



9th September 2025

Welcome to Willow Class Letter!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to thank both yourselves and your wonderful children for making the first days in school successful. It has been an absolute joy to return from the holidays to such a wonderful class who are eager to get started. The children have settled quickly and are already working more independently as well as thinking about how they can be role models within the school. If you have any questions or concerns, then please let me or any of the school team know. We will always endeavor to help in whichever way we can. We are extremely proud of all the children in Willow class and the way they returned to school and settled into Year 1/2.

Willow Class Expectations

We have spent our first few days talking about the rules that the children would like to have in our class to ensure that everyone can learn in a happy and safe way. We linked this to our Super Six Values, and we now have a set of reminders/rules which we have all signed to show our agreement. It was lovely to discuss with the children how they would like to show our focused behaviours and asking themselves 'Am I being ready, respectful and safe?'.

Online Safety

We have been discussing the importance of keeping ourselves and each other safe online and have selected our class Online Safety Leads which the children enjoyed voting on. We have taken the time to remind the children about how to keep safe when online and what to do if they are worried about something they read or see.

Our class learning

This term, we are excited to embark on our new History-focused unit – Events beyond living memory. During this topic we will use the story of the Great Fire of London, pupils will develop their understanding of significant events beyond living memory and how these have shaped modern Britain. Using stories, contemporary accounts, images, and artefacts, children will begin to build a sense of the past and how it differs from the present. They are encouraged to use historical vocabulary such as past, present, and future, and to make simple but meaningful comparisons between life in 1666 and life today, for example in housing, firefighting, and everyday living. This supports their early chronological awareness and helps them understand how events can bring about change.

Throughout this term we will also be learning about London and the United Kingdom. The children will learn about the countries and capital cities of the UK and the UK's location within the world. They will explore human and physical landmarks and physical features of the UK before conducting a more detailed exploration of London as the capital city of England. Locational vocabulary will be used alongside maps and photographs.

Alongside this, the children will be studying seasonal changes. They will be investigating and developing their knowledge of the seasons of Winter and Spring.

PE and Swimming

Our PE session will be on Monday Afternoon with Mrs Grasby. All children must come to school wearing the correct PE kit on this day. Children will also be taking part in Dance Sessions with Keri Hill on a Friday afternoon, during the second half of the Autumn Term. Children **will not** need to wear PE kit for these sessions, they will do these in their school uniform.

Love of Learning, Love of Life, Love of One Another

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We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

We will also be starting our swimming in November. Please keep an eye out for more information.

Forest School

Forest School will be every week on a Wednesday afternoon. On a Wednesday, children will come into school in their outdoor clothes and bring their wellies with them in a named bag. Outdoor clothes need to be 'old' clothes suitable for climbing trees and playing in the undergrowth: long sleeves and trousers are compulsory. An old waterproof coat is also needed as we go into winter; we will go out whatever the weather.

Reading

At Ashlands we use the 'unlocking letters and sounds' reading scheme. The books link more closely with the graphemes and phonemes the children have learnt. Each book is fully decodable and follows the children phonic learning. We will be holding a phonics evening on **Thursday 25th September** with Mrs Kenway so please look out for more information on this.

Each week the children are asked to read at home at least 3 times a week and record this in their reading log. The children have been challenged to achieve 20 reads by half term and will need to ensure they fill in their Reading Maps to show their progress and to achieve their certificates. Chestnut class will begin to bring home reading books after the phonics meeting. Some of these books may be books with no words to begin with but please share and discuss these with your children. Reading books will be changed on Mondays and Thursdays once the 3 read approach has been completed on each book:

- The first read should focus on decoding and reading each word confidently. The books will only contain words which are made up of phonemes your child has covered as part of the phonic programme.
- The second read should focus on supporting your child with using a 'storytelling' voice to read their book.
- The third read should focus on shared reading and engaging your child's comprehension skills.

Home Learning

Home Learning will be sent home on **TUESDAY** and will need to be returned by the following **MONDAY**. This will cover many of the skills the children are learning in their phonics, spellings, writing and maths. It will also focus on skills that will support them to work towards their Phonics Screening Check or SATs.

Things to help us at school:

- Ensure everything your children brings into school is labelled with their name.
- Please ensure that your child has their own drinks bottle with their name on.
- Read as much as you can with your child and complete the home learning they are given. This really helps to boost their learning.

Thank you so much for all your support so far. I am looking forward to getting to know your children and work alongside you to make sure their school year is fun, challenging and unleashes their full potential.

Best wishes,

Miss Marshall-James, Mrs Grasby and Miss Bentham
Willow Class Team

