

# 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 Year 5s! 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 term is Long, Long Ago - Stone Age, Bone Age - a study of human development through the Stone Age and Bronze Age. We have already looked at some astonishing cave art produced by people in these long ago times and will go on to find out about the development of ancient technology and settlements.

In RE we will look at the *Creation* stories in the Bible, comparing and contrasting the different versions that exist here.

In English we have begun studying the *gothic style of fiction* updated for 21<sup>st</sup> century children! We are reading *Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse* by Chris Riddell. The children are enjoying it very much. They will then revise writing *information reports*, using the information they learn about Stone Age life, as well as studying creation *myths* from around the world. The children will also learn how to write an *explanation*, as well as looking at the poetry of *Michael Rosen and Roger McGough*.

Maths lessons follow the current National Curriculum. It is vital that the children know their *times tables* up to *12 x 12 by heart*. This underpins much of the fraction, percentage and division work we do in Year 5.

In November, Willow Class will lead the school in the annual service of *Remembrance*. We will be doing a special project leading up to this. Later in the term, we will be studying *Forces* in Science.

## GAMES LESSONS

We begin the term with gymnastics and ball skills (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.

## Stonehenge

To support and complete our current topic, we are arranging an exciting trip to Stonehenge.

Look out for further details.

## 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. Please encourage your child to read their school reading book regularly, alongside all the reading material - books, comics etc - that they have at home. 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.

Letters The children have been reminded that they need to take any letters for school out of their book bags in the morning and give them to our register monitors to pass to the office. This generally works very well, but it would be really helpful if you could make sure that they know if there is a letter they need to pass on.