



# Willows Termly Newsletter

## Autumn Term 1 - 2023

Starts Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Sep ends Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

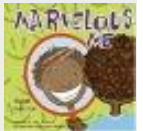
I want to officially welcome you to our new **Willows Class**. Our class will be a mixed-aged class of Reception (19 Little Willows) and Year 1 children (5 Big Willows) who will be working hard and learning through play during some parts of the day.

We hope you all had the opportunity to relax during the summer break and that all the children are now ready to start a new and memorable stage in their lives.

This year we are very lucky to have Mrs White again to support our learning. We both look forward to working you and your children and we can't wait to start seeing them grow and make progress.

### Our Termly Project - Marvellous Me

This project was chosen to support children with settling into the new rules and routines of school and encourages them to make new friends and feel confident in their new class. It will focus in supporting every child to settle by finding out how a day in their lives is. We will encourage children to explore who they are, their feelings and the importance of friendship and their family. As the term progress, all children will start exploring their bodies and look at how they have grown and changed since they were babies.



### Literacy

This term, children will be listening and exploring different texts and stories that will stimulate their imagination and will that will help them and expand the vocabulary while linking these to our termly project. In addition, children will very soon start their phonics sessions, where they will start to explore the sounds the letters make.

### Reading at home

During the first and second week of school, the children will be given a new **reading record** and a story book to share with you after school or at bed time. Please talk to your child about the new words in book (new vocabulary), favourite characters or scenes, and write your experience/comments in the reading record. One comment per week would be very good!

We aim to change this book weekly. This can happen on any day of the week, for this reason book bags need to be brought into school every day.

### Maths

This is a crucial stage for children's mathematical development. They will be learning to match, sort by different categories and make patterns using shapes and other toys. Children will also learn the correct language to compare size (long, longer, tall, taller, short shorter) and capacity (empty, full, has more than, less than or the same). In addition, children will be learning to identify how many objects are in a set of up to 3 or 4 objects without counting and compare two sets of objects and tell which has more or less.

### Other areas - Physical development

**Understanding the world; Expressive arts and Design.**

So much learning will be going on during this first term. Children will be learning to be more independent, hold the pencil properly, and write their name, take turns and share, follow school rules and draw pictures more accurately. Every week, we will encourage children to explore the following questions:

*What makes me special? How am I different from others? Who is in my family? Can I draw my family tree? What is inside my body? What is like where I live? Are all homes the same?*

## Additional Information

### Physical Education (PE)

This first term our PE lessons will be on Tuesday afternoons, starting on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Children should come to school wearing PE clothes.

This means navy blue or black shorts or tracksuit /jogging bottoms in cooler weather. A white t-shirt and school jumper. No other colour should be worn.



### Water bottles



Children will have to bring a water bottle every day. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to keep them in school. They will have to go home every day to be properly washed.

### Welly Wednesday

As some of you know, your children will be taking part in weekly Forest School sessions, which we will be calling 'Welly Wednesday'. Once the children are fully settled, we will be sending information to explain when the session will start and how these will happen.



### Working in partnership with parents/carers

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between staff and parents and/or carers. For this, we will be inviting parents to some class events once the children are settled. More information will be send shortly.



### Dojo and Website

Our aim is to keep in continuous communication with you. To facilitate this, we encourage you to signing on our class Dojo and keep your Dojo connected to check the updates regularly.

Additionally, we invite you to check our class page on the website to see what we have been up!

Thank you for your support, and have an enjoyable first term!

Mrs Perez

<https://www.marlborough.plymouth.sch.uk/website>

Week	SETTLING IN PERIOD for new children- What will happen and when?
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Week starting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> September are Non-Pupil days - staff training. Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> : Day STARTS - 8.45 AM ENDS - 11:55 AM ( <u>before lunch</u> ) <u><b>YEAR 1 children stay all day.</b></u>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Week starting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> STARTS - 8.45 AM ENDS - 13:00 PM ( <u>After lunch</u> ) From then on, children stay all day. Day STARTS at - 8.45 AM ENDS 15.15 <b>NOTE:</b> <u><i>If your child is finding the transition period difficult, alternative arrangements can be made with the class teacher.</i></u>

## Ten top tips for reading stories to your child

- 1 Make reading to your child feel like a treat.  
Introduce each new book with excitement.
- 2 Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so both of you can see the book.
- 3 Show curiosity in what you're going to read:  
*Oh no! I think Arthur is going to get even angrier now.*
- 4 Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much. If you think your child might not understand something, model an explanation:  
*Oh I think what's happening here is that...*
- 5 Chat about the story:  
*I wonder why he did that?*  
*Oh no, I hope she's not going to...*  
*I wouldn't have done that, would you?*
- 6 Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- 7 Link stories to your own experiences (e.g. *This reminds me of...*)
- 8 Read favourite stories over and over again.  
Get your child to join in with the bits they know.
- 9 Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your child will love it.
- 10 Read with enjoyment.  
If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.

