Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow

Willow Class

September 2026

Dear Willow Class Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a fantastic holiday. This term is a wonderful opportunity to kick off the new academic year with fantastic learning, as we continue to Believe, Learn and Grow together in 2026 and 2027. We welcome children, from Sycamore and Beech, into Willow class by coming together to continue their learning journey.

This term we will be focused on "The Princess who Hid in a Tree" in our writing narrative. Children will be focusing on learning about Princess Frideswide, an Anglo Saxon Princess, who escaped King Algars army and built a church. Later in the term children will write a Biography about Saint Frideswide, researching her incredible journey in Oxford. The Anglo-Saxon theme interlinks through our learning this term so the children will explore themes and meanings within Tony Bradman's story "Anglo-Saxon boy" in whole class reading. This will tie in with our History topic about Anglo-Saxon art, culture and Christian conversion, with the children using their learning to understand how historians and archaeologists interpret Anglo-Saxon culture with limited evidence. Science will be taught using a new mixed year group curriculum, with the whole class learning about the circulatory system this term.

Children in Willow class are encouraged to read regularly for pleasure, either from a suitable range of fiction from home, or from a levelled reading book from our reading scheme – Big Cat or Little Wandle. Children will have a Big Cat or Little Wandle book each week to read to improve reading fluency as well as a 'reading for pleasure' book of their choice. Whole Class Reading sessions take place daily, focusing on developing a range of reading skills, including retrieval, inference and explanations skills to encouraging progress.

Spellings will go home on a Friday, starting Friday 11th September, with support given in school to help learn these. Spellings will continue to be a big focus. We will investigate spelling rules and patterns throughout the week. Children will be given differentiated spellings for the week, depending on the level they are working at in class. Most children will be given around 8 spellings, but others might have less. Please use the look, say, cover, write and check format to practise the words at home, as well as the techniques like 'silly sentences' 'pyramid writing' and other strategies which will be explained to your children. Spellings will be taught during the week, followed by a test on Friday.

We will continue to focus on improving our knowledge and speed of times tables using deliberate practice on paper in class. Each term we will have a focus on times tables learning with the expectation that children will practice these at home to build on their quick recall and application. Children in year 4 will be taking the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in June 2027. If you would like support at home with times tables then please let us know.

Pick 'n' Mix home learning will also be available for your child. On this grid, there is a range of home learning activities as well as activities linked to our value of Thankfulness and Believe, Learn and Grow.

PE will be taught on **Tuesday afternoon and Friday afternoon**. Children are allowed to wear their PE kits in school for the entire day on their PE days. Please ensure that earrings are not worn if possible. If they are worn, they need to be covered in tape to prevent an accident.

Thank you in advance for your support, and we look forward to an exciting first term in Willow Class.

Mrs Lambert and Mrs Kinnersley