

WILLOW CLASS AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN TERM!

As we head into Autumn the weather is changeable as ever! We explore outside in all weathers, so please send children with sunhats and suncream applied, or raincoats when appropriate. If possible, keeping a pair of wellies at school is ideal.

PHONICS

This term Reception children start their exciting journey to becoming readers!

Your child will be taught phonics for 10–15 minutes every day and will learn to say and read all the single letter sounds (e.g. s and m) and some consonant digraphs, where two letters make one sound (e.g. sh and qu). Children will also learn to blend sounds together to read words.

READING AT HOME

To support your child's reading development, we ask that you listen to them read their phonics book five times a week. Research shows that regular reading at home greatly benefits children's progress and helps foster a lifelong love of reading, which is an important factor in their overall academic success.

Please record each time you listen to your child read in your child's Reading Diary so it can be included in their prize total, which goes towards earning a coveted Bawdsey Bookworm badge!



P.E

Our P.E. lessons are on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

To help Reception children develop independence, we ask that they bring a named P.E. kit in a bag, which can remain at school. Staff will support children as they learn to change into their kits by themselves.

Nursery children who attend on Tuesday /Friday afternoons are also welcome to bring a P.E. kit., alternatively please ensure they come dressed in comfortable clothing and footwear, suitable for being active.

P.E Kits should contain-

- A white t-shirt
- Navy or black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Trainers or plimsolls (if your child usually wears black trainers for school there is no need for an additional pair)

LITERACY

This term, our topic is Fairy Tales and Superpowers! Inspired by Super Milly and the Super School Day by Stephanie Clarkson, we will discover and celebrate our very own superpowers. Then, we'll head into the woods with Little Red by Lynn Roberts, a fun and quirky twist on the traditional tale of Little Red Riding Hood.

MATHS

This term we will be learning to subitise. Subitising is the ability to recognise small quantities without counting and it is an important early maths skill. Subitising helps children develop number sense, laying the foundation for addition, subtraction, and a deeper understanding of how numbers work.

You can support your child's learning at home by encouraging them to notice small quantities without counting. For example, you might point out two acorns on the ground or three birds sitting on a fence and ask, "How many can you see?" The aim is for children to recognise the amount straight away, rather than needing to count each item.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22nd September at 14:30- Reception Parents Phonics Workshop- Explore how phonics supports early reading and discover practical ways to help at home.

8th October at 14:00- We would love Nursery and Reception parents to join us for our Little Red Riding Hood Stay and Play session. This is a chance for you to enjoy time in class with your child, exploring fun, story-based activities together to see how we learn through play.

TOP TIPS FOR STARTING SCHOOL

- Label everything! Biro works brilliantly on labels in clothing.
- Big feelings at hometime are normal. Children can be exhausted after a day of learning, managing their emotions and navigating school life. Home is their safe space to 'let it all out!' It can be tough on us as parents, but it's really a compliment. You will quickly find what works for your child, snacks, cuddles, quiet time, or movement might help.
- Get into the habit of reading daily. You will have a huge impact on your child's reading and wider development by practicing at home.
- Talk to us. Nothing is too big or too small, if you have any concerns, questions or a wow moment, we are always happy to talk.

