



# Welcome to Willows!

Autumn Term 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope that you all had a lovely summer break and that your child has enjoyed their first few days in Willows class. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying being with their friends and being so enthusiastic in their learning. We will endeavour to keep our page of the school website updated regularly with photos and information of what we have been doing in class so that you can share and celebrate your children's learning with them.

## Staffing and Routines:

This year promises to be very busy with lots of exciting learning opportunities planned. I, Mrs King, will be teaching the class on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Mrs Hill on Thursday. Mrs Cooper will be working in our class every day. This term we also extend a warm welcome to Mrs Harris who is joining our class team as a trainee teacher. Additionally, approximately two afternoons a month, the children will be taught by Mr Burns or Mrs Monger whilst I have my English subject leader time.

A reminder that the children can arrive between 8.45am and 8.55am walking straight into the classroom, where they then settle to their early work task. At the end of the day, we will bring the children out onto the playground and line up until we see their adult. Please can we remind you that it is extremely helpful when all the children's belongings are named as it really saves us a considerable amount of time when we are trying to reunite children with their things! Please can you also encourage your children to refrain from bringing in toys from home, unless they are linked to our work in class, as they can be a distraction and can also cause upset if they become lost or damaged. Children will continue to receive a piece of fruit each day; however, they may bring their own fruit snack if they prefer. Please also ensure that lunches are ordered daily and that choices have been discussed with your child.

We welcome parents/carers/grandparents into the classroom to hear readers, support children on numbots or help with other areas of the curriculum such as our sewing unit in the summer term. If you are available to help whether it be on a regular basis or for one off events, please do let us know as we would love to hear from you.

A few advanced dates for your diary:

- Parent/carer meetings will be on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**, 3.30pm – 6.30pm.
- Our Key Stage 1 Christmas production will be held on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December** in the afternoon.

## What will the children be learning this term?

In English the children will have the opportunity to write a range of non-fiction and fiction writing using high quality texts such as 'Toys in Space' and 'The Bear under the Stairs' as our writing stimulus. Our main focus this term is using punctuation accurately and a range of conjunctions to extend sentences (e.g. but, so, because). We will be building upon the cursive writing that the children have been learning in Year 1 and we will recap the Year 1 common exception words as well as beginning to learn the Year 2 list. We will also look at many other spelling rules and patterns in our daily phonics and spelling lessons.





In reading, the children will continue to follow the Little Wandle programme and will take part in three reading sessions in class before the book is set on their e-library. We are delighted to announce that at the end of the last academic year, funding was secured to purchase an additional set of Little Wandle books.

Therefore, the physical books will be sent home soon, but the e-library will remain available for use if preferred. However, it will be paramount that these books are returned to school on the correct day to ensure that they are ready for the next group of children that need them. More details to follow once the books are ready to be sent home. Over the coming months, some children will begin to exit the Little Wandle scheme and will begin to bring home a colour banded book in place of a Little Wandle book. In the same way as Chestnuts and Hawthorns, children will also continue to bring home a sharing book which are intended for children and parents/carers to read together. These will be changed weekly on a Friday. Please ensure that all books are kept in the yellow reading pack that is in their book bags. This helps to prevent books becoming damaged.

Reading of their e-books, or coloured banded book, should be completed as regularly as possible but at least four times a week to enable the children to build their confidence, fluency and comprehension of each text and develop a love for reading. Please record this in their reading diaries. Children will receive weekly certificates if they have read four times or more. This year, I am also introducing a reading buddy. This will be a teddy who comes home to read with your child for the week. It will be accompanied by a book review for your child to complete on either their Little Wandle book or their sharing book.



Maths this term will build on the children's understanding of place value and addition and subtraction. We will also complete a unit on shape. We would encourage you to find time for your child to use Numbots to help them practise and embed their recall of number facts. The children's log-in details are stuck inside the front cover of their reading diaries. On **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at**

**2.15pm** we will be holding a maths workshop. To begin with I will talk through the methods we use and then the children will join us to play some maths games. Feedback from parents/carers in previous years has commented on how useful they found the workshop, so I hope that you are able to join us.

Our History this half-term focuses on a new topic of 'How were schools different in the past?', with a particular focus on our school. This will build nicely into the schools 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary that the whole school community will be celebrating in the summer term. As part of this work we will be having a Victorian Day on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October**. In preparation for this, you may wish to begin to look for a Victorian costume but please do not feel you have to buy anything especially.

After half term, our Geography learning will see us exploring the question 'Would you rather live in a hot or cold place'? In this unit we will be learning the continents of the world and discovering why some places are hot and some are cold. We will explore the North and South Poles and explore similarities and differences between the United Kingdom and Kenya. Our Science this term will first focus on living things and their habitats before moving on to learning about animals including humans. These topics will link nicely to our work in Geography.

In Creative Thursday the children will be investigating how to make textures in art using mixed media. They will then use those skills in observational drawing. In our design and technology unit the children will explore mechanisms to make a moving picture. This year the children will continue to use the Charanga programme in music lessons. They will learn songs linked to the question 'How does music help us make friends?' After half term they will start to learn how to play the ocarina. In computing the children will be learning about google slides in the first half of the term. They will build on the knowledge they already have adding text, images and arranging slides. In the second half of term the children will be using the online painting tool 'Kleki' to create some artwork linked to the topic.



This half term in PSHE we will be thinking about what an 'ideal' classroom looks like and how they can all play their part in shaping this. We will also be thinking about different feelings, how to be a good friend, what bullying is and how to solve any problems that may arise. Religious Education will focus on Christianity. We will be exploring 'What is the 'good news' that Christians say Jesus brings?' Within this unit the children will learn about how Christians look to the bible for guidance in their lives.

We will continue to follow the 'Get Set 4 PE' programme in PE. PE kit needs to be in school from Monday to Friday as it means it is available when needed. Children need a white t- shirt, dark shorts or trousers and plimsolls or trainers and they are not expected to wear earrings. We are also going to be using the woodland area regularly during 'Welly Wednesday'. If possible, please can a pair of wellington boots be kept at school but, if not, please can they be sent in every Wednesday. You may also wish to send an older coat but a full change of clothes will not be needed.

### **Home Learning:**

Each week a maths home learning activity, linked to the maths topic we are teaching in class, will be sent out on a Thursday and should be returned no later than the following Wednesday. A reading comprehension task will also be set for some children.

I will also be sending home the common exception words that your child needs to learn to spell. Each term I will re-assess and highlight the spellings your child has learnt and the ones which they still need to practise.

### **And finally...**

I hope that you and your child will enjoy this coming year (hopefully this will include a Y2 school sleepover in the Summer Term!). If you have any questions or concerns and would like to speak with me, please catch me after school or email [year2@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk](mailto:year2@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk) and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. It is important that we work together to resolve any issues quickly so that your child feels happy and secure at school, enjoys learning and reaches their full potential.

We are holding a 'Meet the Teacher' meeting on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 2.45pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to come into the class, ask any questions you may have and find out more about the learning, opportunities and expectations for the year. We look forward to meeting you at this meeting but in the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

With very best wishes,

Mrs King, Mrs Hill and Mrs Cooper