



# Willow Class

## Spring 2018



Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed the Christmas break and were able to find time for some rest! Now that the Spring term is well underway we would like to share some important information about our current learning.



### Morning Routines...

Our classroom is open from 8.45am. We encourage you to come in with your child to settle them if needed. Children then complete a 'Marvellous Maths' or a 'Super Sentence' activity. We encourage children to change their reading books at this time also.

### English

We will be focusing on a range of texts including, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. We will begin the term with a Non-Fiction Unit of Work based on the text *The Ugly Five* by Julia Donaldson. Our focus is on sentence composition, capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops. We use the sentence tool kit to screw in our punctuation!



### Handwriting

We will continue to teach handwriting daily to develop beautiful handwriting! Please encourage your child to practice at home. You can access handwriting practice sheets on the Willow Class web page on e-schools.

### Maths



In maths this term, as well as consolidating number facts to 10 and 20 we will be learning to read an analogue clock and use language relating to dates such as the days of the week and months of the year. We will also be measuring time in hours, minutes and seconds and using related vocabulary such as quicker, slower, earlier and later.

We will also continue our daily work on number formation and counting up to 100. Part of the Year One curriculum is to be able to write numbers up to 20 in numerals and words. You can help at home with this by printing the practice sheet on our web page. There is also a number formation sheet to have a go at too! To make counting more fun, you can watch the videos and sing along! Don't forget to count backwards too!

### Awards



We will continue to have a Star of the Week. Certificates are awarded in Friday's Prayer and Praise. Parents, families and friends are welcome to attend this each week at 9.15am. If your child would like to share any achievements from outside school please let us know.



### Break time Snacks



To encourage healthy eating, children in Key Stage 1 are provided with fruit at morning break times.

## Phonics

In Year One we have a daily phonics session following the Read Write Inc programme. Children are taught in small groups to develop the skills of reading. Each group of children are taught by a trained RWInc practitioner. Children's progress is closely monitored to ensure progression. For more information on the Read Write Inc programme please visit <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

## Spring Learning in Year 1.

### Our Whole School Topic this term is 'Not in my Backyard!'

We will be learning about our locality and comparing it to a non-European place. As a school we will be learning about our own town of Newton Abbot and a town called Kiambu in Kenya, Africa. We will learn about different foods, music, buildings and customs. We will also visit Paignton Zoo as part of our learning this term. We look forward to presenting our term's learning to you all at the end of the Spring Term in a special assembly. We also have Mr Smith working with Willow Class this term - he is studying to be a teacher and is gaining experience in our class.

In RE we are exploring Feasts of Christmas including the Epiphany. Our main focus for RE this term will be Revelation. We will talk about what love is and explore parables such as 'The Good Samaritan'.

Our topic in PSHE this term is all about caring for myself. We will learn about keeping safe and staying healthy. Alongside this we will continue to look at friendships, learning values, personal goals, targets and anti-bullying.

We will continue to take part in daily physical activity including 'Wake & Shake' and 'Leap in to Life'. The focus in PE is Multi Skills and Dance.

## Better my Best!

We love to celebrate each child's success however big or small. This term we are introducing 'Better my Best' as a way of children recognising the progress they are making and developing their growth mind-set. This will be done in weekly spelling and maths challenges initially.

## General Reminders...

- Please can all school uniform be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Please can your child have their PE kit in school every day.
- We encourage children to drink water throughout the day. Please provide a clearly named water bottle.
- Please can you discourage your child from bringing toys to school.

We are looking forward to another exciting term with Willow Class. If you have any concerns or queries please come and talk to one of us.

Many Thanks

Mrs Mariadas and Mrs Stephens