



Welcome to Willow Class

Year 4 and 5



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you have had a lovely time over the summer and I am sure you are now ready to start the new school year rested and ready to learn, so welcome to Willow Class. Mrs Hurdidge, Mrs Lanman and I are looking forward to working with you so that we have a very exciting and productive year. I hope that you enjoy the new challenges and approaches to learning that this year has to offer.

The topic this term is '**World War II**'. Please take some time to look at the overview for our topic located on the school website in our class page. This outlines the learning which will take place throughout the Autumn Term. We will read a range of texts including a focus on Rudyard Kipling and William Shakespeare. Every term the new topic will be added to our class page on our school website.

Reading

Your child will bring home 2 reading books per week. We ask that all children are encouraged to read for a sustained session a *minimum* of 3 times a week and this should then be written in their Reading Diaries by either yourself or the child.

Children will need to bring their books to school every day. It is important that books are cared for. The children will also have lots of opportunities to read and enjoy a wide variety of books throughout the week at school.

I encourage all pupils to choose an enjoyment book from my selection as well as a book on their reading band. Once they have read their book, children can change them each day at lunchtimes or in their free choice library session on Fridays. Children need to read from a wide variety of genres – including more challenging texts.

Mathematics

In Year 4 and 5 children are expected to recall multiplication and division facts confidently which helps the children in all areas of mathematics.

BIG Maths

BIG Maths is a fun and engaging way of increasing accuracy and importantly developed confidence in mathematical calculations. Children are challenged to get ten out of ten 3 weeks consecutively before moving to the next level. We then celebrate their success with a certificate in assembly. The children measure their own progress on a line graph in the front of their folders; a rewarding way for them to see their progress!

Homework

Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities to complete projects at home that are set, relevant to topics being studied. Reading Eggs and Times Tables Rockstar are available for online learning. Usernames and passwords for your child are recorded in the front of their Reading Diary.

PE

The children will be doing **PE** on **Wednesday altogether AND Friday in separate year groups.**

Year 4 pupils will begin swimming on a Friday afternoon this term until half term, and Year 5 will begin swimming after half-term until Christmas.

Children should NOT come to school in their PE kits on these days and should bring suitable outdoor kit and shoes for winter weather conditions.

Please ensure that all kit is named to prevent it being misplaced.

The new school year

Our aim is to ensure that all children experience a smooth transition from the previous year. The curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that the children have had last year. The children will gradually be eased into more independent learning as the year goes on so that they remain motivated, enthused and eager learners. We ask that children try their best, especially with areas of work that they find challenging.

Please don't hesitate to make an appointment to come and see me either before or after school if you have any questions or queries.

General Reminders

Any letters or reply slips, which need to be returned, can be put in the box by the entrance at the school reception or handed to myself or Mrs Hurdidge in class.

The children may bring in their own **water bottle** to keep in class which they can access throughout the day and they will change their water regularly. Please make sure your child's name is written clearly on their water bottle.

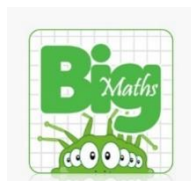
All children will be expected to write in pencil until they achieve a fluent joined script. A handwriting pen will then be provided by school. Children should have a suitable pen at home for completing homework.

Please help your children to organise their equipment and time. Children need to understand the importance of having all necessary equipment with them in class.

We discuss the importance of a healthy lifestyle on their well-being – making reasonable choices with bedtimes on school days, encouraging activity in spare time and sensible choices of snacks.

Any questions about any of the above, please don't hesitate to ask. We very much look forward to the fun and exciting year ahead.

Mr Norgrove. Mrs Hurdidge and Mrs Lanman



Underpinning all our learning are our school values.