

The Willows Class Curriculum Information for Parents Summer Term 2017

Dear parents of The Willows,

With only one more term left in The Willows, the children are now embarking on their final preparations for their move up to Year 1. Some changes in classroom routine will be phased in during this term to ease the transition for them. The kind of things they can expect include: attendance in some whole school assemblies; opportunities for morning break-times with the other years; weekly introductory sessions with The Rowans (teachers and current Year 1 children) and some more structured time working at tables. We aim to make the transition between reception and Year 1 as smooth as possible and will be doing everything possible to make sure the children have the best chances to prepare and flourish.

As was the case for both the Autumn and Spring terms, 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: 'Space,' 'Holidays,' 'Growth' and 'Summer.' 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 develop their independence whilst also maintaining their friendships. Children will have direct teaching opportunities during circle times. These sessions will cover respect, celebration and change.

Physical Development

The children shall be continuing to develop their gross and fine motor skills throughout many of the activities that they pursue. In addition to structured PE sessions, children will continue to have daily co-ordination sessions which develop confidence, strength and balance as well as preparing the children for their morning work. Our P.E. lessons will still be on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and this term we will be focusing on athletics and endurance.

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, in

particular 'why' questions will be used to extend and encourage deep thought within the children. To assist a smooth transition to year 1, the children will be developing their concentration during activities to longer periods of time.

SPECIFIC AREAS

Literacy

The children have made good progress with pencil manipulation and letter recognition from phonics. With a selection of words available to them, they will be developing their abilities to write in sentences. The children will do this in both directed and independent sessions.

Mathematics

As the children are getting to grips with building their contextual knowledge of mathematical concepts, children will be developing their abilities in using numbers to solve problems in slightly more abstract scenarios. They will be using a mixture of addition and subtraction to create and solve number sentences as well as exploring early division and sharing.

Understanding the World

People and communities: The children will be exploring differences and similarities between themselves and people all around the globe.

The World: We will continue looking at seasonal change with the Spring to Summer transition. We will also be observing the different forms of life on the planet and discuss why certain changes may occur.

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. We will also be looking at different forms of transportation and huge human achievements such as space exploration.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will continue to have a weekly music lesson with Mrs Johnson on Friday mornings where they will be exploring pitch and sound texture. In addition to this, Mr Pegg will also use his musical background to provide learning opportunities and musical experiences from around the world. This term, the children will also be refining all of the artistic skills they have learned so far throughout the year. They will be taught about quality and improvement and will be given opportunities

to critically analyse their own and each other's work to see value in gathering opinion.

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.

Water bottles and book bags

Need to be brought every day. (Water only - no juice please.) N.B. Water from the classroom taps is not drinking water and adults needing to leave the classroom to get drinking water can be disruptive during learning sessions.

Naming items

Please name all items including socks, hats etc preferably in a way that the children can recognise. A PE lesson involves 34 socks so an unnamed item can get lost very easily!!

Summer weather

As the weather warms up it will be important for children to start bringing sunhats into school to wear when outside. In addition, children may need to start having sun-cream applied before arriving at school.

