

2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to an exciting new year in Willow Class and a very warm welcome to the new reception children and their parents - I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your child. I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer and that your children are refreshed, refuelled and ready to learn! Covid 19 presented us with many challenges last year, but I am very hopeful that this year will be much more 'normal' for the children and the staff too. We are back to our pre covid timetable once more so I will collect the children from the number line on the front playground each morning at 8.45am and dismiss them from the alley way to the left of the school at 3.15pm. Year 2 parents perhaps you could help show the parents new to the school where this is - thank you.

Please find attached a topic web giving a brief overview of the work your child will be doing this term. The main topic title is 'How have I changed since I was a Baby'. This topic centres around the children themselves and how much they have changed physically over the years and how much capable they are now. Your child will need to bring in a photograph of themselves as a baby for a class display. You could either send in a photo or upload one to Tapestry and I will print it off at school. If you could do this as soon as possible, I'd really appreciate it.

**Reading** - You will appreciate that it is absolutely impossible for us to hear all the children read on a daily basis in class, but we will endeavour to change the books each week to enable you to support your child's reading at home. Your child will read in school approximately twice each week. Please bare with us as we integrate the new Reception children over the next few weeks. Please note that Reception children will not receive reading books until they have learnt some of their tag words and lots of their letter sounds. They will bring home books to talk about and share with you to begin with. The key to children learning these words is to spend five minutes working on these every day. You will find a reading communication book in your child's bookbag, and it is really helpful if you could please make a comment each time you read or run through the letter sounds and tag words with your child. It helps us know whether to give your child a new reading book or not.

**Sound of the Week** will run through each week for reception and year 1 if they want to continue to take part. I will send out a post on Tapestry each Friday informing you which letter of the alphabet the children need to be hunting for at home. This is usually an opportunity for your child to bring something in to show the class and tell them about. For example, if our sound of the week is 'a' they might bring in an apple, ambulance, astronaut or an anchor. Take a photo or video of your child sharing objects that they have found at home that begin with our sound of the week and post it on Tapestry. I will then show this on the large screen in the classroom and your child can tell the class about it. The children love this session so new parents do please try and find a few items that your child can show us on Tapestry. It really helps their letter sound learning.

**Dojo Points** - This is a reward system that we use in class to encourage positive behaviour and hard work. Each child has their own Dojo Monster character, and they can earn their monster points numerous ways e.g. good listening, working hard, behaving well, being kind to others etc. When individual children reach various points thresholds, they are invited to choose a small prize from the Dojo drawers. The first threshold is 20. We count up the points and award prizes each Friday afternoon. The children also work together by combining all their points to earn a class Dojo prize in the form of a class treat that they have chosen. This could be a class trip to the park or a DVD afternoon. In the past the children have asked for a class reward of a disco after school, ice creams in the park and wearing their pyjamas to school!

**Spellings** will run each week for the Year 1 and 2 children. Each week they will have a set of words that they are challenged to learn to read and spell by the end of the week. You can help support your child by practising these words at home a few times each week. The words are taken from the year 1 and 2 common exception words list and I've also included words with phonics sounds that the children need to learn. I've tried to begin with easier words. Spellings for the reception children will not start until the summer term.

PE is on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. All children need a PE T-shirt, black shorts and daps. It is also a good idea to keep a couple of pairs of spare socks and pants in the PE bag just in case of little accidents! Could you please, please, **please** ensure **all clothes are clearly labelled - even shoes!** It never fails to amaze me how young children manage to spread their clothes around the entire classroom when changing for PE, so it really helps us to reunite clothes with their owner.

**Outdoor Learning** will take place most weeks. Please ensure that your child has wellies, waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat or an all in one suit that **remains in school for the term**. We will go out whatever the weather, even if it's pouring with rain so it is essential that your child has the correct kit. The children love these sessions - especially jumping in big, muddy puddles!

**Hats** - can you please provide a sunhat that stays at school permanently? Our playground has very little shade so even in the autumn on a sunny day we encourage the children to wear a hat. Year 1 and 2 parents, some of your children brought their hats home in July so perhaps you'd be kind enough to send one back into school if your child no longer has one in school.

I hope that you find this information useful. There's a lot of exciting things happening in Willow class. I will try and post on Tapestry each week so that you can see what the children have been getting up to.

As always please don't hesitate to chat to me if you have any questions or concerns. You are also welcome to message me on Tapestry or email me at [mrs.ley@lacock.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:mrs.ley@lacock.wilts.sch.uk)

Kindest Regards

Mrs Ley