

Early Years NEWSLETTER

Willow Leaf and Branch TERMS 1 & 2

Willow Classes



Welcome to our new Willow children and families! It is a pleasure getting to know the children and they are settling in well.

Our first newsletter of the year covers the next two terms, up until the Christmas holidays. Our Connected Learning theme this term is 'All About Me and People Who Help Us'. During the second term, we will move on to 'Festivals and Celebrations.' This term, we will be learning about our bodies, feelings, families, and the professions of people who help us. If you have an interesting profession you would like to share with the children, such as police officer, fire fighter, doctor, dentist etc. and would like to talk to the children about this, please let your child's class teacher know.

In Maths this term, we will begin by learning numbers 0 to 9, and the correct number formation. We will use formation rhymes to support this, and your child will shortly bring a copy of these home. We will incorporate lots of rhymes and songs to make this engaging for the children.

In English, we will share stories to support our Connected Learning topic, beginning next week with *Funnybones*. Through this, we will discuss parts of the body and how they move.

In RE we will be learning about the Creation and how to care for our wonderful world.

Our Early Years Team

Willow Leaf

Monday and Tuesday
Morning: Mrs Challoner
Tuesday Afternoon to
Friday: Mrs Chapman.
TA: Mrs McVittie

Willow Branch

Mrs Nickelson
Tuesday Morning: Mrs
Nash
TA: Mrs Mears

Things to remember:

- Book bags should be brought to school EVERYDAY! Please send in your child's reading book and record each day too.
- Named water bottles for class time and play time (even if your child has milk).
- Spare change of clothes to be kept on pegs (pants/socks/tights etc).
- When the weather gets colder, please provide gloves (preferably mittens), a hat and scarf for your child.
- Free milk is provided for children aged 4 only. If your child is 5 and would like milk, please arrange payment with the office.
- If your child hasn't already brought in PE Kit please provide named plimsolls, shorts/ jogging bottoms and a t-shirt (any colour is fine until house groups are allocated).

Reading and Phonics:

- We appreciate your support in reading with your child. Please try to do this every day and write in the reading record diary.
- In a few weeks your child will bring home a reading book with either pictures, or a few words for them to read to you.
- Books can be changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, (3 x a week). Please remind your child on these mornings if they need to change their book.
- We are now starting to teach your child phonics (the sounds letters make). We follow the *Letters and Sounds* scheme for our teaching. This year we have changed the supporting actions to Cued Articulation, which is a method of using signs to support the pronunciation of each sound. If you have used *Jolly Phonics* actions with older siblings, please note we are no longer using these.

Phonics Meeting

You will soon be invited to a meeting to explain how we teach reading and Phonics (the sounds letters make). This will be after school on Tuesday 24th September. Following this, your child will bring home a booklet containing the sounds they have learnt at school. Please practice saying these with your child and encourage them to write them if they wish. We will also include some rhymes to support letter formation, as we teach writing in a pre-cursive style.

Fine Motor Skill Development

Your child will soon be learning to write. To strengthen hand muscles and help with pencil grip we will be having Dough Discos and Write Dance! Dough Disco involves squeezing, rolling and pinching playdough to music. Write Dance focuses on large arm and hand movements to develop gross motor skills. The children will use crayons and scarves to music to make this fun and engaging.