



Class Willow Newsletter

Autumn 1st Half Term

Dear Parents,

A huge welcome to all of you, new and old! Class Willow will probably look different to how you remember, but this is to accommodate all the changes due to Covid 19. It will, however, remain a class of excitement and adventure, and the starting block for our fantastic little school. We hope you're going to enjoy coming to school as much as we do, and your child will love what Class Willow and Stoneraise School has to offer.

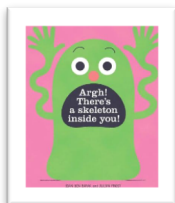
We build each term around a central Topic, which means that all the activities link and what the children learn sticks in their head, helping them remember and make links and develop ideas of their own. Each half term has a new Topic, and this one is, 'What makes me, me?' This is a great Topic where the children are going to find out about their city, family, and their body. We'll be making portraits in art using collage, and making a Time Capsule that includes photos, drawings and things that are special to each child.

Maths

The first few weeks will be settling in time, but we'll still be doing maths, in an informal way. We'll looking at what your child already knows as well as matching and sorting and finding out about time eg the daily time table, routines, days of the week and why the weekend is different. We'll be using the outdoor area to construct towers, hang socks and make tea parties for bears! Maths is always fun, but prepares your child for more formal learning as the year progresses and their understanding develops.

English

From Monday to Thursday, we work on Read Write Inc. activities to support reading and writing. It's a fantastic scheme, which the children love, and is tremendous fun! I've sent home a booklet to explain what it's all about, but basically, it's a scheme where the children learn a new letter sound each day, do activities linked to that sound, and become familiar with it by repetition. Your child will learn to recognise, write and read each sound and eventually be able to read and write simple words, and by the end of the year, aiming to be writing full sentences independently. On Fridays, we focus on a book connected to the Topic, so that the children can understand how a book works, either by using role play to act out the story, or drawing a story map or making puppets etc. to tell the story themselves. We use lots of different ways to encourage a love of books, and learning through play is what we do best in Class Willow. These are some of the books we'll be reading:



Science

We'll be learning about being healthy, and what we can do to maintain that. We'll be looking at different food, baking, trying new foods like avocado, making salads and soup, and sorting out healthy food and not so healthy food. We're going to look at the importance of keeping our teeth clean, and looking at our skeleton, and what we can do to keep our bones strong. We'll be looking at the importance of physical exercise as well as good mental health.

PE is on Wednesday with CUFC (Mrs Ferguson will be supporting the class and will be a familiar face to the children) and on Friday with me. Please ensure your child's name is on their kit and bag. They will need plimsolls and trainers for indoor and outdoor activities.

Art We will be using paint, ink and oil pastels to mix colours to make self-portraits and using collage and scissors to create family portrait puppets. We'll be building junk model houses with surrounding garden made from tissue to create our own home. There will be focus on pencil grip and finger strengthening exercises to develop skills in cutting, fine movements for detail and handwriting.

RE This Half Term, we'll be finding out about the origins of Harvest, and why it's good to share.

French. We'll be comparing Carlisle to Paris, and making all things French! We'll be attempting to make the Eiffel Tower with straws, and taste testing French cheese and croissants!

There's a lot to take in, so please, if you have any questions just ask.

Many thanks for your support during these tricky times

Lynn Nixon, Annmarie Pattinson, Lisa Byrne, Sue Blaire and Yvonne Ferguson.