

**Willow Class Weekly Newsletter**

Week beginning: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a fantastic Christmas and New Year celebrations. Thank you so much for your kind Christmas cards and gifts.

**Volunteers Needed!**

If there are any parents free during any afternoon other than Wednesdays and Fridays who would be able to spare some time to listen to some pupils read, please contact me as soon as possible.

Following the parent consultations at the end of last half term, please find below some recommended book titles your children may enjoy:

- Vivien French- Robe of Skulls
- Frank Cottrell Boyce stories
- David Walliams stories
- 'There's a werewolf in my tent!' by Pamela Butchart
- The Peppermint Pig by Nina Bawden
- Operation Gadgetman by Malorie Blackman
- How to train... series by Cressida Cowell
- The Firework Makers Daughter by Phillip Pullman
- The Hodgeheg- Dick King Smith
- The Legend of Frog- Guy Bass
- Beast Quest- Adam Blade
- My Secret Unicorn- Linda Chapman

Any many more... (please let me know if there are any favourites I have missed that spark imaginations!)

Here is an overview for this week.

**English Activities**

Genre –Narrative

This week we will be continuing to explore the novel, Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome where the children will be continuing to explore the characters to create a character description as well as begin to plan a survival guide for the Walker children to set off on their exhibition safely. In our grammar starters this week we will be looking at how to create subordinate clauses to form complex sentences.

If you have your own copies of this story that the children could bring into school to read that would be fantastic and allow them to read along as we track through this novel.

**Maths Activities**

Topic –Place Value

This week we will be continuing to recap our place value knowledge to read and write numbers from 1,000 up to 1,000,000 as well as begin to look at negative numbers.

**Computing**

Context- Scratch

This week we will be creating/completing a simple game and exploring variables to make different effects.

**Topic**

This week the children will be continuing to explore our exciting topic for this term to look at the concept of belonging and where people decide to settle e.g. the types of settlements.

**Times tables:** Please can the children revise their individual times tables for a test on Friday so that the children can work through various times table challenges.

**Spellings:**

Spellings this week will be linked to words with endings sounding like /zə/ or /tʃə/ e.g. measure, treasure, etc. A list of spellings or spelling activity will be given to the children every **Thursday** and there will be a spelling test each Thursday following, to consolidate the learning that has taken place that week. The lists and activities will be based on ones provided by the National Curriculum and will follow the spelling pattern for that particular week.

### **Home Learning: Maths – Place Value/Negative Numbers**

Last Thursday, a piece of literacy home learning was set to give the children some extra practise of exploring identifying independent and subordinate clauses which is due in this Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

This week the children will have a short maths task to complete relating to our recent work linked to place value and negative numbers. The children will also be bringing home new usernames and passwords to use MyMaths resources where there are a choice of activities to complete as well as access to Times table games. If possible please can the children logon to MyMaths and complete 2 or 3 of the place value and negative number tasks. Times tables games can be used at any time. This piece of home learning will be **due in next Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January.**

Home Learning is also to be completed in the children's Home Learning books and will be given out alongside their spellings, reading practise and their individual times tables.

Please can the children practise reading aloud each day for 10-15mins or ask them questions about what they are reading at the moment and what is happening to characters or what may happen to them.

Please encourage the children to come and see me as soon as possible if they do not understand their home learning activities so that they have enough time to complete the activities at home.

Many thanks,  
Mrs Wright