

## Willows – Summer Term 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you had a super Easter break. It really does not seem possible that we have reached the final term of Year 2 already. This term always brings mixed emotions as a teacher; proud of how far the children have matured and the progress that they have made, tinged with sadness that it is the final term that we will have together before they transition to Year 3. The children have been working extremely hard since September and we are looking forward to continuing their learning journey with them this term. This term promises to be an extremely busy one with lots of trips planned, our overnight 'sleepover' as well as the school's 150<sup>th</sup> year celebrations.

Staffing this term remains the same with Mrs King teaching Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Mrs Hill on a Thursday. Mrs Cooper remains in our class every day.



Our Historical enquiry question in the first half of term is 'What is a Monarch?' We will learn about King Charles III and think about what happens at a Coronation ceremony. We will then learn about how William the Conqueror became the King of England before exploring how he ruled, researching Norman castles. This will then lead us on to considering how castles have changed over time. As part of our learning, I am hoping to arrange a visit to Okehampton Castle.

Further details to follow as soon as they become available.



In the second half of term, our learning in Geography will see us answer the question 'What is it like to live by the coast?' We will consider what seas and oceans surround the UK before answering the question 'What is the coast?' We will then identify the key physical features of the Jurassic coast before thinking about the human features of the coastal resort of Weymouth. Finally, we will think about how people use our local coast of Bude, carrying out some fieldwork during our trip to Crooklets Beach with Chestnuts and Hawthorns; details of this trip to follow later in the term. In our learning across the curriculum, we will also learn about seaside safety and will study two significant people from the Victorian era; Grace Darling and Mary Anning.



Our English learning will see us writing a range of non-fiction and fiction texts, following the Literacy Tree book-based approach. We will be using some of my favourite texts such as 'Toys in Space' and 'The Dragon Machine'. Through using non-fiction texts such as 'A Walk in London', we may also be able to fit in some learning about 'The Great Fire of London'. Ensuring children's use of punctuation is firmly embedded so that they are well prepared for Year 3, is one of our priorities. We will also continue to work on using a range of conjunctions and making good spelling choices.

Please try to listen to your child read their Little Wandle, or colour banded book, at least four times a week. This is an expectation in all classes as the children move up through the school. Regular reading at home makes a significant impact on their progress across the curriculum, so please help us, to help your child. To further promote a love of reading, and the chance to snuggle up with a good book, the children also have their sharing books for you to read to them. We change these books on a Friday but are happy to change them more often; please let us know if this is something that you would like.

In Maths we will begin with a unit on fractions, learning about halves, quarters and thirds. We will also be working on a unit of work on time alongside this. We will then move onto units of work on statistics, length, height and mass, temperature and capacity. As mentioned at parents evening, we would really appreciate your support in helping our teaching of time on an analogue, not a digital, clock. Children need to recognise o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past and begin to move onto five-minute intervals once secure in these. Please also remember to use numbots and times table rockstars as much as possible.



Our Science will first see us complete our unit of work on plants from last term. The children will learn about germination and will find out the requirements of bulbs and seeds for germination. They will investigate what a plant

needs to grow and stay healthy. We then will learn about biodiversity: minibeasts – a new unit for me this year. Within this unit of work we will be thinking about how minibeasts help an eco-system.

PE for the first half term will be gymnastics and net and wall games. Some of these lessons will be taught by Mrs Howlett. After half term we will move onto athletics and start practising for sports day. This term we are also lucky to be involved in a whole school cricket programme so they will have a weekly cricket session on a Thursday, taught by external coaches. Please ensure your child has their PE kit (white t-shirt and black or blue shorts, trainers or plimsolls) in school every day as our PE day does change. Last term, trying to find spare kit for a number of children was taking up a considerable amount of time. We will also try to get out for Welly Wednesday as much as possible.



In Computing this half term our unit of work is coding and the children will be learning how to use the programme Scratch. After half-term, we will be going 'beyond the screen' to learn what is inside a computer. The children will dissect a computer and identify some of the parts.

In Music we will continue to learn the ocarina before moving on to a unit called 'My Big Concert' where children will be learning to sing some new songs which I am sure we will share with you at our class assembly. Mr Lea will continue singing assemblies which the children attend once a week. On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, we will also be travelling to Winkleigh Primary School with Year 1 to take part in a singing festival with other local schools; more details to follow shortly.

In RE in the first half of term, we will be studying the unit 'Who is Muslim and how do they live, part 2' where we learn more about the Islamic faith. In the second half term we will be looking at 'What makes some places sacred to believers?' We will explore places that are sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jewish people.

This term we will also continue with Creative Thursday. The children will learn how to work with clay to create a variety of pieces such as a clay castle. After half term we will look at the work of Vincent Van Gogh and Georgia O'Keeffe. They will inspire our painting and oil pastel sunflower pictures. In Design and Technology we will be finishing our jeeps before designing and making puppets.

Maths and reading home learning will continue to be set this term and consolidates the children's learning in class. However, towards the end of the Summer Term this will be replaced by a project where children can choose to take their learning in any direction they like based on their learning this term.

With the weather hopefully warming up, please ensure that your child has a named sunhat in school everyday and has had suncream applied before they come to school. They can also bring sunglasses. Please ensure they have a waterproof coat in their bag in case the weather changes. They also need at least one, named, filled waterbottle please. Please also check that your child's clothes and water bottles are named, as last term there were a lot that were not. This makes it really hard to return them to the correct child or locate them if they have been left somewhere outside of our classroom.

Finally, the date for our school sleepover is **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**. The children will have a normal school morning in school on Thursday. They will then stay after school, setting up their camp beds in the Morgan Hall before games etc on the field. This will be followed by tea and a walk up to Hatherleigh Moor. On returning we will have a campfire before sleeping(!) in the Morgan Hall. The next day we will have a day of outdoor learning on the school field/woodland area before going home at the normal time. Previous year's sleepovers have been extremely successful and helped to prepare the children for their KS2 residential. There will be a good staff/child ratio with Mrs King and two other members of staff sleeping overnight and Mrs Cooper, Mrs Andrew and other staff supporting throughout the evening and on the Friday. Forms and further details will be sent home soon.

Thank you for your continued support over the past two terms. We would like to invite you to our final class assembly of this academic year on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm**.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions either at the end of the day or via email ([year2@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk](mailto:year2@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk)) or phone.

Here's to an exciting, happy and hopefully sunny Summer Term,

With very best wishes,

Mrs King, Mrs Hill and Mrs Cooper