Welcome to Willow Class
2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all have had a wonderful and rested summer. A huge welcome to Willow Class for my new parents and welcome back for my year 4 families. I am very excited to be back and look forward to producing lots of creative and wonderful learning as a new Willow Class family. Please find below some information about our weekly routines in Willow Class.

Homework

In Willow Class, children are given 'homework folders'- this will consist of, termly topic activities, weekly spellings, weekly reading and a maths based activity.

These can also be found on our school website http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/willow-class.html.

These will be handed out on Fridays and will be due back in on the following Wednesday. (Topic Homework will be due in at the end of the term- more information below)

Maths Homework: This term we are having a big focus on **'Times Tables'**. Each week the children need to complete a timestables challenge. I have explained that we are all at different levels with our timestables so trying and giving them a go is all that I ask. As we go through the year, our love of timetables will grow- I promise!

In class, we complete these in a 6-minute session, as it is a quick recall. The aim is not to finish the challenge but to complete the ones you feel confident with and then challenge yourself with the rest. However, for homework, I am more than happy for the children to work through the sheet at their pace. Building confidence is key here!

Spellings: Our weekly spelling 'QUIZ' will take place every Friday morning in class, starting from Friday 11th September. We do daily spelling sessions in class using a range of fun and active strategies to help remember and apply the spellings. This term we will be focusing on High Frequency Words.

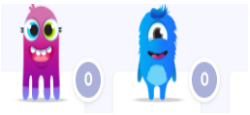
Home learning projects: This term we are exploring and learning about **'The changing Power of the Monarchs'** A new theme for us all. I have uploaded an 'idea sheet' but please don't feel you have to follow it. I love seeing all the topic projects- remember to be creative and have fun. I will send a reminder out nearer the time but these projects will be due in on Monday 19th October for our homework celebration to which families are invited to join. (see separate letter for more information!) Please can I ask that topic homework is not brought in before the 19th, we struggle to store it.

Reading: Don't forget that reading is very important and is part of your homework requirement too. Please recall the pages/books that you have read- I love hearing about them. In Willow Class we have **'Star Reader of the term'.** This is to encourage children to read at home. This could consist of poetry, magazines, stories, nonfiction, recipes- anything to get the children excited with reading. The star reader of the term will receive a prize (Reading related, of course!)

PE: PE sessions will take place every **Tuesday and Friday**. Children will need to come into school wearing their PE kits. A change of shoes and socks are needed as we approach the winter months and muddy weather. As always, during the autumn term please make sure the children do have leggings/joggers- we plan to be outside as much as possible. A gentle reminder that PE kits should be in line with our uniform policy- can I kindly ask no skins please. Navy jumpers/fleeces/joggers work perfectly.

Forest School: This year, we will be doing 'Forest School Days'. This allows us to fully immerse with the activities and allow us

more time when teaching the children how to use 'Forest school tools'. It allows them to explore these key skills over a longer period of time. I will send out dates nearer the time.



Dojo's: Some of you may have been informed about 'class Dojo's'. The childen each have their own individual character, which keeps hold of their Dojo's. This year they start off as eggs and hatch as the weeks go on- the children are extremely animated for this. These are rewarded in the exact same manner as a house point. Each day I make note of the child/children who have gained the most each day, then each of the names get put into a box at the end of the week for the chance to pick something from my dip box.

General

Please make sure all items of clothing and water bottles are clearly labelled. Children do need to wear coats as we approach the colder months.

Each week I will write a weekly update sharing our work, photos and activities for that week. This will be uploaded on Friday afternoons onto the Willow Class page.

I hope you find this helpful and supportive. I am always on hand to answer any questions or queries, so please feel free to email the office or catch me in the playground at the start or end of the day.

Here's to a wonderful start to the year with my 'New Willows'

With Best Wishes,

Mrs Davies and the Willow Class Team x