



Willow Class



Autumn 1 2019

Welcome Back

We would like to take this opportunity to wish a warm welcome to all of our new children and families and a welcome back to our existing children and families. We have had a great start to the new term with children settling very quickly. We feel like we are already getting to know the children really well and hope that they are enjoying their first experience of school. We truly believe that relationships are key to children feeling safe and secure, enabling learning to take place. With this in mind please do communicate with us as much as possible.



Learning Journey

This term we will be following the children's interests as they arise through close observation. In the early years, when children are highly involved and learning about things that interest them, this is when the best learning takes place. Alongside this we will be reading the story of 'Walking through the Jungle' by Julie Lacome. Our 'Learning Quest' this term is to discover more about different groups of animals, 'Can you solve the case of the missing animal?' We are also very excited to be welcoming a visit from a travelling zoo, giving us first-hand experience of many different types of animals.

During the first weeks lots of time will be spent learning new routines, how to use and where to find equipment, building friendships and much more.

PE

PE sessions will take place every Monday and Friday. Please ensure that children have a PE kit in school at all times. At the moment PE will take place in the hall so if you have not yet purchased footwear then do not worry as they will be taking part bare foot.

Monday and Friday PE

Love Reading

Each child will bring home a banded reading book during the week beginning 23rd September. You will be provided with a learning log to sign and date each time your child has read. Reading books can be changed as regularly as needed, we are happy for you to come inside and do this with your child until they are ready to do so independently. Please stick to the colour books that have been recommended. We will review this regularly. The children will also bring a library book home to share with you and change regularly.

Please encourage daily reading at home, practicing the book, reading tricky word cards or simply sharing a library book.



Literacy

At the beginning of the year we will establish children's starting points in reading and writing. Phonics sessions will begin week beginning 16th September, we follow the Read, Write, Inc scheme of work. A phonics workshop will take place in the coming weeks.

During literacy we will start with the book 'Walking Through the Jungle' by Julie Lacombe. The children will learn the story and then gradually we will change it to create a new story. This is a really fun way of learning to tell stories through drawing 'story maps' and learning actions.

We will be having a big focus on name writing also so please encourage your child to practice at home. We use 'Kinetic Letters' to teach handwriting.

Behaviour & Reward

We believe that children are able to learn and follow expectations as set by the good examples of others. Children wish to do their best and strive to achieve. Positive behaviour and achievement will be celebrated through praise and encouragement.

For more information, please see our updated 'Behaviour' policy available on our school website.



Numeracy

We will begin the term by looking at number recognition, numbers that have meaning to us and developing our careful counting skills. We will focus on one number each week. There will be discrete maths teaching as well as resources and activities in the environment which will support the development of these skills.

Below is a link to the approach that we will be following in maths.

Find out more <http://whiterosemathshub.co.uk/>

At home you can support this learning through counting everyday objects in practical ways such as, setting the table, counting out food etc. Also when you are out and about, spotting numbers on doors, cars, road signs etc.



Please follow @CottinghamCofE for daily news and updates regarding the super children at Cottingham CofE Primary School. It takes just a few minutes to log in and sign up.

Dates for the diary

Autumn Term 1

- Wednesday 18th September - Travelling Zoo
- Willow Class Assembly Wednesday 20th November, 2.30pm.
- Phonics and Reading workshop – date to be confirmed.



Other Notices

Key Groups

In order to get to know the children more quickly and foster close relationships we will be working with the children in two key groups. The children will go into their key groups for morning welcome and reading pledge (story time). The rest of the day will be whole class, small group work and independent access to play.

Snacks

Snack money will begin week beginning 23rd September, envelopes for payment will be placed in children's pigeon holes. Please also note that pigeon holes are used for letters and other communications so please check these when possible as we do not always have time to put letters in book bags.

Lunches

Please note that we ask you to provide a packed lunch during the week beginning 16th September. Remember to book school dinners for the following week (23rd) if you require your child to have a one.

Mud Kitchen and Forest School

The children will be able to take part in Forest school and we also have a mud kitchen open at all times in Willow garden. We do have a number of pairs of wellies in school, if you prefer your child to wear their own then feel free to send them in. Also, if you would prefer your child to wear an old coat then please label and bring it to school. We do have some waterproof coats and trousers, however there are a limited number.

Labelling

The children are looking very smart and we appreciate the effort that has been put into their readiness for school. Please ensure that all clothing is labelled especially as PE sessions will be starting, as you can imagine it can be difficult to keep track of all children's clothes.

Book Bags

We really like the little touches on children's book bags that make them easy for the children to locate, please feel free to add a small keyring or something that will help your child to identify their own bag.

Collective Worship

The first Willow class Worship will be on Wednesday 28th November at 2.30pm when we will WOW you with some of our learning. All are warmly invited to come along and join us.

Mon – Class Singing Worship Tues/Wed – Whole Sch Worship Thur – Class Worship Fri – Special Awards
Please come and join in with our Special Award Worship every Friday at **2:30**. We do ask that you bring along your singing voices. Who will receive the class Star of the Week/Headteacher's Award?

With God's help we CARE-BUILD-FOLLOW-THINK