



Amazing Me - Who am I? Where do I live?

Reception Newsletter Term 1 2023

Dear Parents,

We wish all of you a warm welcome to Willows Class!

Our topic for this first term is 'Amazing Me'. We will be reading a range of texts such as Farmer Duck, Little Red Hen, Rosie's Walk, Incredible You and Different is a Great Thing to Be. We will be exploring who we are as people and our place in the world. We will think about our families and where we live. We will also be learning about our immediate environment, embarking on a tour of our new school and the grounds. Alongside this, we will be working on counting, number recognition, and recognising amounts. We will also be developing our foundation understanding of letters and sounds. We will be using a fantastic phonics programme that we embedded last year called Little Wandle. Please refer to the separate letter which provides more information about how it operates.

Reading	Your child will bring 2 books home each week. The Little Wandle Book will remain the same all week. The idea is that it is read repeatedly to give your child confidence and fluency. It is essential that the book bags are returned each day. Please do share this book with your child as often as you can. The other book will be from our class collection. Initially, the books that you will share will not have any words in them. At this stage, it is really helpful to encourage the children to use the pictures to tell stories. You may like to add a positive or helpful comment in the reading diary but please acknowledge that the book has been read by signing and dating in the comments section. We will be holding a reading meeting to discuss reading strategies and to share more information with you in the coming weeks.
Little Wandle Letters & Sounds	Each week, the Little Wandle planning will be shared with you in your child's homework book. You will be able to see which sounds and which tricky words they have worked on that week. It would be really useful to support the children in identifying these sounds and tricky words when reading with them. If you need support in knowing how to say the letter sounds, please use the video clip recommended below. We have noticed that those children who are aware of the sounds that we will be covering benefit greatly from this knowledge.
Maths	We will be using CBeebies Number Blocks to help with our teaching of number. We will be starting with '1' and then taking a different number every week to understand the value and embed foundations. Other maths activities will be taking place at the same time. This is part of the recommendations from the Maths Mastery approach. Furthermore we use a variety of different schemes, including White Rose Maths and Maths Mastery.

Wow slips - A Special Message	If your child does something really well that you would like to share then please fill in a special message - we will put them in the children's book bags. We can then celebrate this in school. E.g could be learning to ride a bike or being really kind to their younger sibling.
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Quick Reminders

- Please can you make sure your child brings in a named **water bottle** and their **book bag** rather than a rucksack each day.
- Can the children please always bring a **coat** particularly as the British weather is unpredictable.
- Our regular PE days are Monday and Friday. The children need to come to school on these days in their PE kits.
- Please ensure that your child has a **full change of clothes** in a named plastic bag. We have some clothing spares but they tend to run out quickly!

Home Learning

We encourage children to continue their learning at home which will enhance their progress at school.

Phonics – If you are supporting your child with their phonics at home please visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8> to ensure you are teaching the pronunciation of the sounds in the same way.

Useful websites

www.phonicsplay.co.uk – Phase 2 - phonics games and activities.

www.topmarks.co.uk – Early Years maths and phonics games.

[.https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks](https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks) - number blocks clips

We hope you all have a lovely first term supporting the children in their learning and please do not hesitate to come and speak to us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Healy and Mrs Lawrenz (Class teachers)

Mrs Matedies and Mrs Fairfield (Learning mentors)