



Little Willows Termly Newsletter

Spring 1 - 2023

Starts Tuesday 3.01.2023 - Ends 10.02.2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school. We hope you all managed to have an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas season. We wish you a very happy 2023 and we hope this year brings us all a brighter future.

Our Termly Project

How do you travel to school? What places would you like to visit? How would you like to travel there? Explore these questions and more in this project about transport and travel. This term's topic will teach Year 1 children about the development of travel and transport throughout history and will encourage our little Reception children to explore different types of transport and think about how things move.

Literacy

In Literacy, children will be reading different texts and stories that will stimulate their imagination and that will help them to expand the vocabulary while linking these to our termly project. For example, children will be reading *Duck in the Truck* by Jez Alborough; *The Hundred Decker Bus* by Mike Smith amongst others.

As usual, all our Willows will continue to have their daily phonics lessons to speed up their journey to be fluent readers.

Arts and Design/ Design and Technology

Children will use their science and topic knowledge to design and build a mode of transport which has wheels.

Year 1 children will also have weekly Computing sessions. In this term's unit, *Rocket to the Moon*, children will use a computer to make a list, explain the benefits of making a list on the computer and use a basic range of tools to design a rocket.

Science - Understanding the World

We will be exploring different materials and sorting them into groups. Children will learn to distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made and learn to identify and name a variety of everyday materials. Our Reception children will learn about floating and sinking by building miniature boats, and find out about friction by rolling cars down ramps.

Maths

Reception children will continue to develop the skills of counting and recognising number 6 to 10, as well as exploring shapes.

Year 1 children will extend their knowledge of numbers within 10 by counting to 20 and exploring teen numbers in depth.

Reminders

Homework

The class have made a fabulous start to weekly homework, which will continue to be set on a Friday and collected the following Wednesday. It is also very important that we keep our Willow children reading. So please, **read** to your child at least once a day and if they are ready, listen to them **read**. Let's share the pride of the progress they are making with their reading.

Book bags

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. Please **DO NOT** ask the Little Willows/Reception children to read the words in it **yet**. Once they are ready, we will send a separate book for this.

Welly Wednesday

Our Welly Wednesday lessons will restart **on 18th January**.

Also to remind you that children are finding it difficult to sit on the carpet wearing wellies, so please bring their named wellington boots in a bag.

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.

Physical Education (PE)

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

Important dates



Wed 4th January - Return to school

Wed 11th January - YR-Little Willows trip to theatre

Wed 18th January - Welly Wednesday sessions restart

Friday 27th January - 1.00pm Stay and Play session for YR parents (Just Little Willows-YR)

Tues 7th February - Safer Internet Day

Fri 10th February - Break for Half Term

Working in partnership with parents/carers

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between staff and parents and/or carers. For this, we would like to invite you again to join us for a Welly Wednesday session on Wednesday afternoons or on a Friday morning for a cooking activity. Just let us know the day that suits you best.

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.

