

The Willows Class

Curriculum Information for Parents

Spring Term 2017

Dear parents of The Willows,

It's hard to believe the children have only been here for one term. The children have become well settled into their school life and are already an established part of our school community. We are pleased with how well everyone is progressing and it is lovely to see them growing up.

In accordance with the EYFS we will be focusing on the 7 areas of learning; 3 prime areas and 4 specific. Our broad themes this term will be: 'Exploration', 'Light & Dark' and 'Patterns, change and growth'. In addition to these we will also move and adapt themes in line with the children's interests.

PRIME AREAS

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be encouraging children to sustain their friendships whilst also branching out to make wider circles of friends. We will also be teaching them about strangers and people who help us (police etc.). Teaching within this area takes place daily as well as more specifically during PSED specific circle times.

Physical Development

The children shall be continuing to develop their gross and fine motor skills throughout many of the activities that they pursue. Various co-ordination and physical warm-ups will take place every morning with the aim to develop arm and hand muscles ready for creating graphics. We will also provide children with lots of opportunities to further develop their fine motor skills; drawing shapes and lines, using scissors and tracing around objects. Our P.E. lessons will continue to be on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and this term we will be focusing on gymnastics and ball control. On Tuesdays, we normally have a more energetic session focused on strength and stamina building which also gives us a good chance to talk about the importance of health and fitness.

Communication and Language

Children will be provided with various opportunities to share personal stories as well as responding to questions about stories and school events. Understanding will be developed through careful questioning in response to stories or events.

SPECIFIC AREAS

Literacy

Our literacy focus this term will be story structure and writing monosyllabic words. The children are getting to grips with pencil manipulation and letter recognition from phonics. The next steps will be moving that learning on to writing words using sounds in a more independent way.

Mathematics

This term the children will be looking at numbers between 10 and 20 as well as working on early number problems. We will be giving the children less abstract chances to explore these problems. We do this by using their interests and familiar experiences such as shopping and home-life.

Understanding the World

People and communities: The children will be looking at the differences in communities around the world, as well as the differences between people they already know, including interests of friends.

The World: We will continue looking at seasonal change with the Winter to Spring transition as well as life cycles and observing differences between animals.

Technology: The children will continue to use computer programs both on iPads and computers for a broad range of practical skills. In addition to the more practical aspects we will teach about technology in a broader sense i.e. its value and place within society as well as an initial look at e-safety and staying safe online.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will continue to have a weekly music lesson with Mrs Johnson on Friday mornings where they will be exploring new songs and techniques. In addition to this, Mr Pegg will also use his musical background to provide learning opportunities and musical experiences from around the world. The children will be given a lot of artistic and creative freedom during 'Child Initiated Learning' (CIL) where they will both explore and be taught about creating various creations using colour mixing, construction and joining skills and exploring various media including; clay, paint and collage. They will also be exploring how they can use movement to express different moods within any dance sessions.

Below is some important information about our class routines. Please keep this letter for reference.

Start of the day

Children to arrive **between 8.50am and 9.00am**.

N.B. As a security measure all outer doors to the school and gate into our patio area are locked at 9.00am. *After 9.00am entry is only via the main entrance lobby.*

End of the day

Children are collected at **3.15pm** from outside the classroom door (the same as the morning). We ask children to remain in the classroom until we call them; this helps us ensure that each child gets to their adult safely.

Once collected at the end of the day children should stay with parents and not run in the grounds or play with the outdoor resources (school or nursery) as we need to be sure that children are safe and have been collected. Please avoid sending siblings to collect children from the door as this can lead to collisions and makes it hard for the children to see where their collector is.

Water bottles and book bags

These need to be brought into school every day. Water bottles should contain water (no juice please.) Please note that water from the classroom taps is not drinking water.

Naming items

Please name all items including socks, hats etc preferably in a way that the children can recognise them, as this encourages children to take ownership of looking after their own belongings. We have recently encountered a lot of children's belongings which are unnamed or have a previous owner's name tag if they have been handed down, which sometimes are therefore not recognised by the child as their own, and can very easily lead to items being lost.

Winter weather

Children may be outside whatever the weather so they do need to bring a coat or raincoat every day in addition to their jumper/cardigan.

Helping in class

Would you like to hear readers, play a game or help with an art activity? We are always looking for helpers in class. If you are interested, please speak to one of the staff; we are always happy for extra help.

P.E. lessons

Held on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. It is usually easier to keep P.E. kit in school and take it home every at the end of each half term. N.B. Some children may have sport on Fridays as well as part of their Enrichment Curriculum.

We pride ourselves on working in partnership with our parents. Please do come and speak to us if you have any concerns or queries as we are here to help.

Kind Regards and thank you for your support.

David Pegg, Penny Constable and Maree Sharpe

Direct Staff - Mr Pegg - Class Teacher
Mrs Constable - Full Time Teaching Assistant
Miss Sharpe - Full Time 1:1 LSA
Mrs Phillips - Headteacher
Mrs Johnson - Music Teacher