

# Willow Class



Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you were able to enjoy a great Christmas with family and friends. A busy term lies ahead...

## Topics

The '**Frozen Kingdom**' is calling us. Welcome to the planet's coldest lands. Vast wilds and hostile territories – incredibly beautiful, yet often deadly! In our Geography lessons we will trek bravely and valiantly across treacherous terrain to the ends of the Earth, treading deep in snow or pulled by a team of mighty sled dogs. We must be alert, for magnificent mammals roam these lands, sometimes hungry or fresh for a fight. Perhaps a hungry polar bear or an Arctic fox is hunting rodents, as swift as the wind! We will research facts and figures of climate, temperature, habitats and ecosystems, and compose evocative poems about the Northern Lights. We will become part of an Antarctic rescue team, braving the elements to rescue terrified passengers from a ship struck by a deadly berg that hides deep beneath the Southern Ocean. We will explore the beauty of Titanic as well as her fateful end and investigate to find out what, or who was to blame for her sinking. So, wrap up well everyone! Adventure a-waits!



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.

As part of our Frozen Kingdom topic, we will have a virtual visit from the **Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**. The children will enjoy learning about a true story and what really happened to some of Captain Scott's expedition team.

The children will continue to use a range of different styles of writing, fictional and non-fictional for a variety of purposes and audiences. Our writing lessons and creative writing opportunities will continue, and we will be supporting the children in class to plan their ideas for these writing sessions. This term we are looking for the children to continue to produce quality writing and to extend their ideas.

Children will continue to have weekly Maths and English Home Learning exercises. Please do continue to encourage your child to learn their grammar terminology and times tables regularly as this really does support many aspects of their English and Maths work. There are many ways to learn times tables at home such as bingo, speed tables, flash cards, saying them together and online games.

Children will continue to be taught PE / Games on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. Please ensure your child has suitable footwear and all items of clothing are clearly named.

Forest sessions continue on **Wednesdays**. Please ensure your child has layers of suitable clothing and also has a pair of named wellies or old shoes in school on Forest days.

In **Science**, we will first be learning about the human circulatory system and, later in the term, about the classification of living things and their habitats.

In **RE** we will explore the question, 'Is anything ever eternal?' Through our discussions we will evaluate beliefs about eternity. In the second half term, we will examine the influences Christianity still has in the world as we explore the Easter story.

In **Computing** children will explore computer programming and look specifically at variables in games. They will continue to use the internet for research to support their learning. After half term, the children will be introduced to spreadsheets

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.

## SATs preparation

During the spring term, we will begin to gently introduce the children to test technique and SATs-style questions as part of our normal classroom practice. We will use selected questions and extracts from past SATs papers, working together to mark answers and identify areas for further development, all while continuing to teach our planned curriculum topics. There is no expectation for children to complete past papers at home; however, it is essential that home learning tasks are completed on time and to a good standard. It is important to remember that SATs form just one small part of your child's end-of-year assessment, with day-to-day classwork playing a key role in our teacher assessments. Our aim is for all children to feel confident and well prepared for the tests in May, and through careful modelling and guided practice, we hope they will approach SATs week calmly and take it in their stride.



Home Learning will continue to be set as follows:

### ENGLISH HOME LEARNING

English Home Learning will continue to focus on spelling rules, reading, punctuation and grammar (spag.com). Your child will use their **spag.com** log in details 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 continue to 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'. This can be found in the Willow Class section of the school website). 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. These weekly dictations help form part of your child's end of year assessment in English.



### MATHS HOME LEARNING

Each **Thursday**, children will be set a Maths activity on [www.maths.co.uk](http://www.maths.co.uk) (your child has their own log in details) to complete. Children may use their Maths Home Learning workbook for any workings out or as directed. They should complete their task by 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. We also encourage the use of 'Hit the Button' on [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) for further practice.



### Learning Together Morning

We are delighted to continue our Learning Together mornings. The date and time for this term is:

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 8.45-9.10am**

The children love having the opportunity to share their learning and learn alongside you; we look forward to you joining us and sharing in our learning.

### **Save the Date!**

Coming up...

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Virtual visit from the Scott Polar Research Museum, Cambridge ('Frozen Kingdoms' topic link.)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Learning Together Morning, 8.45-9.10am
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Scholastics Book Fair arrives in school (More details to follow)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Class Photographs
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Whole School Theatre Trip - The Lion King
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May inclusive	SATs Week for Year 6 Test will take place each day, Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May inclusive (More details to follow)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June, inclusive	Whole Class residential visit to Gilwell Park (More details to follow)



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

Remember that at the end of each fortnight, 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 continue to work together with you to offer your child the very best learning experiences. The term promises to be a busy 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**