

Bamford Primary School

Class Willow Newsletter - September 2021

Dear parents / carers,

I hope that you have had a great summer; that you had some sunny days; and enjoyed many fun days with your family! I have already enjoyed hearing about some of the interesting and exciting things that your children have been up to, during their holiday.

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know some information about Class Willow that I hope that you will find useful.

Class Willow Timetable

This year, I am teaching in Class Willow all week, except Wednesday afternoons, when (as with all teachers) I am entitled to a period of non-teaching time for planning, preparation and analysis (PPA time). On Wednesday afternoons, Mrs Bland will be teaching P.E. and Mrs Allen will be teaching Class Willow music. A copy of the full timetable is available, if you would like to see it.

Class Willow will have a variety of other adults available to support the children at different times of the week - including Mrs Somerset, Mrs Allen, Mrs Knapp and Miss Thompstone-Pascoe (who is a trainee-teacher).

Homework

From next week (week beginning the 6th of September), I will start giving English and maths homework out each week, there may occasionally be additional homework for other subjects. I will try to give homework out each Wednesday, and will expect this to be handed in by the following Monday. This may vary slightly in some weeks.

I always try my best to give each child homework that is appropriate to their ability, and I may indicate (where appropriate) how long should be spent on this work. This will normally be about 20 minutes for English homework, and the same for the maths homework. Please let me know if your child is having any difficulties with their homework - I will do my best to address any comments.

I am quite happy for you to give your child help with their homework - if you feel that this is necessary. However if you do give support, then I need you clearly indicate the extent of this help by the side of the work done.

Please do not expect homework to be marked in detail, it is virtually impossible for me to do this and retain the tight homework turn around.

Reading

Reading is possibly the most important part of your child's learning and as such we give reading a high priority. The children will be given opportunities in school each day to read independently and we aim to hear each child read at least once every week. Some children require extra help with their reading and we will ensure that these children read to an adult more regularly at school (sometimes daily). Children benefit greatly if they read to an adult at home too, daily if possible.

Morning Maths

Year 5 and 6 children are encouraged to attend Early Maths which will take place on a Tuesday and Thursday from 08:10. This club is free and is designed to be a fun additional session where mental and oral maths learning is reinforced. The emphasis is on developing skills, accuracy and speed for mental calculations which supports formal written calculations. If you are interested, please see Mrs Gemmell or Mr Friend. We will let you know, via Dojo, when Early Maths sessions will start.

PE

Unless we inform you otherwise, Class Willow will be having PE lessons on Wednesday and Friday afternoons: children should come into school in their full PE kit in school on those days.

Coats and water bottles

Please can you ensure that your child has a coat and a water bottle in school every day. Children will usually be expected to play outside at playtimes, even in poor weather. Water bottles should only contain water - not juice.

Dojo

A great deal of my communication with you will be through Class Dojo. This will include updates as to school and class events. Please ensure that you check Dojo regularly.

Finally, welcome (back) to Class Willow! I'm really looking forward to the new school year - I hope that your child is too!!

If you have any concerns or questions about any of the above, or if you just want a chat to get to know me better, please feel free to arrange to see me or catch my attention at drop off or collection times. I always welcome seeing parents - and I really look forward to getting to know those of you who I don't yet know.

Many thanks!

Rob Friend