

# Willow Class



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

## Topics - Britain at War



A siren sounds and a Spitfire zooms overhead! It's 1939 and Britain is at war. This half term, we'll imagine what it was like to be evacuated and live with a family other than our own. Using different source materials, we'll learn about evacuation and write letters to our families 'back home'. We'll plot



the Second World War's events on a timeline and learn about rationing, Pearl Harbour and the Battle of Britain. From a range of maps, we'll identify safe and dangerous places during the war and make persuasive posters to support the war effort. After reading an extract from *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, we'll write our own diaries. From a range of sources, we'll find out about children and school during the war and learn about discrimination that existed at the time. We'll learn about what it was like during the Blitz and think about how soldiers might have felt. During our visit to Bletchley Park in October, we will learn about the amazing work of the code breakers. We will reflect on Winston Churchill's stirring speeches and write our own.



After half term, we will delve into the causes of the First World War and produce a newspaper report. Our research skills will help us to find out which countries were the Central Powers, which were the Allied Powers, and which were neutral. We will order significant events and decide who were the most influential figures of the First World War. After researching devastating battles, we'll write short stories from the viewpoints of British soldiers. We will read wartime poetry and examine artwork to pick out evocative imagery and thought-provoking themes. We will also analyse wartime propaganda and reflect on the significance of poppies. We will

remember them.

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.

Children will continue to be taught Games by our Sports coaches on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Our Forest School sessions will be every Wednesday afternoon.

In Science, we will learn about electricity; we will use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram and we will explore and give reasons for how different components function within a circuit. We will also learn about light and how it travels. We will use the idea of how light travels from sources to objects to our eyes and learn why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.



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 'Me and My Relationships' and 'Valuing Difference'. Children will work as a whole class and in small groups. 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 develop skills for solving problems. They will explore the term prejudice and demonstrate ways of showing respect to others. Children will continue to work on our whole school international projects, fostering close links with children in different countries.

In Computing, children will be learning about online safety and associated vocabulary. They will learn about the importance of communicating kindly and respectfully and make a short film about what they have learnt. Laptops will also be used in topic work where necessary, for example word processing and creating PowerPoint presentations.

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.

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



Home Learning is set as follows:

### ENGLISH HOME LEARNING

This term the English Home Learning will focus on reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar (spag.com). Each child will have **spag.com** log in details and be able to access set activities, exercises and tests. Online Home Learning activities will be **set on a Thursday and should be completed by the following Monday**.

**Reading** ~ Competent readers must maintain their reading diet in order to reach high targets by the end of Year 6. Your child should record their daily reading in their Reading Journal. When your child has finished their reading book, they are expected to write a book review in their Reading Journal. A model / example of what is expected can be found stuck inside the Reading Journal. Children should still read to adults at home as appropriate and parents / carers should continue to ask children questions about the text their child is reading (see '**A quick guide to reading in Willow Class**'). Please try to read with your child often and add a comment in the Journal if you wish.



**Spellings** ~ The spellings to be learnt each week can be found on the Willow Class section of the website and it is expected that children will practise these spellings regularly and write sentences for these words to show their understanding of the words. Each **Wednesday** children will be given a short dictation to test their spellings.



### MATHS HOME LEARNING

Each **Thursday**, children will be set a Maths activity on Seesaw to complete. They should upload their response to their Seesaw Journal no later than the **following Tuesday**. Children should regularly practise their times tables and be able to recall these and any related facts at speed. Your child will have log in details for 'TTRockStars' and will be set weekly challenges to complete online. It is expected that Year 6 pupils spend 15/20 minutes on TTRockstars every day. We also encourage the use of 'Hit the Button' on [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)



### **Learning Together Morning**

We are thrilled to announce the return to Learning Together mornings. The date and time for this half term is:

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 8.45-9.10am**

The children love having the opportunity to share their learning and learn alongside you; we look forward to welcoming you into Willow Class.

### **Save the Date!**

We are delighted to share with you some exciting visits we have planned for the year ahead.



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| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October                                | Whole Class visit to Bletchley Park ('Britain at War' topic link)  |
| End of Autumn Term, December                                    | Whole Class Ice Skating Trip<br>(T.B.C. 'Frozen Kingdoms' Spring Term topic link)  |
| February 2023 (T.B.C)   | Whole Class visit to the Scott Polar Research Museum, Cambridge<br>Travelling by train ('Frozen Kingdoms' topic link in Spring Term) |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 | Whole Class residential visit to Gilwell Park<br>(more details to follow)  |



### **What have we been up to? Find out in our weekly class blog**

At the end of each week, you will find photographs and information about what your child has been learning in school that week. The class blog can be found in the Class Pages section of the school website under 'Willow Class'.

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,

*Mrs Tweedale and Mrs Askew*

**Willow Class Team**