



Willow News

January 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays and playing in the snow outside!

This term in **Maths**, the focus for **Year 1s** is to consolidate their knowledge of place value within 20, learning to independently access the class resources to support their learning (for example, to demonstrate that 1 ten is made up of 10 ones). We will develop our reasoning skills by asking questions: What number comes before/ after...? How do you know? Which numbers after 10 do not include a 'teen'? can you show me [11] in three different ways?

The **Year 2s** will begin to look at money, learning to recognise the different coins and their value. We will learn to answer: How much is this coin worth? What is the total value of [] and []? How much money is there altogether?

Future learning will be to focus on multiplication and division - exploring and identifying both equal and unequal groups and using reasoning skills. We will introduce the symbol x as we write our number sentences. We encourage all the children to problem solve and to independently select and use the class resources to help them develop deeper understanding.

In **English**, we are encouraging all the children to become more independent with their writing and to develop a stamina for writing; learning to write for different purposes and use different sentences forms (such as statement, question, exclamation and command). We have been enjoying our new story book '**Tadpole's promise**' by **Jeanne Willis**; the focus is to learn the possessive apostrophes (eg, the girl's book) and to learn to spell words in the contracted form (eg, I'm, I'll, we'll). Next, we will use our previous knowledge of the life cycle of both frogs and butterflies to write our own explanation leaflet based on the story.

YouTube: Tadpole's promise story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adn2oydiMTc>

Tadpole lifecycle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmlaclb3K2o&t=75s>

Butterfly lifecycle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVm5k99PnBk>

We will expect the **Year 1** children to consistently write with capital letters, full stops and finger spaces; this will help them to write with pace and develop stamina. We encourage the children to use a phoneme mat to support with spelling and to use self-help techniques to get unstuck (segment to spell skills, count phonemes or syllables).

The **Year 2** children are learning to edit and improve their work, to check that their writing makes sense. There will be a focus on correct spelling within their writing, to show their knowledge of spelling rules and how words can have 1 spelling but different sounds (eg, <ea> in head & great).

We will continue to send the **reading** books home; we value the comments that you share with us that show how your child is interacting with the book and to see if they got stuck on particular words. The intention is that the children read each book three times (blending, fluency, expression) in order to develop familiarity with the story. In class we are focussing on comprehension and asking the children questions related to the story, this will develop their understanding of what they have read.

Our **Science** topic is '**Living things & their habitats**', we will be developing scientific enquiry to identify, group and classify how an animal is suited to its habitat and the different habitats that are in our local environment. We will begin to explore and identify what is living, dead and never been alive and to give a reason for our ideas (using 'because', 'or has' and 'so that' to develop our thinking further). We will use our past learning to create a map of our local habitat and identify any animals that live there.

Our **Geography** topic (within the school framework) is '**Beside the seaside**' which will encourage us to be curious about the past and show awareness of the differences of holidays and resorts now and in the Victorian times. We have begun to understand the geographical features of the seaside, learning about the human and physical features and the difference between them. We will continue to develop our knowledge of the UK (the four countries & their capital cities) and using maps to locate seaside resorts.

Our **P.E sessions** this term are on **Monday and Thursday** afternoons.

Our school aim is to promote the children's awareness of a healthy lifestyle. The children are offered a piece of fruit (usually a clementine, apple or banana) at morning break time. Please can the children bring their **named bottle of water** for use at break times and during the day (or allow school to provide fresh water for your child).

We are always available to talk to in the morning before registration and at the end of the day.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Thomas, Class Teacher

Mrs Hale & Miss Parton, Teaching Assistants