Believe ~ Learn ~ Grow

Willow Class

November 2026

Dear Willow Class Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a fantastic break. Welcome back to everyone, we hope you feel rested and ready for another term where we have lots of exciting things happening for Willow class in the lead up to Christmas. A couple of dates for your diaries: **Parents evenings will be on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November**. Later in the term **Willow will visit The Wyvern Theatre on Thursday 10th December** for the Christmas Panto.

This term we will be focused on "Rhythm of The Rain" in our writing narrative. Children will be focusing on learning about the water cycle from one child's perspective. Later in the term, children will write a non-chronological report about the water cycle. The water cycle theme interlinks through our learning this term so the children will explore themes and meanings within Gill Lewis' 'Song of the River' in whole class reading. This will tie in with our Geography topic learning about mountain ranges and how mountains are formed. Science will be taught using a new mixed year group curriculum, with the whole class learning about Light and straight-line travel. Pupils will learn about how light behaves, focusing on how it travels and allows us to see objects.

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 encourage progress.

Spellings will go home on a **Friday** 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, and then tested on a **Friday**. Most children will be given around 10 spellings and 3 from their English books, 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.

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.

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 term's value of Trust and Believe, Learn and Grow.

This term Willow will be participating in **Forest School on Tuesday afternoons.** Please make sure your child comes into school with appropriate clothing that they can wear outside. The weather will be cold and wet as we move into the colder months. Children will need warm, old clothing, wellies, gloves and hats. PE will be taught on a **Friday afternoon**. Children can wear their PE kit in school for the entire day on PE days. Please ensure that earrings are not worn if possible. If they are, they need to be taped 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