

Willow Class Newsletter – Summer (1)

Our topic this term is, 'Ticket to Ride!'

English:

This term, our English work will predominately be based around the story, 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Browne. It tells the story of Handa, a young girl from the Luo tribe in south-west Kenya. One day she decides to surprise her friend, Akeyo, by bringing him a basket full of seven types of delicious fruit. On her way to the village where Akeyo lives, Handa meets a group of crafty and sneaky animals who are intent on causing mischief!



Throughout this topic, the children will be focusing on consolidating their knowledge of phase 3 letter sounds and applying these within their writing, alongside developing their handwriting.

Reading:

Willow class will continue to have their reading books and additional 'tricky word' flashcards updated on a Tuesday.

Additional decodable flashcards and adapted provision(s) will also be offered to support children's progression, if required.

"Reading is a passport to countless adventures."



Maths:

This term, we will be focusing on:

- Numbers to 20 and beyond
- Spatial reasoning
- Subtraction
- Addition

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

Physical Development:

In Summer (1), Willow class will be participating in P.E every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. They will be joining in Born to Move (dance) and an outdoor PE session, focusing on athletics. All pupils are required to attend school in their full PE kit on these days.

Please could you ensure your child attends school in suitable clothing, in accordance with our uniform policy.

Understanding the World:

As part of the topic, 'Ticket to Ride!', Willow class will be learning about Kenya. The children will then begin to draw information from a simple map and recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.

In computing, they will be experimenting with programming a Bee-Bot/Blue-Bot and learning how to give simple commands. Furthermore, understanding how to debug instructions, with the help of an adult, when things go wrong (this part usually leads to lots of giggles and laughter!)

As a class, the children will be attending our outdoor classroom on multiple occasions to search for signs of summer; discovering first-hand how this season impacts the weather and wildlife. A class PING will be sent to confirm these dates nearer the time.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

In SCARF (PSHE) this term, we will be looking at the topic 'Being My Best'. The children will be taught to:

- Feel resilient and confident in their learning.
- Name and discuss different types of feelings and emotions.
- Learn and use strategies or skills in approaching challenges.
- Understand that they can make healthy choices.
- Name and recognise how healthy choices can keep us well.



They will also be participating in a SCARF workshop on 29.04.2026.

Expressive Art and Design:

In Summer (1), Willow class will be exploring the interrelated dimensions of music through singing, improvising and playing instruments, including learning a traditional African song. They will have the opportunity to share their learning amongst peers to develop confidence when performing.

Reception will continue to develop their artistic techniques through independent learning within the 'Creative Station' and will be taught how to collage when exploring space themed artwork. We will share their final pieces on Tapestry for you to enjoy!

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:

In Summer (1), Willow class will begin to explore the key question, 'Which Places Are Special and Why?'

Reception will learn to:

- Identify and describe holy buildings, specifically focusing on the key features of Churches and Mosques.
- Understand religious importance by discovering why these sites are sacred to Christians and Muslims.
- Make personal connections by comparing sacred sites to their own special places.
- Develop an awareness of how these buildings foster a sense of worship and community.



Important Dates:

13.04.2026: First day of term (Summer 1)

29.04.2026: SCARF Workshop (In School)

04.05.2026: Bank Holiday

22.05.2026: Last day of term (Summer 1)

