

## Willows Class Newsletter - Spring Term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,



We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and have been able to spend time with family and friends. It seems a long time ago now, but we were immensely proud of how well the class performed in the Christmas Play and we hope that you enjoyed our performance of 'Camel-Ama-Ding-Dong'. Moving forward, an advanced date for your diary is our Spring Term class assembly on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** in the afternoon.

We are very much looking forward to our second term working with your children and yourselves. Staffing remains the same as last term with Mrs King teaching Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Mrs Hill teaching on a Thursday. Mrs Cooper will support in class every day.

A quick reminder to please ensure all water bottles and school uniform is named. During the colder weather you may wish to layer your child with some extra clothes under their uniform as our classroom is not the warmest at this time of year (even when the heating is working properly!).

This term promises to be very busy with lots of exciting learning opportunities planned. In the first half of term we will be learning about the history of flight including recapping on the children's learning about The Wright Brothers from Year 1. We will then move onto learning about Bessie Coleman and Amelia Earhart before learning about the first moon landing. After half-term, in our Geography, we will be focusing on the enquiry question 'Why is our world wonderful' where we will learn about some of the UK's and the World's most amazing places, as well as learning the names and locations of the five oceans of the World.

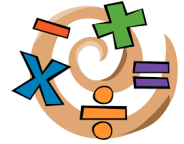


In writing, we continue to use the Literacy Tree book-based approach to motivate children to write for a range of audiences and purposes. We will be extending our work on using punctuation accurately as well as using a range of conjunctions (such as but, because, so). We will continue to learn to spell the common exception words correctly as well as furthering the children's knowledge of different spelling and grammar rules (such as apostrophes for contractions – it's, they're etc). We would be grateful if you could continue to help your child learn to spell the Year 1 and Year 2 common exception words; little and often is best – in the car, cooking dinner, in the bath...! An updated list of the words your child needs to focus on will be coming home next week. Please take them out the homework folders and keep them at home to learn.

The children are making excellent progress in their reading as seen during reading practice sessions and in their Autumn term assessments. A reminder that all children at Hatherleigh, from Reception to Year 6, are expected to read at home at least 4 times a week and for this to be recorded in their reading diaries. Reading with your child only needs to be for 5/10 minutes at a time but regular reading helps to read words automatically and sentences fluently which is essential for children to enjoy reading. Please encourage your child to sound out any words they need to in their head or under their breath, before then saying the word at a normal volume as this helps to develop fluency.

Please also encourage them to add prosody (expression). As part of their home learning, a weekly reading comprehension will continue to be set. Discussions about what they have read are important to develop comprehension and skills such as inference and prediction. Being read to, and sharing books together helps to develop a love of reading so please try to find time to share the sharing book that they bring home.

Maths this term will start with a unit on multiplication and division before moving onto units on shape and money. By the end of Year two children should know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables and related division facts, being able to rapidly recall them. Weekly home learning, linked to our learning in class, will continue to be set. We will begin to use Times Table Rockstars regularly. The login details are the same as Numbots and they should be stuck inside the cover of your child's red reading diary. Please also encourage the children to continue playing Numbots (the same log-in) as being able to rapidly recall number facts (such as number bonds) is also a very important skill to embed.



We'll start Science by finishing our unit on animals, including humans, from the Autumn term. Next, we'll explore uses of everyday materials where the children will identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses. After half-term, our focus will shift to plants; as part of this topic, we will visit Rosemoor Gardens with Year 1, where we'll participate in a different workshop from one they did last year. Look out for a letter about this trip soon.

In Design and Technology this term we will be focusing on mechanisms to design and make a wheeled vehicle including investigating axles and using a handsaw to cut dowel. We will be continuing to use the Kapow scheme for our Art this term. This term the unit is about painting and mixed media focusing on learning about primary and secondary colours, colour mixing and creating textures using different tools. We will also cover collage techniques experimenting with different materials.

In our Religious Education lessons we will be exploring 'Who is a Muslim and how they live'. In this unit the children will find out about Islam, key beliefs and ways of living for Muslims. The second half of term they will find out why Easter is important to Christians. They will learn to recognise the Christian concepts of God, Incarnation, Gospel and Salvation and how this is all part of the big story of the Bible for Christians.

Our learning in PSHE will first focus on setting both short term and long-term goals before thinking about ways to keep themselves safe such as safety and responsibility around medicines and their use. After half-term we will think about rights and responsibilities covering areas such as how to care for the environment.

In Music we will continue to learn how to play the ocarina and in the second half of the term the children will have the opportunity to take it home to practise (sorry, ear defenders are not provided!).

During the first half of term in our Computing lessons, the children will be learning how to keep themselves safe while using the internet. A separate letter will be sent out with more information. After half term they will learn more about google docs and build on the knowledge that they learnt in Year 1.

PE will continue to be taught weekly although the day will vary as some weeks this will be taught by sports coach Miss McMillan. Therefore, please ensure that your child's PE kit is in school at all times. We will resume 'Welly Wednesday' on a fortnightly basis so please either send in a pair of wellington boots to be kept at school or ensure that a pair is brought into school fortnightly.

We hope that your child enjoys this term. Please let us know as soon as possible if there is anything concerning you or your child as we can only try to resolve issues that we know about. You can contact Mrs King at the gates at the end of the day or via [year2@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk](mailto:year2@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk).

We were really pleased with how well the class settled into the Autumn Term, and the progress they are making, and look forward to working alongside them, and yourselves, to continue their learning journey.

With best wishes,

Mrs King and the Year 2 team

**Whole school dates for your diary:**

- Number Day – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February
- World Book Day – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March
- Family Reading – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 8.30am, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2.45pm.
- Spring Concert – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March in the evening. Year 2 children will be invited to play their ocarinas and sing. Attendance is not compulsory, but it would be lovely to see as many children join us as possible. Children in the training band will hopefully also be invited to play.