

West Malling C. E. Primary School
Willow Class
Curriculum Newsletter: Autumn Term 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a fantastic summer break and enjoyed the wonderful weather, despite the strange situation we are in! This newsletter details the exciting learning happening in Willow class for term 1.

ENGLISH Our focus text this term will be The Journey by Francesca Sanna. This draws on the experiences she has heard about from recent refugees from many countries. The apparent simplicity of the text, combined with the memorable illustrations, have great power to move readers of all ages. Writing We shall use the text to write in a variety of styles and genres, identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing. There will be a strong emphasis on drafting writing by selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, then evaluating and editing to enhance effects and clarify meaning. Reading There is a focus on reading throughout the curriculum. However, we shall have a daily guided reading session where the primary focus will be in developing our skills as readers, be that in our use of phonics, reading fluency or comprehension. Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar (SPaG) There will be a weekly grammar / punctuation focus, together with spellings. The particular spelling pattern will be worked on in class during the week and also form the basis of the weekly spellings homework.	MATHEMATICS Term one will see a focus on: ★ Place value - initially within 100,000 and then within 1,000,000 ★ Addition & subtraction Work in maths will aim to develop the children's fluency dealing with numerical concepts, at the same time as applying these to solve different styles of problems.	SCIENCE Our focus this term is animals including humans. We will be learning to describe the changes as humans develop from birth to old age. The main stages that will be covered are: baby, toddler, child, adolescent (puberty), adult and old age.
	HISTORY In history we shall be learning about Ancient Rome. This will begin by looking at the foundation of Rome, its religion, myths and legends, then its politics and government. Following this broad introduction we shall spend some time considering how the Romans used to live - their houses, art and language, and of course, the fascinating story of the destruction of Pompeii.	MUSIC Mrs Cripps will be teaching music on a Friday morning where the class will continue their learning of the ukulele that was interrupted last year! R.E. Our RE theme for the term is: God – What does it mean if God is Holy and loving? We will be looking at different biblical texts, using theological terms accurately and making connections between Bible texts and what Christians believe about God. P.E. Our PE day this term will be a Thursday when Mrs Excell will be teaching tennis. Please remember that PE kits are NOT to be brought into school and left in the cloakroom. Instead, the children are expected to wear their PE kit to school on Thursdays, thereby removing the need for changing.

Useful Reminders

Your teachers!

Mr Rye will be teaching Willow class on a Monday and Tuesday. The mornings will have a mainly English flavour, with history and RE filling the afternoons.

Mrs Excell will teach Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She will teach maths in the mornings, together with some SPaG and cover all the remaining subjects in the afternoons!

Mrs McConnel is the teaching assistant in Willow and will be in class the whole week.

Contacting us

While working remotely last term parents and staff found the class page of the school website and the class email effective methods of communication. This will therefore continue this term. We shall update the class page on the website with all key information on a regular basis so do please keep an eye out.

Should you wish to contact us please email us at willowteacher@west-malling.kent.sch.uk Mr Rye, Mrs Excell and Mrs McConnel all have access to this email account so rest assured your email will be seen. With the blue contact books not being used this year, this email is the most effective way to get in contact with us. If a matter is urgent, such as a change in the adult collecting your child on a particular day, then please phone this information through to the school office to ensure we are aware.

A positive start to the day

Clearly the last few months have been both unexpected and tough on us all. It is therefore wonderful to be able to welcome all the children back into school. In order for this to be a success, and to ensure everyone's safety, please adhere to all the guidance that has been previously published. Key points are:

- Please ensure you arrive at school at the correct time, at both ends of the school day.
- If your child is at all unwell then they should NOT come to school and the office should be telephoned.
- If anyone at home displays any COVID-19 symptoms, then everyone within the household should begin 14 days of household isolation until a negative test result is received.
- We are attempting to minimise the number of items moving between home and school. The only items that should be brought into school are coats, reading books, lunch boxes, water bottles and homework. School bags should be avoided if at all possible.

P.E.

Our PE day is a Thursday. On this day the children are expected to wear PE kit to school for the day to prevent the need for changing. All PE will take place outside. Correct PE kit should be a plain white t-shirt, dark-coloured shorts or jogging bottoms, a school jumper and trainers or plimsoles.

Homework

Each week, the children will be expected to complete the following:

Reading - Children should try to read each day. Reading regularly is proven to be the best way to make good progress in all subjects through exposing children to a rich variety of language structures and developing their vocabulary.

Maths – Mathletics is available for the children to practise their maths skills. Sometimes specific tasks will be set on Mathletics which the children will have to complete before they will be able to access other areas.

Home Learning – This term, Year 5 home learning will be related to our science focus. One activity will be set each week, to be completed and returned weekly on a Wednesday.

Spellings - Year 5 will also have weekly spellings homework. Spellings will be handed out on a Monday. Children should complete the spelling grids and put some of their spelling words into sentences, handing these in before the end of the week. Each Friday the children will undertake a spelling test on the words they have been set.

We're all looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Mr Rye, Mrs Excell and Mrs McConnel