

September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a lovely start to the term, in Willow Class. They have started their learning with enthusiasm, covering Roman numerals in Mathematics and, in English, they have been sentence stacking a narrative based on our class novel *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. In Science, they have started learning about Earth and space and in PE they are improving their football skills. Here are some helpful logistical points for the coming year:

“ **Homework will be set on Doodle Maths.** Children should complete 10 minutes per week. I will check their progress on Friday mornings.

“ The children will bring home between **3-6 personal spellings on Fridays.** These will be words that they collect themselves that they have spelt incorrectly in their work. They will then be tested on them the following Friday.

“ The children must **read at least 3 times per week.** Throughout the week they will participate in **Book-Talk**, where they will share their reading with the rest of the class - often enthusing others with what they read. As well as this, your child should complete one **Reading Journal** entry at home every week. This will be a high -quality, scrapbook style, creative entry. They should bring their books and journals to school daily. The journals will be collected in on Friday morning, ready for celebration assembly. I am passionate about getting children reading as the amount children read at home is the greatest signifier of future success. It has even been proven to enhance mental wellbeing!

“ **P.E. is on Friday afternoons.** Children will wear the correct kit (Longvernal PE t-Shirt; school sweater; black shorts or sports trousers; and daps or trainers) to and from school on these days.

“ **Forest School is on a Thursday afternoon.** They will come to school in their Forest kit and must wear a long sleeved top and long trousers—to protect their arms and legs from insect bites and branches of trees. Sessions will take place in any weather (other than high wind or thunder and lightning storms) so please can you ensure their kit has the appropriate items of clothing (waterproofs, spare socks, wellies, gloves and a hat for colder months).

“ Please don't forget to check out the **school website and Facebook** as we will be updating both regularly!

Finally, if there are any parents/carers/grown-ups with talents or passions, it would be great for you to come in to visit the class to share them. Or, maybe you would like to come and read a story or listen to readers across the school. I will be available on the playground every morning and outside when I dismiss at the end of the day so please don't hesitate to speak to me if you have any worries, concerns or queries.

I look forward to what promises to be a fantastic year !

Kind regards,

Cindy James