual, our Willows will continue their daily phonics lessons, accelerating their path to become fluent readers.

Book bags

As you know, most children are starting to read and write, and we all must celebrate this success. We appreciate and acknowledge the crucial role you, parent/carer, play to make this journey so successful, and we want to thank you for your dedication.

It is now our duty to continue to help the children both in school and at home to ensure they continue to achieve. Remember, *the ability to read is vital, it helps children to build their self-confidence and motivates them to set high expectations for life.*

We aim to change Book Bags once a week. This can happen on any day of the week, for this reason book bags need to be brought into school every day. We hope you can share the book with your child, explore unknown vocabulary and record this experience, including children's comments/progress, in their yellow reading record.



Maths

In our maths sessions, we'll predict and count ladybird spots and compare the lengths of caterpillars made from cubes, counters and beads and have lots of fun doubling and halving the counters on the butterflies! Children will start their work with numbers beyond 10 and consolidate their knowledge and understanding of numbers within 10.

End of year target:

- Recognise an arrangement of up to 6 objects without counting, and use this knowledge to recognise up to 10 spots on a dice without counting. (board games are very useful for this)
- Automatically recall two numbers that make 5 and two numbers that make 10. (e.g. 6 needs how many more to make 10?)
- Tell and understand 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers.

Our topic - Understanding of the World

With this topic we want to encourage children to investigate and ask questions about minibeasts and their habitats. To facilitate this, we will start by carrying out a minibeast safari. Magnifying glasses clutched firmly in hands, we'll look under logs, leaves and stones for creatures that wriggle, creep, crawl or fly. We'll find out about minibeast habitats, features and colours. To get to know these creepy crawlies better, we'll make and monitor minibeast hotel and a butterfly garden. Children will particularly explore the cycle of the butterfly by having their own caterpillar to look after! Shh... it is a surprise!

Children will also be introduced to observational drawings ensuring that it is as life-like as possible. They will be taught to look at what shapes and lines there are, and how they connect with each other.

Reminders

Homework

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and collected the following Wednesday.

It is also very important that we keep all our Willow children reading. So please, **read** to your child at least once a day **and listen to them read their short book**. Let's share the pride of the progress they are making with their reading.



Dojo and Website

Our aim is to keep in continuous communication with you. To facilitate this, we encourage you to keep your Dojo connected and check the updates regularly. Additionally, we invite you to check our website where you can find more information.



Welly Wednesday



Forest school session will be on Wednesday as normal.

Important: Children are finding it difficult to sit on the carpet wearing wellies, so please bring their named wellington boots in a bag.

Physical Education (PE)

Our PE lessons will continue to be on **Mondays**.

Children should come to school wearing PE clothes. This means navy blue or black tracksuit /jogging bottoms, white t-shirt and school jumper. No other colour should be worn with school uniform.



Ten top tips for reading stories to your child

- 1 Make reading to your child feel like a treat. Introduce each new book with excitement.
- 2 Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so both of you can see the book.
- 3 Show curiosity in what you're going to read:
Oh no! I think Arthur is going to get even angrier now.
- 4 Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much. If you think your child might not understand something, model an explanation:
Oh I think what's happening here is that...
- 5 Chat about the story:
I wonder why he did that?
Oh no, I hope she's not going to...
I wouldn't have done that, would you?
- 6 Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- 7 Link stories to your own experiences (e.g. *This reminds me of...*)
- 8 Read favourite stories over and over again. Get your child to join in with the bits they know.
- 9 Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your child will love it.
- 10 Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.

