



Newsletter Term 5

Willows

Glorious Growing!



Dear Parents,

Welcome back after what we hope was a fabulous Easter holiday! Thank you for the warm welcome - we are thrilled to be teaching Willows Class and have enjoyed getting to know the children through our transition days and conversations with Mrs May. Our topic for Term 5 is 'Glorious Growing.' This unit lends itself to spending plenty of time outside, exploring our environment and discovering more about how things grow - we can't wait to investigate!

Our key texts this term include:



Areas of Learning

Literacy

We will be continuing to focus on using high frequency words in our writing as well as spelling words with more than one syllable. We will be writing our own stories based on the texts we are reading, as well as looking closely at the characters, settings and events of the stories we are sharing. We will be exploring other genres of writing such as postcards, instructions and fact files.

Maths

In Maths, we will be solving problems that apply all of the skills we have learnt so far. As well as this, we will be continuing to develop our knowledge of number: addition, subtraction, number bonds, practising doubling and halving as well as noticing patterns in our number system. We will use our topic to explore measurement of length, height and capacity and to introduce pictograms and other simple mathematical graphs and charts.

Understanding the World

The children will be making lots of observations and predictions about things that grow. We will be growing different plants and finding out what they need to grow and thrive. Towards the end of the term, we are hoping to host some caterpillars so that we can closely observe their life cycle.

Home Learning

Reading	We are so pleased to hear that the children in Willows LOVE reading! Reading at home is one of the most important and impactful things you can do, so please continue to read with your child as often as you can, aiming for a minimum of 3x a week. This can be recorded on BoomReader.
Writing	The children will be continuing to practise their letter formation. Please help your child to form letters correctly as they write. Please encourage your child to write in every possible context – shopping lists, cards to family etc. It is important that they are encouraged to write in a phonetically plausible way (just as the word sounds) as this will enable them to be independent when writing.
Maths	The most important thing for children in their reception year is that they can read, write, order and recognise numbers to 10. Please encourage the children to count their toys when playing and try to write and use numbers when appropriate at home. We will also be looking out for the numbers and symbols that help us know what a number is without counting – this is called subitising! We will continue to learn our teen numbers and to embed our understanding of number patterns and bonds. We will also revisit both 2D and 3D shapes.

Key questions to ask your child at home:

What does a plant need to grow? What do you grow at home?

What plants and animals have you spotted nearby?

What is your favourite thing to do outside? What job would you like to do outside?

Key vocabulary

Plants, growing, Spring, soil, water, leaves, roots, grow, forest, woods, animals, mini-beasts, life cycles, weather, sun, rain, earth, mud.



Quick Reminders



- Please make sure your child brings in a named water bottle and their book bags each day.
- The children are provided with a free fruit snack at school. If you wish to send a healthy snack in with your child, please do!
- Can the children please always have a coat in school, especially for wet and rainy days- we still play outside!
- As the weather gets warmer, please ensure that your child has a hat if the sun is shining brightly. We cannot apply sun lotion so please do ensure that this is done before they arrive at school.
- As Mrs May mentioned last term, please try to discourage children from bringing in toys from home.



Can you help?



- If you happen to have any child-friendly gardening tools/seeds/plastic plant pots/trays or anything that you think could help our topic, we would receive them very gratefully!



We are so looking forward to term five's learning journey. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to us if you have any questions (or just to say hello!)



Thank you for your support,



Mrs Seymour and Mrs Healy

