

Willow Class Newsletter

Autumn 2025



Welcome to Willow class. We hope you have had a fabulous summer, and that the children are excited to be at school. If any of them are feeling anxious about starting a new school year, please reassure them that we'll be there every step of the way to support them.

Adults in Willow Class are as follows:

Miss Abbie Wilkinson – Teacher

Miss Nicole Byatt – Teacher: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Miss Jules Courtney – TA: Monday to Thursday

If you need to **contact us** about anything (no question is too silly), you can catch us at the door after school with any quick queries, or you can email us.

Miss Wilkinson – awilkinson@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Miss Byatt - nbyatt@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Lunches and snack

Each morning, children choose between red (meat), green (vegetarian), blue (sandwich) and yellow (jacket potato) options, or packed lunch from home.

Fruit snack is provided from the Government for the morning. Children may bring in their own snack for the morning, but this must be a piece of fruit. We would like to offer the children an afternoon snack. Any donations for afternoon snacks would be appreciated, things like breadsticks, crackers, raisins would be great for the afternoons to keep us going!

Reminder that if you would like to sign up for your child to have milk please do so.

Drop off and collection

Drop off – between **8.35am and 8.45am**, at the side gate. A teacher will be there to welcome the children.

Please try to be on time, because we often do one to one reading during the first part of the day.

Collection – at **3.15pm**, from classroom.

What to bring each day

- Water bottle (named)
- Book bag (no rucksacks)
- Reading folder (record and book)
- Coat, sun hat (weather dependent)

Please label ALL clothing!

Home learning

Many parents ask how they can help their child at home. The answer to this is **read, read, and read some more!**

Please aim to do the following **every day**:

- **Listen to** your child read and **record this each time** in the reading record so we can see what they have been reading. A detailed comment each time is not necessary.
- **Read to/with** your child every day and enjoy the experience together! This could be picture or chapter books, but could also include recipes, comics, letters, magazines, newspapers, etc.

Reading books will be changed every Monday and Thursday. Please make sure children bring in their reading folders every day, so they can be read with.

Library

Our class library slot is on Wednesday. Children will be able to choose a book from the library to take home, share and enjoy. **Please ensure that this is back in their bookbag each week so they can swap it for a new book.** If they would like to keep it for longer than one week, they have the option to do this.

PE

PE will take place on **Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please make sure your child has the Tewin Cowper branded t-shirt and jumper.** Children must come into school dressed in the new PE kit on those days.

Tapestry

Tapestry is now up and running for Reception aged children which is great, please regularly check Tapestry for observations and to see what we have been up to. Remember that you can also upload things from home, we would love to see what learning the children get up to at home.

Autumn Term: learning overview

English

We follow Essential Writing.

For reception age children, the programme is built around bookmaking to support children with understanding that writing is multi-sensory, purposeful, a joyous experience and that everyone can be a writer.

Year 1 age children we will be looking at four main types of texts: labels, lists and captions, narrative, recipes and traditional tales. We will begin by recapping skills they covered in Reception and then will be introducing and practising some brand-new reading and writing skills!

Our first unit (labels, list and captions) will focus on the lovely book Jasper's Beanstalk, in which the children will be writing simple set of instructions on gardening.

Other texts we will be using this term include:

- Puffin Peter (narrative)
- Purple is (Poem)
- Fairy Tales (Narrative)
- Gruffalo Crumble (recipe)

Maths

We follow the NCETM scheme, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts.

Reception age children will start in the Autumn term by: Subitising groups of numbers, representing numbers in different ways, learning about the counting sequence, comparing sets of numbers and learning about the 'whole number'.

Year 1 age children will begin the term by consolidating some of the learning from Reception. Although it might sound as if we are backtracking a lot, these skills help children develop fluency in working with whole numbers, counting and recognising the place value of each digit in a number.

You can **support your child** with their **maths fluency** by practising things like:

- **Number bonds** to 5 and 10
- **Count to and across 100**, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number
- **Identify and represent numbers** using objects and pictorial representation. (use objects around the house)

Phonics:

Reception age children will be starting with Level 2 sounds - s, a, t, p/ i, n, m, d/ g, o, c, k/ ck, e, u, r

Next half term we will be learning Level 2 sounds- h, b, f, l/ ff, ll, ss, s, and Level 3 sounds - j, v, w, x/ y, z, zz, qu, ch/ sh, th, th, ng.

Year 1 age children will be recapping Level 3 and 4 sounds and then moving onto level 5 sounds.

There will be much more information about Phonics at our Phonics information evening on Wednesday 17th September at 6pm

Science

Our first unit is Seasonal Changes. We start by identifying how the weather changes across the four seasons.

Later in the term, we will cover Everyday Materials. We will be recognising that objects are made from materials that suit their purpose.

History

Children will develop an understanding of personal chronology. They will be placing events on a timeline, making a capsule and using vocabulary such as past, present and memory to help them describe how their life has changed from when they were a baby. If you have any photos of them as a baby, please send them to Miss Wilkinson.

Computing

Online safety this term will investigate using the internet safely and which information is appropriate to share and post online and which is not. Later this term, year 1 age children will use a basic range of tools within graphic editing software.

Art

In Autumn 1 the focus is drawing. They will be experimenting with a range of mark-making techniques.

Geography

Children will be taught to recognise some physical features and human features in their locality. They will learn how to use an atlas to locate the UK and explore maps of the area we live in.

Design and Technology

Our first unit is Structures. We start by learning about windmills, joining with materials and making a stable structure.

PE

This first half term, the children will be doing PE fundamentals and gymnastics.

PSHE

We start by thinking about our feelings, families and relationships.

RE

In our Creation unit, we will look at the world and consider why it is wonderful, thinking about what God wanted for it. Children will use discussion, writing and reflection to share their thoughts and ideas. We will also look at the Christmas story.

Music

We will be exploring pulse and different types of sounding using instruments and body percussion.