

# Willow Class Autumn Newsletter



Welcome to Willow Class. It has been lovely to see the children coming back into school and being so enthusiastic and grown up about being in Year 5. This newsletter gives you a brief guide to the highlights this term. If you have any questions at any time, please do ask me.

## Our Learning this Term

Our first **topic** this half term is Long, Long Ago— a study of human development through the Stone Age and Bronze Age. We have already looked at Stone Age tools and had fun creating videos persuading people to buy the 'new and improved' bow and arrow, as an alternative weapon. Next half term our topic will be Remembrance looking at evidence from the past, how things changed and differences between men and women's roles during the war.

In **RE** we will look at the *Creation* stories in the Bible, comparing and contrasting the different versions that exist here. Prayers, saints and feasts, Islam and Advent, will follow this.

In **English** we have begun studying *Classic Fiction* through Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle book* and will be following this with a *gothic style of fiction* updated for 21<sup>st</sup> century children, *Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse* by Chris Riddell. They will then revise writing non-chronological *reports*, using the information they learn about Stone Age life, as well as studying biographies and autobiographies. Later in the term, the children will learn how to write an *explanation* and revise instructions, as well as looking at the poetry of *Michael Rosen and Roger McGough*. We will also be doing weekly reading, spelling and handwriting sessions.

In **Maths** we will use subtraction, addition, multiplication and division, including decimals. We will also be looking at time and length. Please continue to support their learning of times tables up to 12x12 as it is vital that the children know them. This underpins much of the fraction, percentage and division work we do in Year 5.

In **science** we'll be looking at properties and changes of materials and forces.

A very busy term!

## GAMES LESSONS

We begin the term with orienteering and tag rugby (the latter being taught by Mr Kelly).

To anticipate the colder weather (!) the children can bring in plain blue or black track suits. Children also need a spare pair of socks in school this term as their feet do get wet when the grass is dewy.

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times and that they keep it in school. It will be sent home for washing each half term.

## Pencil Cases

If they wish to do so, the children are welcome to bring in a small pencil case that fits neatly in their drawer leaving room for school essentials! This can contain a pencil, pen, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener. **If room**, they are welcome to bring a few colouring pencils, highlighters, gel pens or felt tips. These final items are not essential.

## Trip news

To support our current topic we will be visiting the ancient technology centre to explore the Stone Age through fun and interactive learning on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

More details will follow.

## Reading Books

The children continue to enjoy the wide range of books now available in our school reading scheme. The children need to change their own books, as they did in Year 4. As part of the whole school initiative (Hi5) to encourage reading, children are expected to read at home at least five times a week. Please make sure and that their reading records are signed to show they have read either a school or home book or comic etc. If your child doesn't read then they will be asked to read for 5 minutes during playtime to encourage their reading. In many cases, the children will now be reading silently to themselves, but your support and interest is vitally important. We have a quiet reading time every day and the children are welcome to bring a book or other reading material in from home for this if they wish.

**Homework** will generally be set on a **Thursday**. It should be returned the following **Wednesday**. There will usually be a short piece of spelling work each week. All homework will relate to, and be a consolidation of, class work. Some homework will be computer based, so if your child does not have access to a computer, do let me know so that we can make arrangements for them to do it in school. Occasionally, there will be an additional piece of homework relating to our current topic.