



# Willow Class: Spring Term 2020

## Happy New Year

Welcome back to a new term, a new year and a new decade! We had a great Autumn term and the children were all so enthusiastic about their learning. We are sure this enthusiasm will continue and would like to share with you what is happening this term. This term's topic "Tell Me a Story," has an English and history focus. We have already started thinking about what the title suggests and the children have generated their own lines of enquiry, some of which we will study in class and some of which the children may want to explore at home.

	January	February	March
School Value	Honesty	Honesty	Responsibility
Theme	Traditional tales	Read, Write, Perform	Shakespeare
Lead topic subject	English: compare and contrast traditional tales History: Chronology of story telling	English: write and perform bedtime stories History: Inventions and impact	English: watch and read Shakespeare's plays History: Shakespeare
English	English is the basis of our topic this term - we will be reading and writing stories, researching stories and ways to communicate them, learning about Shakespeare and looking at play scripts. Children will continue to have their own spellings to practise as well as learning about spelling patterns and rules in class.		
Maths	Our focus this term Monday to Wednesday is multiplication, division, decimals and fractions On Thursday and Fridays, we will be learning about how to convert units of time (e.g how many minutes are in 3 hours? How many days are there in June and August altogether? How many years are in a decade, leap year or century? etc and look at the 12 and 24 hour clock, converting times between the two. We will also be focussing on the 6, 7, 8 and 9 times tables. Times tables and mental maths skills will be ongoing		
History	We will be learning about how story telling has evolved from cave paintings to the digital era		
RE	Incarnation/God: What is the Trinity? Why do Muslims call Mohammed the seal of the prophets? Oak and Willow Easter performance in Church Thursday April 3rd		
Science	In Science we begin with sound, linking in with hearing and telling stories. We will ask what is sound? How is it made? We will also investigate sound sources and volume and pitch using use a variety of investigative approaches to answer these questions. <b>We are asking for pairs of yogurt pots, plastic/paper cups and a variety of string, wool and thread (in a variety of lengths) to be brought into school on or before Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 to do an investigation with.</b> In the second half of the term we will look at Solids, Liquids and Gases and Making simple electrical circuits.		
P.E	This term, P.E will be taught on Mondays and Wednesdays. <b>Swimming</b> is every Wednesday this term and the children will need swimwear and a towel which fits in one bag. Please ensure hair is tied back and earrings removed for safety		

Art	We will make and use pinhole cameras.
Computing	We will use Green screen technology for our story telling performances and digital story books for our work on Shakespeare.
Music and DT	Easter musical performance Making musical instruments linked to the science topic of sound
PSHCE	In PSHCE we will be thinking about managing money and about being aspirational

### **Homework**

Please see the separate sheet provided. Your child should complete at least 1 task per half term and bring it by the dates requested to share with the class.

1<sup>st</sup> Half - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February

2<sup>nd</sup> Half - Wednesday 1st April

**If there are any grandparents who are able to come in and talk the class about technology when they were young (eg cinema, TV, radio, record players), we would be happy to arrange this.**

### **Reading**

Reading continues to be a really important part of your child's home learning and we would encourage you to read with them daily. This can be them reading to you, or you sharing a book with them. As a school, we will be sending books home that are well within your child's capability and may seem easier than what came home previously. This is to encourage them to read for pleasure and hopefully reduce any battles about reading at home! They will be reading more challenging texts in school as we will focus on improving their reading skills and capability. Children in year 4 onwards are no longer given Home/School journals. They will be given a list of recommended reads in year 4. It isn't intended that the children read every book on the list; it is more a good reference point.

### **Maths at home**

Although the children will not be given set maths homework weekly, we hope that they will still practise their mental number skills: times tables, number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 and counting in 6, 7 and 9 from any number. Also, it's always great to see them wanting to continue their learning in the classroom at home. By the end of year 4, the National Curriculum expectation is that children know their tables to 12 x 12 off by heart. We are delighted with the progress the children have already made learning their tables and appreciate the support you are giving with this.

Willow's residential is to the Sustainability Centre Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April details have already been sent home but further information will follow. Finally, if you have any concerns about your child, please remember to speak to any member of the team. We are available before or after school for a quick chat but if you need longer to discuss anything further, please ring to make an appointment with us after school.

Kind regards

Mrs Jo Seton and Ms Jeannette Morgan (The Year 4 team)