

Willow Class Newsletter Autumn 1 2026



In this **Geography** topic, we will be exploring the key question “*What can we find in our school grounds?*” We will explore maps through keys, symbols and compass directions, focusing on fieldwork in our local area and school grounds.



In **Science** this term, we will be developing our knowledge of the similarities and differences between different **animal groups**, beginning with the key question “*What comes out of an egg?*” We will identify different types of animals including birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals and which are herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. We will describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals and through our outdoor learning, will observe **seasonal changes** throughout the year and measure the weather.

In Maths, this half term we will be exploring number, place value, addition and subtraction.

This will include

- Accuracy in counting
- Representing numbers
- One more/one less.
- Counting forwards and backwards
- Number formation

Maths will be taught as a whole class, in groups and through the children’s independent learning time when there are maths challenges to complete throughout the environment based

In **Music**, we will be learning to control our pitch whilst singing, a brief history of music and learning more about the piano as an instrument.

The children will be participating in **PE** lessons focused on their fundamental movement skills on a **Monday**. These are lessons that will develop their physical skills, teamwork and logical reasoning.

Alongside this, Mrs Daly will be leading the children’s **Outdoor Learning** sessions, which will take place on a **Wednesday** afternoon. In our Outdoor Learning sessions, we will be exploring the seasonal changes, preparing our vegetable bed for the winter and learning drilling and hammering skills.

In **English**, our focus texts this half term are ‘On Sudden Hill’ and ‘Ruby’s Worry’. Remembering to use capital letters, full stops and spaces between words will make our writing easier to read. Through a combination of shared, guided and independent reading, children will have daily opportunities to develop fluency in reading and a love of books. Phonics is taught as a discrete lesson daily and we are now working with Phase 5 of the phonics programme. Reading books and reading for pleasure books will be changed on a **Friday**.

In **Art**, we will focus on using pencil in different ways to draw and shade and using paint to create different colours. We will use the 3 Primary colours and explore what happens when we mix them. Children will learn to use our paint station independently to select their own colours to create colours in the style of the artist Kandinsky.

In **RE**, Our question this half term is “Who do Christians say made the world?” We will learn about the Christian creation story and how some Christians praise God for this.

This half term’s Jigsaw piece for **PSHE** is called ‘Being Me in my World’ and in these sessions, we will be thinking about how our attitudes and actions affect others around us.