

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 all. I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer and that your children are refreshed, refuelled and ready to learn!

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 more capable they are now. Your child will need to bring in a photograph of themselves as a baby for a class display. And also a photo of themselves at approximately 18 months old and then when they were three years old please. You can either send in photos or upload them to Tapestry and I will print them off at school. If you could do this as soon as possible, I'd really appreciate it.

Reading - Your child will read in class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are using the Little Wandle scheme to teach both phonics and reading. Children will be reading in small groups and will read the same book three times throughout the week with adults in school and they will also bring it home to read with you. Each reading session in school will have a different focus:

- Session 1 Decoding - The children will look through the tricky words and any new vocabulary and have an opportunity to read the book to decode the words.
- Session 2 Prosody - In this session they read the book again but the focus is on building expression and intonation.
- Session 3 Comprehension - In this final session the children will learn to answer questions about the text. They will be asked to prove it and explain it and use examples from the text to help back up their answers.

When the children read the book with you at home it will be to 'show off' the skills they have learnt so you can see the wonderful progress that they are making. Please see our website for further information. Please note that Reception children will not receive reading books until they have learnt some of their tag words, lots of their letter sounds and are able to blend these sounds. They will bring home books to talk about and share with you to begin with. You will find a little yellow diary 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 how they are getting on with these at home.

Sound of the Week will run through each week for reception at the beginning of the year. 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 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. Alternatively you

could 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. 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!

PE is on a Monday afternoon and Thursday morning. All children need a PE T-shirt, black shorts and daps in their PE bag which is kept at school. 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 throughout the term. 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 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 this term. I will try and post on Tapestry each week so that you can see what the children have been getting up to. Do let me know if you have any issues logging on.

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

Kindest Regards

Mrs Ley