



Half termly review

FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER

Message from the Headteacher

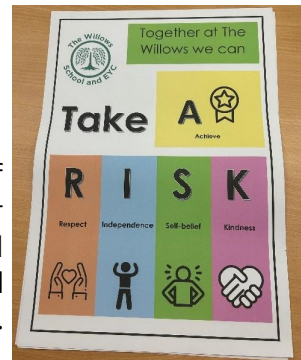
Dear Parents and Carers,

Half term holidays is upon us already. This term we have had lots of fun learning. We started the term with warm weather which allowed all the children and staff to enjoy a water play session in their new classes.

The children have settled really well into their new classes and learning groups and have made good progress in their learning. I have particularly liked seeing all the children enjoying listening and reading stories together. Our new school council wear their tabards with pride and have some exciting ideas to raise money in the future.

The children have been learning the new school values and can talk about them and how they can show these positive attributes to each other.

The children's certificates in assembly relate to one of the school values. All the classes also enjoy finding out who has won our attendance monkey each week and understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality which is a skill that will help them through life.



We were very lucky on Wednesday as we had a visit from the Lord Lieutenant and The Mayor and Mayoress. They attended a special assembly to make a presentation to the school about MK becoming a city. They have presented us with an amazing book which we will be sending out the link for soon so you will all be able to have a look at it.



We hope the weather improves over the half term so you can get out and enjoy Milton Keynes.

Best Wishes

Mrs Jo Orbell

Head Teacher

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Overview Of Nursery This Term

SPIDERS.

We have had a very busy and exciting start to our school year meeting all our new spiders and their families.

They have all settled really well and have been enjoying exploring their new environment. They all really enjoy engaging in our messy activities; painting, spaghetti and goop play to name a few and having been using all their senses to explore the properties of these objects.

The children have been learning their new routine and follow this with ease with the support of visual and oral cues. They all come and sit down on our mat for our "hello" song beautifully and are beginning to join in with the song, saying hello to their friends.

We have been focussing on two stories this term, our core book "where's spot" and "Dear zoo". These are great lift the flap books which have captured the children's interest with the anticipation of what is behind the flap. The children have got a good awareness of the stories and love to select them from our interest table to look at during child-directed play. The Spiders have been participating in many activities linked to the stories such as; Making spotty pictures with collage or paint, decorating biscuits with chocolate spots, Animal small world, singing animal songs and labelling and matching animals. During these activities we have been introducing counting and exploring colours as well as modelling lots of language.

Well done Spiders you have been super stars this term and we are looking forward to next term with lots more exciting learning.



Overview Of Nursery This Term continued...

This term in Nursery we have been learning all about traditional tales during our topic Tell me a Tale. We have been reading the Little Red Hen, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Three Little Pigs and Handa's surprise. We have tasted porridge as well as different fruits and vegetables. We grew some tall beanstalks and learnt about how to plant a bean. We have also been learning about Harvest and what life is like on a farm. We have been practicing our listening skills and listening to the different sounds we can hear in the world around us.



Overview of Reception This Term

In Hedgehogs this term we have been learning all about stories such as The Little Red Hen, The Three Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk and Handa's surprise. We can all tell the story of The Little Red Hen, we grew our own magic beans and hopefully they will be as tall as the beanstalk. In maths we have been looking at size, using language such as big, small, heavy, light more and less. We have created our own houses from different materials and acted out, being the Big Bad Wolf! Handa's surprise introduced lots of new fruits to us such as passion fruit, guava and mango, all the children loved tasting the fruit! We have loved sharing these stories and the children have been really engaged sharing their ideas. Thank you for your continued support, have a wonderful half term.



Overview of KS1 This Term

In KS1 we have been learning about how to write a character description, list poems and instructions. We have been stimulated by different traditional tales like Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and the Ugly Duckling. They wrote their descriptions of the Ugly Duckling, used a bit of the Fairy Godmother's magic by making potions and made list poems about Little Red Riding Hood's basket.

In maths our focus has been on number and place value. Looking at Tens and Ones and what each number represents. Within this we have been finding missing numbers, representing numbers and writing them as words and numerals.

In topic we have covered a wide range of subjects including RE, Science, art and DT. The children have created beautiful artwork to represent Dale Chihuly's artwork. We have looked at the features of different birds and labelled them. We then learnt why some can fly and some can't.

We have learnt about friendship, behaviour and looking at people we admire and looking at why. We have linked this to people that we love and how our behaviour can affect others. It may be a parent because they do so much for us or another family member, friend or someone famous in the world.

The children have spent time in DT designing, improving and creating cars. The children spent so much time and care making them look amazing.

In PE the children have shown lots of skills learning how to balance, travel and sequence on the mats and the large apparatus. They have also been learning how to work together passing and catching different equipment and then helping them transfer those skills into a game of bench ball.

Well done KS1 for an amazing half term.

Overview of Foxes This Term

Foxes have had an amazing half term. All the children have settled really well and have been enjoying all the different activities. We have been reading lots of stories but have been focusing on the three little pigs.

The children liked hearing this story and really liked pretending to blow down the houses. We have been busy painting and drawing our own pigs and we even made some out of playdough. We have also been collecting sticks outside and making Duplo houses.



Foxes are starting to gain so much more confidence during our singing time. We have been revisiting number rhymes and using our fingers to help us. We have also been looking at the numbers and matching these to the correct amount.

Diary dates

HALF TERM MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER—FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Every Tuesday & Friday	8:35am – 8:45am	Morning Task with parents/carers (Rabbits, Owls, Squirrels and Hedgehog Class)
Tuesday 31 st October		Parents Evening To be booked on School Spider
Wednesday November 1 st		Parents Evening To be booked on School Spider
Friday 3 rd November		Parents Evening (Spiders only) To be booked on School Spider

Attendance

Half Termly Attendance Autumn 1 2023			
Year	Class Name	% Week Commencing 9th October Attendance	% Half termly Attendance
Rec.	Hedgehogs	98.6% 	95.3%
KS1	Squirrels	93.0%	95.0%
KS1	Rabbits	96.0%	94.6%
KS1	Owls	97.5%	96.0% 
Rec. & KS1	Foxes	96.3%	92.8%
Total attendance		96.4%	95.0%

Well done **Hedgehogs** with an attendance of **98.6%** for the week beginning **9th October**

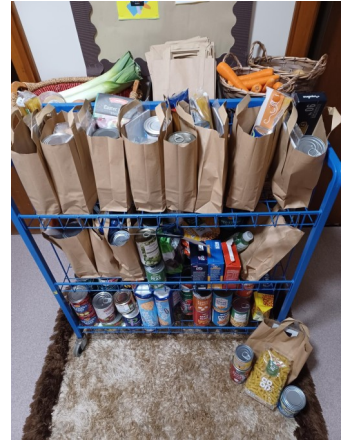
Well done **Owls** with an attendance of **96.0%** for half the term

Did you Know:
Lateness also affects your child's attendance %

REMINDERS AND UPDATES

THANK YOU

We would just like to say a huge thank-you to you all for your kind donations for the Harvest Festival food bank. These donations will go a huge way to support our local community.



WATER BOTTLES

We would just like to remind you to send your child into school with a named water bottle everyday. Please make sure these are filled with **water only**, no juice or fizzy drinks.

PARENTS EVENING APPOINTMENTS

Please remember to book your appointment to see your child's class teacher through the School Spider App. Don't delay as the spaces are being snapped up. If you need help, please come into the School office.

PE KIT

All children need to come into school on their PE day in their PE kit.

Please do not send your child into school wearing non school uniform.

Our PE kit is:

BLACK legging/jogging bottoms or shorts

WHITE round neck t-shirt

Trainers/plimsols





The Willows School
And
Early Years Centre
OPEN DAY

For parents with children starting school in
September 2024

Friday 10th November 10am and 1.30pm

. Tour the School

. Meet the staff

See what The Willows can offer your child!



To book your place please contact the school office on 01908 528803 .
Everyone welcome.