



Welcome to Willows!

Autumn Term 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to a new school year. We hope you all had a lovely and relaxing summer break and that your children have enjoyed their first week in Willows Class. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school and to see them settling so happily into their new class. They have enjoyed spending time with their friends and have already shown great enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement for their learning. We are looking forward to all the wonderful learning experiences and opportunities that the year ahead will bring.

We will endeavour to keep our class page on the school website updated regularly with photographs and information about the learning and activities taking place in Willows Class. We hope this will provide you with an opportunity to share in, and celebrate, your child's learning and achievements.

Willow's Teaching Team: Mrs King, will be teaching Willow's Class on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with Mrs Hill teaching the class on Thursdays. Mrs Cooper will be supporting the class every day, with Mrs Bennett, Mrs Valdmane, Miss Hutton, Mrs Bater and Miss Bennett supporting at various times throughout the week. In addition, approximately two afternoons each month, the children will be taught by either Mrs Bailey or Mrs Monger while I have dedicated time for my role as English Subject Leader.

Start and end of the school day: A reminder that the children can arrive at school between 8.45am and 8.55am, entering the classroom directly where they will settle and begin their early morning task. At the end of the school day, we will bring the children out onto the playground, where they will line up with their class until we see their parent, carer or other nominated adult.

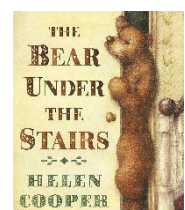
Naming belongings: Please remember to ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly named. This is incredibly helpful and saves us a considerable amount of time when we are trying to reunite children with their lost or misplaced belongings! We would also ask that children do not bring toys from home unless they are specifically linked to our learning in class. Toys can sometimes become a distraction during the school day and can also cause upset if they are lost or damaged.

Fruit and lunches: The children will continue to receive a piece of fruit each day. However, if your child would prefer, they are welcome to bring their own fruit snack from home. Please also ensure that school lunches are ordered each day and that the available choices have been discussed with your child so that they know what they will be having for lunch.

Parent, Carer and Grandparent Helpers: We are always delighted to welcome parents, carers and grandparents into the classroom to support the children with their learning. There are lots of different ways you can get involved, from hearing children read and supporting them with Numbots, to helping with specific areas of the curriculum, such as our sewing unit in the summer term. If you are able to offer some time to help, whether on a regular basis or for a one-off activity or event, please do let us know. We would be very grateful for your support.

What the children will be learning this year: This year promises to be very busy with lots of exciting learning opportunities planned.

In English the children will have the opportunity to write a range of non-fiction and fiction writing using high quality texts such as 'The Bear and the Piano' and 'The Bear under the Stairs' as our writing stimulus. Our focus this term is using punctuation accurately and a range of conjunctions to extend sentences (e.g. but, so, because). We will be beginning to introduce pre-cursive writing 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 sent home. However, it is 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. The e-library will remain available for use if preferred. 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-book, 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 stickers if they have read four times or more.



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 20th 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 follows on nicely from the schools 150th anniversary celebrations last term. As part of this work we will be having a Victorian Day on **Monday 12th 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 where we will be learning about things that are living, dead and never been alive, habitats and food chains; before moving on to learning about animals including humans where we will learn about life cycles and the importance of exercise, diet and hygiene.

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, different types of bullying 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 as our PE day varies from week-to-week. 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 the children will either receive a piece of Maths home learning or a piece of English home learning. This will be sent out on a Friday and should be returned no later than the following Wednesday. 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... We are very much looking forward to a happy, exciting and successful year together! 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 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.

A reminder that we are holding a 'Meet the Teacher' meeting on **Monday 14th 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.

With very best wishes,

Mrs King, Mrs Hill, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Valdmane, Miss Hutton, Mrs Bater, Miss Bennett

A few dates for your diary:

- Victorian Day – Monday 12th October
- Maths workshop – Tuesday 20th October
- Parent/carers meetings will be on **Monday 1st December and Tuesday 2nd December**, 3.30pm – 6.30pm.
- Our Key Stage 1 Christmas production will be held on **Thursday 10th December** in the afternoon.
- Year 2 school 'sleepover' (one night residential) - **Thursday 27th May 2027**