

# Willow Class



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

## Working in Willow Class this year:

Mrs Tweedale: Yr6 Class Teacher, Deputy Head

Mrs Mills: Teaching Assistant (Mon / Tues / Wed)

Miss Goodger: Teaching Assistant (Thurs / Fri)

## Topics – ‘Celebrate or Commemorate?’ 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. During our reading lessons, to link to our topic, we will be reading 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll.



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 have a weekly Yoga session on Mondays and be taught Games on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our Forest School sessions will be every Wednesday afternoon. For our Forest School sessions, children should have a pair of named wellies in school, please.

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, through our study of the Christian and Islamic faiths, we will learn about how people show commitment in different ways. We will look at how Muslims show their commitment to God. After half term, we will examine the traditions and celebrations used to help Christians understand who Jesus was and why he was born.

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 Rights Respecting Schools Award and continue to foster close links with children in different countries through our international school partnerships.

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 will be introduced to the class gradually over the next few weeks.  
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 [www.spag.com](http://www.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 Tuesday**.

**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 front of their 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. Children should hand in their completed spellings home learning by **Tuesday** each week. 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 [www.maths.co.uk](http://www.maths.co.uk) to complete. They should complete their task 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 approx. 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) to practise times tables as well as decimal and fraction equivalents. In addition to the above, children will continue to use Winning with numbers to help consolidate their fluency with number. Children are expected to complete two 'Wins' per week.



## **Summary of weekly Home Learning tasks**

| <b><u>Home Learning</u></b>                                 | <b><u>Set ...</u></b>                                                                                          | <b><u>Due by...</u></b>                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SPAG (e.g., <a href="http://spag.com">spag.com</a> )        | Thursday                                                                                                       | Following Tuesday                                                    |
| Spellings                                                   | Thursday                                                                                                       | Following Tuesday<br>Dictation test Wednesday                        |
| Maths (e.g., <a href="http://maths.co.uk">maths.co.uk</a> ) | Thursday                                                                                                       | Following Tuesday                                                    |
| TTRockstars (Garage & Studio task)                          | Thursday                                                                                                       | Following Tuesday                                                    |
| Winning with Numbers (2 'Wins')                             | Thursday                                                                                                       | Following Tuesday                                                    |
| Reading                                                     | Daily.<br>Reading to be recorded in Reading Journal.<br>After finishing a book, please complete a book review. | Please note, reading books and Journals must be in school every day. |

## **Learning Together Morning**

We are thrilled to announce Learning Together mornings will continue to be held once every half term. The date and time for this half term is:

**Tuesday 30<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.



|                                    |                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September | BMX Workshop, Whole School                                                                                                                        |
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September | Willow Class Learning Together Morning 8.45-9.10am                                                                                                |
| Monday 13 <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. 'Poles Apart? Frozen Kingdoms' Spring Term topic link)                                                    |
| February 2025 (T.B.C)              | Whole Class visit to the Scott Polar Research Museum, Cambridge<br>Travelling by train ('Poles Apart? Frozen Kingdoms' topic link in Spring Term) |
| Summer Term 2025                   | Whole Class residential visit to Gilwell Park<br>(More details to follow)                                                                         |



## What have we been up to? Find out in our fortnightly class blog.

Our class blog can be found in the Class Pages section of the school website under 'Willow Class'. At the end of each fortnight, you will find photographs and information about what your child has been learning in school. Alternate weeks, you can find out what your child has been learning in the 'News from the Classes' section of the school newsletter. Happy reading!

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, Mrs Mills and Miss Goodger*

**Willow Class Team**