



Class 1 - The Willow Class

Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have enjoyed a good summer break and would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all. The children have enjoyed positive transition times in our year one setting and we have liaised closely with the F2 staff to help promote a smooth transition. It is fantastic that Miss Schneider has already spent last year working with the children and Mrs Blest was able to spend some time in F2 last term. We have exciting learning opportunities planned and are looking forward to a fun year in Willow Class!

Please see below a brief overview of this term, which we hope you will find helpful. It is a good idea to encourage your child to talk to you about what they are learning in school in order to improve their engagement.

English

We will be learning, performing and adapting traditional tales this half term. 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'The Three Little Pigs' will be our writing focus, but we will be visiting a wide range of traditional tales across the curriculum and during story time. Children are welcome to bring in their favourite traditional tales to share with the class.

We will continue to follow the Little Wandle phonics scheme daily, which will build on progress from last year and the format will already be familiar to the children.

Maths

We will be looking at the place value of number within 10, in which we will: sort objects, count objects, recognise numbers as words, count on from any number, count on one more, count backwards, compare groups of objects or numbers and use the vocabulary: 'fewer, more, same, less than, greater than, equal to'. We will continue to use the White Rose Maths scheme of work.

Topic

We will be using a topic approach which will include science, humanities, RE, computing, art and design.

Science -We will be looking at the properties of materials, both natural and manmade. We will be undertaking experiments to test the properties of materials, which will feed into our design focus.

RE- belonging and harvest.

PHSE- What is the same and different about us. This will include discussion about naming body parts and keeping ourselves safe. We will use the PANTS resources from the NSPCC, which you are welcome to view. Please follow this link for advice for parents <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

Design/science/PSHE - we will be paying close attention to healthy diets as part of the curriculum. This will include cooking, when we will be making a delicious seasonal soup.

Throughout the year, in line with the geography and science curricula, we will be observing seasonal change. It would be helpful if you were able to support your children in noticing changes in weather, landscape etc. and to consider the required changes in clothing. They may like to bring in autumnal treasures found in the garden or on walks, such as acorns, conkers or autumn - coloured leaves.

Equipment/resources

All classroom equipment is provided by school in year 1. School will also continue to provide a daily snack of fruit or vegetables during the morning.

Your child should bring their clearly named water bottle daily and a packed lunch - if they are not having a school dinner. (There are water bottle trays at the back of the classroom and there is a trolley for packed lunches in the cloakroom). Book bags should be brought in daily and placed in the correct cloakroom box.

Children need to be dropped off at the cloakroom door in the mornings, as they were in F2. This continues to develop their confidence and independence.

We will be going outside in all weathers so please ensure your child has suitable outdoor clothing with them every day (especially a raincoat- even if it is sunny at the start of the day!). All children should also have a spare set of pants and socks in their PE kits.

Children will change for PE lessons in school to support the development of their independent skills and their PE kit must therefore remain in school every day. Please ensure that your child does not wear earrings on PE days (Wednesday- although not tomorrow!- and Thursday), or that they have tape to cover them, for safety reasons.

Show and Tell

Show and tell objects should relate to the topic we are studying. If your child has a special achievement badge/certificate this should be brought in on Thursday, in preparation for the Friday assembly.

Contact

Your child's happiness and wellbeing is extremely important to us. Please let us know if there have been any changes in your child's life, any worries they may have and also events to celebrate, so that we can support them most effectively and ensure their happiness in school. It would be helpful to receive important information by 8am, so that we have a chance to read your email before your child arrives at school.

You may contact the teachers via email:

hblest@westonturville.bucks.sch.uk

cschneider@westonturville.bucks.sch.uk

Please copy us both in, so that we have a complete overview of your child's needs through the week. Messages should not be passed on via the Teaching Assistants.

Mornings are a time when teachers are busy settling the class and we would prefer that we are able to dedicate our time to them. If you have an urgent/important message, please send an email to the class teachers, or speak to the school office.

Homework

At this young age, school can be very tiring and we therefore limit homework to reading, ideally every day, at home and on occasion there may be a Little Wandle task sheet. On Fridays we will send home a spelling book so that you are aware of what we will be learning the following week, which may be helpful to look at with your child. This book should be in school by the following Wednesday please so that we can get it ready for Friday. Occasionally we will ask your child to complete a task related to our topic, which they will bring into school and use in their lessons.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to meeting you and working together to support your child on this next stage of their learning journey.

Kind regards,

Mrs Blest and Miss Schneider

Class Teachers