



# Willow News

March 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a good half-term holiday. It is nice to be having lighter and warm days to enjoy time outside.

This term in **Maths**, the focus for **Year 1s** is to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of addition and subtraction within 20, using previous learning of number bonds (for example,  $7-5=2$ , then  $17-5=12$ ). We will use tens frames, counters or part-whole models to complete the calculations, to support the children to notice that the second subtraction ( $17-5=12$ ) is 10 greater than the first subtraction. Future learning will be to explore problems with missing numbers, using the language of 'first, then, now' to clarify place value.

The **Year 2s** will focus on multiplication and division - exploring and identifying both equal and unequal groups and using reasoning skills. The children will be introduced to 'arrays' (arrangements of numbers) in order to understand that multiplication and division is commutative (for example, the multiplication of 2 numbers can be done in any order: 3 lots of  $2=6$  / 2 lots of  $3=6$ ). Next, we will focus on learning the 2s, 5s and 10 times tables, and using the vocabulary of 'double' and 'half'.

We encourage all the children to problem solve and to independently select and use the class resources to help them develop deeper understanding as they tackle challenges.

YouTube: Number blocks 2 times tables song: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUL\\_4lzT06I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUL_4lzT06I)

Number blocks 5 times tables song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPffpuHYIhc>

Number blocks 10 times tables song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGxsCk2ppcI>

In **English**, we are encouraging all the children to become more independent with their writing and to develop a stamina for writing - this will especially be of value in the Yr2 SATs tests later in the school year. We will identify rhyming pairs and use these as we compose poems - counting the syllables in each line and choosing appropriate words accordingly. We have been enjoying our new class poem '**The Owl and the Pussy-cat**' by **Edward Lear**: the focus is to suggest synonyms for nouns within a piece of writing (e.g., alternative words for 'go': travel, journey, move ...). We will add suffixes (-ful and -less) to spell longer words (e.g., hopeful, hopeless). Next, we will use our imaginations to write our own version of what happened to the Owl and the Pussy-Cat when they went to the land of where the Pea Trees grew, based on the story 'The further adventures of the Owl and the Pussy-Cat' by Julia Donaldson.

YouTube: The Owl and the Pussy-Cat story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHht9e-1wbk>

The further adventures of the Owl and the Pussy-Cat: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fY\\_l2ZK7Z-8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fY_l2ZK7Z-8)

We are encouraging the **Year 1** children to consistently use a phoneme mat to support their 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 correct spelling within their writing, and to show their knowledge of spelling rules. We expect the children to routinely use correct letter formation: forming lower-case letters of the correct size to one another; and in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the correct place.

We will continue to send the **reading** books home - this sends a positive message to the children that adults at school and their family at home both value books and the enjoyment of stories. We value the comments that you share with us which show how your child is interacting with the book and please let us know if your child is getting 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 and make links with other familiar books.

Our **Science** topic is '**The Environment**', we will be developing scientific enquiry to identify, group and classify the ecological changes to our environment. We will learn about environmental issues and how we can make simple changes to live more sustainably within our community. We will learn to take a survey using a tally chart and then use the results to answer a question.

Our **History** topic is '**Toys**' which will encourage us to develop a range of historical skills such as asking and answering questions, recognising change and exploring how this influences the toys that we play with today. We will compare toys from the Victorian time and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to modern-day toys and identify the similarities and differences.

Our **P.E sessions** this term are on **Monday and Thursday** afternoons. Our themes are invasion games and gymnastics.

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 the 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: to chat through any concerns that you may have about new concepts or ways that we can together encourage your child with his or her learning.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Thomas, Class Teacher

Mrs Hale & Miss Parton, Teaching Assistants