

# Willow Class Newsletter

## Spring 2026



Welcome to the Spring term! We are delighted to welcome our Year 1 and Reception children back to school and hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. This term is full of exciting learning opportunities that will inspire curiosity and creativity.

### Adults in Willow Class are as follows:

Miss Wilkinson – Teacher

Mrs Trendall – Thursday afternoon

Miss Courtney – TA Monday to Thursday

Mrs Smith – TA Monday to Friday

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](mailto:awilkinson@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. Children may bring in their own snack for the morning, but this must be a piece of fruit.

### 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.

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.

We have put together an optional home learning sheet linked to what the children will be learning each term. We would love to see what the children complete, whether this is written work or a photograph emailed to us, so we can celebrate their learning. There is no specific order in which the activities need to be completed, and it is entirely up to you how much or when you choose to do them. We hope the children find the activities enjoyable and beneficial.

## 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 book bag 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 in Year 1 will take place on **Tuesday and Friday**. Please make sure your child has the Tewin Cowper branded t-shirt and jumper. Children must come into school dressed in the PE kit on those days.

## Tapestry

Please regularly check Tapestry to see observations and what we have been up to in class. Remember, you can also upload learning from home—we would love to see what the children have been getting up to and celebrate their achievements.

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# Spring Term: Learning Overview

## English

We follow Essential Writing, which supports children in developing strong writing skills, creativity, and confidence in expressing their ideas. In Reception and Year 1, this approach helps children build a solid foundation in sentence structure, vocabulary, and storytelling, while encouraging them to explore different types of texts.

This term, children will be looking at a variety of text types, including short narratives, rules and recounts, and poetry. The texts we will be using include:

- Stanley's Stick – narrative
- Ruby's Worry – rules and recount
- Oi Frog! – poetry (free verse)

Through these texts, children will learn to structure their writing, use imaginative and precise language, and develop their ability to communicate ideas clearly and confidently. Reception children will focus on building basic sentence and story skills, while Year 1 will work on extending sentences, sequencing ideas, and using punctuation accurately.

## Maths

We follow Essential Maths, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts.

This term, children will be comparing quantities up to 10 in different contexts, learning to recognise when one amount is greater than, less than, or the same as another. They will also solve problems using part or whole, and focus on concepts such as comparison, equality, and balance.

Children will develop their reasoning and problem-solving skills through practical activities, games, and visual representations, helping them build a solid understanding of numbers.

### **Phonics:**

In Phonics, Reception will continue to recap Level 2 sounds to ensure they are confident, and will be introduced to Level 3 sounds, including: qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, er, ear, ow, oi, air, ure, and ur. Year 1 will continue to work on Level 5 sounds and focus on preparing for the Phonics Screening Check.

### **History**

In History, the children will be sequencing toys on a timeline, investigating artefacts from the past, and identifying how teddy bears have changed over time as well as what toys may be like in the future. They will also compare and contrast people from the past and the present by looking at photographs, listening to their stories, and learning about their achievements

### **Art**

In art we will be exploring paint and painting techniques through nature, music and collaborative work. Children will be learning about primary and secondary colours, colour mixing techniques, and applying these skills in painting and printing. The lessons encourage exploration and confidence in colour use, culminating in creating a painted plate in the style of an artist.

### **Science**

In Spring 1, children will be learning to identify and name different parts of the human body. They will take part in hands-on investigations using their senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch) to spot patterns and help them ask and answer simple questions about the world around them.

In Spring 2, children will focus on animals. They will learn how to compare and group animals by looking at similarities and differences, including physical features and what they eat. Through discussion and practical activities, children will develop their observation and classification skills.

### **Design and Technology**

In Spring 2, children will be learning about designing and making puppets or bookmarks. They will use a template to create their own design and practise cutting fabric neatly using scissors. Children will explore different joining methods to decorate their puppets/bookmarks and learn how to sequence the steps needed to construct their finished product.

As part of this work, pupils will also develop and practise threading and weaving techniques using a range of materials and objects. At the end of the project, children will reflect on their finished product, talking about what they like and what they would improve next time.

## **Geography**

This term, children will learn to identify and locate the four countries of the UK, recognise their own country, and describe locations using basic compass directions. They will also measure and observe different types of weather, use symbols commonly seen in weather forecasts, describe seasonal changes, and suggest appropriate clothing and activities for each season.

## **RE**

This term, we will be investigating the question: Is Shabbat important to Jewish children? The children will explore Jewish traditions and learn about the significance of Shabbat in everyday life. We will also be looking at how people celebrate other cultural festivals, including Chinese New Year and Holi.

## **PE**

The children will be focusing on developing their ball skills, including sending, receiving, and controlling a ball. They will practice these skills through fun activities and games that help improve their hand-eye coordination, teamwork, and confidence in moving and handling equipment.

## **Music**

In Music, children will be learning to identify high and low notes and to compose a simple tune to represent a superhero. They will explore how to use their voices and bodies to create sounds, experiment with tempo and dynamics when playing instruments, and listen carefully to identify and differentiate sounds in the environment.

## **PSHE**

Children will learn about rules, persistence, and resilience. They will practice coping strategies, communicate effectively, and describe their emotions.