



Willow and Sycamore - Year 5 & 6 Newsletter Autumn 2018

We would like to welcome the children back after their Summer holiday, and a special welcome to anyone who is joining us for the first time. We are delighted to be three Year 5/6 classes this year and are so pleased to have Mrs Moucher in Willow Class and Miss Whitlock in Sycamore Class.

English

During the year, the children will be looking to develop an even more extensive and in-depth use of their reading, writing and communication skills across a wide range of genres. Their written work is often cross curricular encompassing issues relevant to the current topic. Alongside the various writing themes, there will be weekly teaching of spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG). It continues to be of paramount importance that the children are encouraged to read regularly at home and school and experience a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Mathematics

Mathematics will be taught daily via a combination of practical activities, regular practice of basic skills and the on-line IXL program. This blend of methods is designed to refine skills, support individual needs and build up a wealth of understanding, confidence and competence. Regular assessments will be used to enable precise grouping of children according to their requirements and bi-weekly homework will also help to support personal progress. The emphasis will, as usual, be principally on number skills but the children will also practise using, applying and mastering their mathematical skills.

IXL can be logged into at home on a PC or tablet/iPad and we encourage children to practice the skills they have learnt or work toward their personal targets.

Science

We will start the term by exploring properties of materials and how and why they are used. The children will learn to work scientifically through investigations and learn and apply appropriate scientific vocabulary.

History

Our topic for this term is Vikings. We are making the topic as cross-curricular as possible by exploring it in our Foundation subjects. We will be looking at specific events and learning about their culture.

MFL

The children will be learning key words and phrases that are used in everyday Spanish as well as exploring some of the customs and culture of the country through games and role play activities.

ICT

ICT is an integral part of the school day and the children will be developing and furthering their skills in the use of iPads and exploring coding. Internet safety is central to all children's learning and they will be asked to read and comply with the school's Internet safety policy.

Art and Design Technology

Through both of these subjects, the children will be learning about Vikings in greater depth. They will improve their mastery of drawing, painting and sculpture using a range of materials. Later in the term, we shall be taking part in Art and Citizenship Week along with the rest of the school and will be focusing on The West (America).

PE and Games

Games lessons this term will be led by Mr Denison and will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week (PE opposite Swimming). We shall also be learning about exercise for health. In addition, on Wednesday mornings, each class in turn will be having swimming lessons taken by a qualified swimming teacher at The Blandford Leisure Centre.

School PE kit should be worn with plimsolls for indoor sports and trainers for outdoor sports as appropriate. **Please could PE bags be brought into school on Mondays and left in school until kit needs to be washed and then returned promptly!** Unless it is raining heavily, games will be outside. With the colder weather, navy blue tracksuit trousers or leggings will be essential as well as a sweatshirt. Girls who wear tights will also need socks. Please note: earrings must be removed or covered with a plaster (supplied from home) for PE. If you would like to send your child with earrings/glasses, you may want to provide a small, named plastic container they can keep in their tray to hold their items.

PSHE

Our Jigsaw topic is 'Being Me in My World'. We will learn how to make the most of new opportunities and build towards higher goals. After Half Term, we will be exploring issues arising from the topic: 'Celebrating Difference'. In our Jigsaw sessions, we will be talking about the importance of rules and responsibilities.

Religious Education

During this term we will be following the 'Discovery' element of the new RE curriculum.

Music

This term we will be exploring rhythm, pitch and accompaniments. The children will have the opportunity to work collaboratively in groups as they create and perform Viking war chants.

Homework

Spelling, Times Tables and other basic English and Maths skills lie at the core of the homework but other subject areas will feature as well. You can also expect to see some paper-based homework. We expect all the children to read on a daily basis and to answer comprehension questions asked by an adult at home. Copies of possible questions will be stuck at the front of the reading records for reference.

Should you have any questions or would be interested in coming in to work with your child/ren, then please do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs Moucher and Miss Whitlock (Willow and Sycamore Classes)

