

## Willow Class Newsletter – Autumn (1)

Welcome to Fingringhoe C of E (VA) Primary School.

Whilst the transition into primary education may feel daunting, the year ahead is an exciting one! We will work collaboratively to ensure the best outcomes for your child. The children in our care will always remain at the heart of what we do.

### English:

Within Reception, English appears in many forms! To begin with, your child may simply be creating marks (for example: forming patterns in shaving foam or paint with their fingertips). Our focus will then transfer to support them to hold a pencil correctly through mark making activities. To successfully form letters, children must develop greater control over tools and develop the muscles within their fingers. One way we will achieve this is through 'Dough Disco'.

Throughout this term the children will be taught to:

- Listen to and join in with stories and poems
- Join in with repeated refrains and anticipate key events and phrases in rhymes and stories
- Recognise familiar words and signs, for example names
- Gives meanings to the marks they make as they write and draw
- Name writing
- Initial sounds and CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) word building

Phonics sessions are a fundamental part of English within reception. Once your child has settled with us, we will begin daily phonics sessions in which they will practise saying, recognising, reading and writing sounds which will increase over the term.

### Reading:

Reception reading books will be changed every **Tuesday**. All children will begin with picture books. This is to ignite their imaginations and to allow them the opportunity to create their own stories from what they see in the pictures. There is a captivating power of a beautiful picture book. Children gaze at the pictures while listening to the story, absorbing the deeper layers of information they convey. Pictures can communicate so much more than words alone and most children learn to read visual images long before they learn to read the printed word. Children then progress onto books that consolidate the sounds they have learnt in their phonics lessons. Flash cards for tricky words will be provided for additional practise at home. **Consistent and daily reading at home is key to success. Little and often.**

### Maths:

This term we will be focusing on:

- Matching and sorting
- Comparing amounts
- Comparing size, mass and capacity
- Simple patterns

This learning will take place through whole class inputs, independent learning activities and small group sessions.

### Physical Development:

This term, Willows will be participating in P.E **every Wednesday and Thursday** afternoon, focusing on multi-skills. **Their first PE session will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025.** Both PE lessons will take place outside (weather permitting) and **all pupils are required to attend school in their full PE kit on these days.** Please could you ensure your child has suitable clothing for this, in accordance with the school's uniform policy.

### Understanding the World:

As part of the transition into school, we will begin the term by exploring the topic, 'All About Me'; learning about the importance of being an individual and recognising what makes us unique. We also explore different family structures, and the children will be given multiple opportunities to discuss their family and what makes them special. As a class, we acknowledge differences and celebrate the diversity within our classroom.

With Autumn in touching distance, Willow class will begin to look at the changes in seasons and enjoy a trip to our outdoor classroom to investigate and explore how seasons can alter nature and climate.

Our topic this term is 'All About Me'.

### Important Dates:

03.09.2025: First day (Autumn 1)

15.09.2025: Reception in full time

17.09.2025: First PE session (Teacher Led)

24.10.2025: Last day of term (Autumn 1)



### Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

The first half term of Reception focuses predominately on settling the children in and getting to know each other, as well as learning about behaviour expectations and making strong friendships. Throughout the school day, the children will be encouraged to:

- Select and use activities and resources to support their play.
- Become confident when speaking to other children when playing and communicate freely about their own home and community.
- Become more aware of their own feelings and know that some actions and words can hurt others' feelings.
- Begin to adapt their behaviour to different events, social situations and changes in routine.
- Initiate play with other children by offering cues for others to join in.
- Initiate conversations with other children and adults and form good relationships with peers and familiar adults.

In SCARF (PSHE) this term, we will be looking at the topic 'Me and My Relationships'. Children will be taught to:

- Talk about similarities and differences.
- Name special people in their lives.
- Describe different feelings.
- Identify who can help if they are feeling sad, worried or scared.
- Identify ways to help others or themselves if they are sad or worried.



### Expressive Art and Design:

This term as part of our topic 'All About Me', we will be drawing and painting self-portraits to acknowledge and celebrate differences. The children will look carefully at their own features and will be given the opportunity to explore colour mixing to create their own skin, hair and eye colour. We will discover how colour can be changed and altered to generate different shades and tones. There will also be multiple opportunities to develop their creativity and imagination using a range of resources, both independently and with adult support, including Harvest Festival paintings and tie dye.

For music, we will be undertaking a 'Me' themed unit where children will be given the opportunity to explore a beat, join in with singing and investigate pitch using an assortment of instruments.

### Communication and Language:

Communication and language skills are taught through all areas of the curriculum. Children are encouraged to:

- Listen to others one to one and in small groups
- Listen to stories with increasing attention and recall the events
- Focus on a given task for increasing periods of time
- Use and respond to prepositions, for example: under, on top, behind etc
- Respond to a short series of instructions
- Question why things happen and begin to give their own explanations
- Develop vocabulary which reflects the breadth of their experiences

### Religious Education:

Throughout Autumn (1), Reception will begin to explore the concept of 'religion'. We will visit St. Andrews Church, Fingringhoe and consider why this building is special to Christians. As the term progresses, the class will also consider why is the word God so important within the Christian faith and how Harvest Festival is celebrated in our local church.

Christian Value: Please see the worship newsletter for additional information on this term's value.

