Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had a wonderful start to the term in Willow Class and the children have returned with enthusiasm for their learning. In Mathematics, we've been exploring Roman numerals and place value up to 1,000,000. In Guided Reading, the children have enjoyed DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read), where they've been sharing their chosen books with the adults in Willow Class. In English, we've started reading our new class text, Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, which we'll be focusing on over the coming weeks. In PSHE, we've begun thinking about our academic and personal goals for the year ahead. Meanwhile, in PE, the children have been working hard to develop their netball skills. It's been a fantastic beginning and we're looking forward to a term full of learning and growth in all areas!

Here are some helpful logistical points for the coming year:

Maths

Homework will be set on Doodle Maths. Children should complete 20 minutes per week. I will check their progress on Friday mornings. However, I understand that some children prefer their homework on paper rather than online. I will provide a worksheet for those children to bring home on Fridays.

English

Spellings:

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. If for any reason we run out of time, I will create a list of 6 spellings for every child to practice. Children are to bring in their practice sheets on Fridays, so that I can check their progress and practice.

Reading:

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. This entry must be about the book that they are reading. They should bring their books, **reading logs and journals to school daily**. The journals will be collected on Thursday morning, ready for celebration assembly on Friday. 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!

It is pivotal that the children complete this homework as it is incredibly beneficial to their learning and will prepare them for Year 6 and beyond. Children will have the opportunity to complete homework at Friday lunchtime in Willow Class, with me present, ensuring that support is provided where needed.

PE

P.E. is on **Thursday 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

Forest is on Tuesday afternoons. 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 am more than happy to help!

I look forward to what will be a brilliant year with Willow Class!

Best wishes,

Scarlett Cheshire