

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

Dear Parents/Carers of Willow Class,

Willow Class Summer Term Letter

We hope you all had an enjoyable Easter and are looking forward to the term ahead. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and settled into their learning. We have lots of exciting and interesting topics to share with the children this term.

What we are learning

Our main topic this term is our Geography topic all about Jamaica. The children will start off by looking at the continents and oceans of the world using maps, atlases and globes. Then we will explore the country of Jamaica and its features as a contrasting locality.

PE, Outdoor Learning and Sunny weather.

This term we are lucky again to have Mrs Grasby to support the teaching of specific skills in our PE sessions, starting with attacking and defending games. Our PE day will continue to be on MONDAY. The children will come into school in their PE kit with their school jumpers too. As the weather is becoming warmer the children are allowed to wear black shorts. The sessions will be inside and outside so the children do need to wear trainers. Please remember that the only jewellery to be worn by the children is stud earrings. These must be taken out by parents on PE days unless your child can take their earrings out independently.

We will also continue to have Forest school on a Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure you bring your child's wellies in as although we are happy to provide wellies for those that have forgotten, it impacts on the children's learning as it shortens our time in Forest School. However, this will be weather dependent, regardless we will still go outside and ensure that the children receive some outdoor learning, even if it is not in Forest School itself.

As the weather improves, we are beginning to enjoy more of our learning in the outside environment. So, please ensure your child has sun cream applied before coming to school, as we are unable to apply it here. Please also ensure your child has a named sun hat, but not sunglasses as these can be dangerous when worn on the playground.

Jumpers/Cardigans

Last term we had quite a few jumpers/cardigans left behind that did not have names in so please ensure your child's jumper is clearly labelled. If they come home without their jumper or cardigan then please make a member of our class team aware the following morning and I'm sure it will be in the box in our classroom. If it is not collected by the end of the week, we will take them to the office where they will be mixed in with the lost property.

Home Learning

Home Learning will continue to be sent out on a Tuesday and will need to be returned by the following Monday. This will continue to practice many of the skills the children are learning in their phonics, spellings, writing and maths. Not only will it aid the Year One's for their Phonics Screening test but the Year Two's for their SATS this term.

Reading

This term we will continue to support the children's reading skills by using our reading scheme which links to our Phonic Scheme, 'Unlocking Letters and Sounds'.

As you are aware, the Reading Scheme adopts a three-read approach for each reading scheme book your child brings home. 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 by using a 'storytelling' voice to read their book. The third read should focus on shared reading and engaging your child's comprehension skills. It would be great if you could make a comment on your child's reading in the reading record book each time they read. This will mean that we can ensure we work alongside your child's home reading to support the three-read approach. As we move through the Spring term, please support your child to become confident with taking responsibility for remembering to put their reading book into the blue reading box every day. This helps us to monitor and support the children's reading progress on a daily basis.

As it made a real impact last term, the focus this term will be to continue to develop the children's comprehension skills when they are reading. The following tips below will support you with your child's comprehension skills.

- Ask your child questions about what they have read. (why, who, how, where, what)
- Let your child ask you questions about the book.
- What do words mean? What other words mean the same? Is there a better word which means the same?
- As you read can you spot adjectives, adverbs, and the suffixes – s, es, ed, er, ing, ly?
- Did you enjoy the book? Why?
- What can you see in the pictures?
- What type of book are you reading? Fiction or non-fiction – what is the difference?
- How do you think the story will end? Would you change the ending?

Phonics Screening test – Year One/Year 2 retakes

During the week beginning 8th June, the children will be completing their Phonic Screening Test. The children continue to take part in daily phonic lessons and will see 'alien words' cropping up regularly – these are made up words that the children will use their phonic knowledge to read. If you practice any, please ensure that your child has sounded out the whole word and not dropped any letters. If you have any questions about phonics please ask!

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If you have any questions, please pop in to see us.

Looking forward to a fabulous term!

Best wishes,

Miss Marshall-James, Mrs Grasby and Miss Bentham.