



Willow Class



Welcome to Willow Class. We hope you have had an enjoyable summer with your children and managed to catch the sunshine.

Topics

Lock your doors and pull up the drawbridge: the dreaded '**Great Pestilence**' is here!

Join us as we travel back in time to the dark and deadly world of 14th century Britain. At the start of this topic, we'll meet a strange character and use a range of source materials to research the symptoms of the Black Death. Our geography skills will help us understand how the Black Death came to Britain and why it spread so quickly. We'll investigate the effects of bacteria on the human body and find out about disgusting and dangerous plague 'cures'. Our personal plague journals will record the horror of the Black Death. We'll learn about the 'dance of death' and perform dances inspired by Saint-Saen's *Danse Macabre*. We'll learn about different social classes, understand the reasons for the Peasants' Revolt, take part in a mock battle and learn what it was like to be a knight.

Our Art and D&T work will be linked to this topic. Our English and Drama lessons will also, where possible, be linked to this topic. The children will be using a range of different styles of writing, from narrative and poetry to report writing.

In addition to their indoor weekly PE lesson, children will continue to be taught Games by our Sports coach on Thursdays. Please ensure your child's **full PE kit is in school every day and that all items are clearly named**.

In Science, we will learn about different kinds of microorganisms and describe how living things are classified. We will move on to learn about the human circulatory system and think carefully about the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on our bodies.

In RE we will learn about, and compare, some key Christian and Buddhist beliefs, symbols and celebrations. We will also look at the celebration of Christmas.

Our PSHE units in the Autumn term will be 'New Beginnings' and 'Getting on and Falling out'. Children will work in small groups and will discuss rights and responsibilities in the school. They will consider other people's feelings as well as their own in new, unfamiliar or conflict situations and will think of appropriate strategies to cope with uncomfortable feelings as well as skills for solving problems and different ways of behaving to different type of relationships. Children will continue to work on the whole school international project 'Alice in Wonderland'.

In Computing, children will be using their coding skills to design, write and debug programs. They will be explaining how algorithms work and using them to solve problems. Laptops will also be used

in topic work where necessary, for example word processing and creating PowerPoint presentations.

As well as these topics, children will continue to take part in daily Maths and English sessions.

We are delighted to continue our 'Learning Together' mornings this year. The dates of these sessions are listed below.

Tuesday 24th September

Thursday 10th October

Monday 21st October

Friday 8th November

Monday 18th November

Thursday 5th December

Please feel free to send in any items you think would support the children's learning this term such as books, photographs, posters, artefacts etc.

We hope you find this information useful. We are excited to work together with you over the coming year to offer your child the very best learning experiences. The term promises to be a busy, but interesting, and exciting one. We thank you in advance for your help in supporting your child so they can achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

Willow Class Team

Mrs Tweedale, Mrs Whittet and Mrs Ogden