

Willowbank Weekly



www.willowbank.devon.sch.uk

24th January 2018

Don't forget to order school dinners by tomorrow!

Learner of the Week

Well done to the following children for being presented with a Learner of the Week certificate:

Maisy H-Starling
Harry R-Robin
Phoebe L- Siskin
Tyler K- Linnet
Oscar K- Dove
Noah T- Goldfinch
Milly S-Avocet
Tim H - Heron
Erin T-Kingfisher
Hannah W-Buzzard
Charlie H- Hawk

Gate opening

We apologise for the incidents this week which have meant we could not open the gate as quickly as we would like. We recognise that the queuing is a concern to many and we have listened to your thoughts. The reason we do not open the white gate is because our thriving breakfast club uses the playground until 8.45am, teaching staff become responsible for children 10 minutes before the start of the school day which is 8.55am when the register is called.

We feel we have listened to previous concerns and as a result of this we now have Year 5 and 6 children entering school through the wooden gate in the carpark, this has taken around 70 children away from the main school gates. Willowbank is a popular and growing school and we have seen our numbers rise by 50 children since January 2016.

Mobile phones

If your child brings a mobile phone to school, we would ask that the phone is handed into the office upon arrival at school and then collected from the office at the end of the day.

Half term clubs

Sadly Go-Active have ceased to trade, therefore we are unable to offer the children a half term activity club. Here are some activities happening locally that we have found out about: Premier Sport.org is running holiday camps on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th February at Two Moors Primary School in Tiverton, for more information you can visit www.premiersport.org. Saints South West are running a soccer school and multi sports club, please check their website for full details www.saintssouthwest.co.uk.

Whole School Open Afternoon – Come and see how well we are learning and celebrate with us.

We would like to invite parents, family members and siblings to our Whole School Open Afternoon on Monday 5th February.



Valentine Disco-Wednesday 7th February

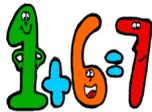
The PTFA will be trialling a 'fast track' ticket service for the Valentines Disco. Parents will be able to purchase a ticket for their child on Friday 2nd and Monday 5th after school from PTFA members on the playground. The office will not be selling these tickets. On the evening if your child has a ticket they will be able to fast track the queue into the disco. The tickets MUST have the child's name written on clearly.

Children will of course be able to turn up on the night as per usual. Please be patient with us as get the children in safely.

Following the popular option of dropping your KS2 child into the library this will be available again.

If you are able to help please let a member of the PTFA know before the disco. We are also looking for a DJ; this can just be an age appropriate play list on a phone, tablet or computer. If you can help please get in contact!

Foundation, Years 1 and 2: 6-7pm Years 3, 4, 5, 6: 7.15pm-8.15pm Cost £1.50



Foundation

This week we have continued to learn different ways to look after ourselves. We are going to be using the book Superworm by Julia Donaldson to help us recognise different ways to look after each other. In number this week we are looking at length and using this to compare different 'worms'. We are also learning how to add two numbers and strategies to support this being easier.

We have started to use junk modelling in the classroom. If you have any items for recycling such as cereal boxes, snack bars, cake boxes etc., please could you give them to your child to bring in. This will continue our learning of 3D shapes and supporting children talking about the shapes they have used.



Years 1 & 2

Years 1 and 2 have been continuing their theme lessons by learning about why castles were important and the life of William the Conqueror. During English lessons, Year 2 have been sharing their knowledge of traditional stories and choosing their favourite to write. They are really excited to begin their work on Jack and the Beanstalk and exploring this story further. Year 1 have been adapting the story of Jack and the Beanstalk as a class in preparation for writing their own version with different characters. In Mathematics, Year 2 have been exploring halves, quarters, thirds and three-quarters of shapes, they are now beginning to look at these fractions when working with number. Year 1 continue to explore 10 more and 10 less of given numbers and are beginning to use vocabulary to explain their ideas and thinking.



Years 3 & 4

TT Rockstars has arrived! Please see the additional information about this in the newsletter.

The children were delighted to meet the author, Billy Bob Buttons last week. We were thrilled that some children were so inspired; they even went home and wrote their own stories following his advice - well done.

For Theme, the children are trying to replicate patterns seen in Chinese art, within their own clay pots. I saw Heron class making theirs and they were really focusing on improving their work- great determination shown.

For Maths, we are re-visiting areas of place value and extending their understanding of rounding, ordering and representing numbers. They are being challenged to really explain what they find out.

I have read some superb writing from the Year 3 & 4 children this week. They really are challenging themselves to use a wider range of adjectives and similes.



Year 5 & 6

In English this week, we have written diaries from Daedalus, thinking about how to use interesting punctuation, cohesive openers and how to add description using similes, metaphors and interesting adjectives and adverbs. We enjoyed our visit from Billy Bob Buttons - he talked to us about how to plan stories. We have written great recounts of his visit and will use his advice next week when we plan our own myths.

In Maths, we have been improving calculation skills and our understanding of decimals and percentages in Year 6. In Year 5, we have learnt how to convert mixed numbers to improper fractions.

Our understanding of Ancient Greece is deepening. We have learnt what Greek democracy was like and thought about what happened during the Trojan War and during the Ancient Olympics. We will be holding a Greek Day on Monday 5th February - we would like everyone to come into school in Ancient Greek costume. (Please wear warm clothes under the togas!) We are also inviting parents into Year 5 / 6 from 1.15pm to help us create Greek banners depicting different gods / goddesses.

TT Rockstars comes to Willowbank!

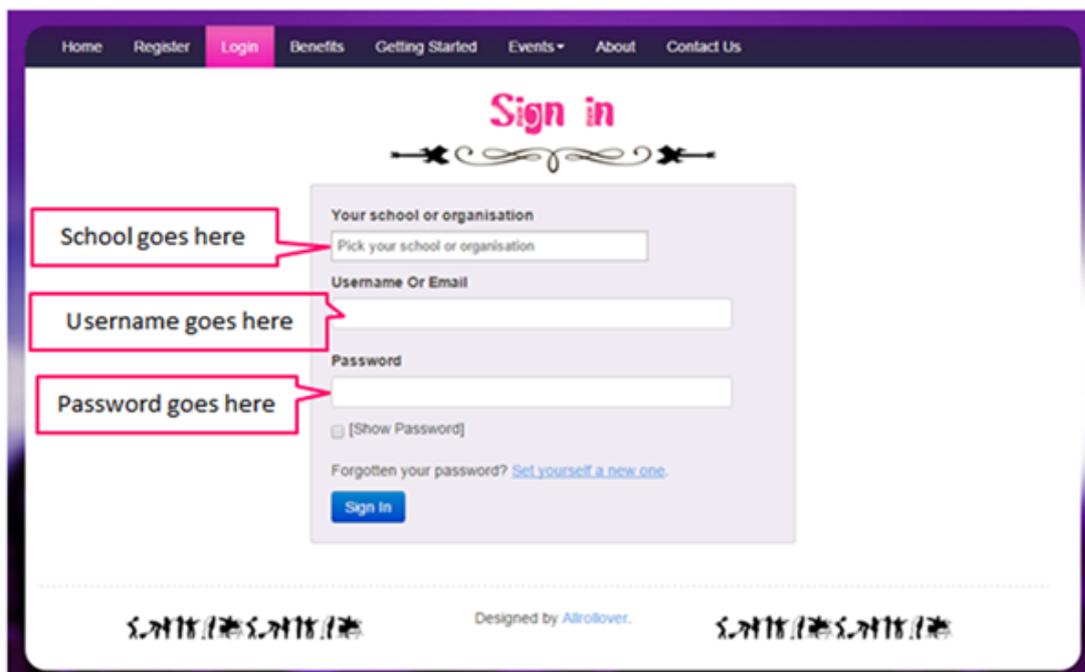
We are delighted to inform you that all children in Key stage 2 now have their own login for TT Rockstars. They will be given their usernames and password this week. World famous rock musicians are the best at what they do because they've spent hours practising guitar chords, writing music or playing on the drums. It's just the same with times tables - all Times Table Rock Stars need to practise and practise and practise.

Times Tables Rockstars is a website which children can use to practise their times tables in a fun way.

They can complete games in 4 different areas:

- Garage - where they will practise times tables set by the teacher
- Studio - where any question from 1X1- 12X12 will be asked and the speed will be recorded
- Rock Arena - You can play against other pupils from your class
- Rock festival - Where you can compete against other children from around the world.

Avocet Class have been trialling this programme, and the children are really loving it, while learning their times tables at the same time.



Diary Dates

February		
Monday 5th	ALL DAY	Years 5 & 6 Greek Day
Monday 5th		Whole school Open Afternoon
Wednesday 7th	See above	Valentines disco
W/B 12th		HALF TERM
Wednesday 21st	3.30-6.00pm	Parents evening
Thursday 22nd	3.30-6.00pm	Parents evening
March		
Thursday 29th		Last day of term
April		
Monday 16th	ALL DAY	NON PUPIL DAY
Tuesday 17th		First day of Summer term
Monday 23rd-Wednesday 25th		Year 4 residential to Wildside
May		
W/B 7th		KS1 SATs
W/B 14th		KS2 SATs
W/B 28th		HALF TERM
June		
W/B 11th		Year 1 Phonics screening
July		
Monday 2nd (Friday 6th reserve day)	All day	Sports day
Monday 9th-Wednesday 11th		Year 6 residential to Heatree
Wednesday 25th		LAST DAY OF TERM

