



King's Academy Oakwood



## Spring Term 2022

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

The children made such a tremendous start to their Reception Year in the Autumn Term and we are so excited to see them continue to learn and grow through this upcoming Spring Term.

Our Topic for the first half of the Spring term is 'Amazing Animals'. I know Willow Class are going to just adore learning about lots of different types of animals and meeting some in person too. In the second half of the term we will move on to the topic of 'ROARSOME Earth..and beyond' where we will be exploring dinosaurs, our Earth and Space- a topic which always ignites much awe and wonder!



As mentioned in the Autumn Term, the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is split into seven areas and some of the learning opportunities for this term are detailed below. The first three areas (PSED, Communication and Language and Physical Development) are called the Prime areas. These areas are particularly important for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving and are hence interwoven throughout all we do in Reception. The children will continue to be given a plethora of opportunities which enable them to play and explore, help develop their resilience and perseverance and develop their creativity and critical thinking.

### **Personal, Social, Emotional Development**

During this term we continue to build on the confidence the children are displaying in the classroom and further encourage them to see themselves for the unique and valuable individuals they are. We will support the children with managing and communicating their emotions and forming respectful and constructive relationships. We will continue to encourage the children to be as independent as possible and continue to welcome your support with this. The children have established great friendships in class and this term we will particularly focus on helping the children to think about the perspective of others and give them support with how to negotiate conflicts with peers without the need for adult intervention.



### **Communication and Language**

We just love talking and chatting in Willow Class and this term we will continue to support children with their speaking and listening skills. We will focus on asking and answering questions and articulating our ideas in well formed sentences, using a range of connectives to join ideas. We will continue to have lots of fun learning poems, rhymes and songs and retelling stories we have learnt. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning and using all our special Words of the Week and I know are looking forward to all the new vocabulary they will learn this term! We will continue to let you know the Words of the Week in our fortnightly newsletter so that you can encourage your child to use these words at home.



### **Physical Development**

We will continue to encourage the children to be very active throughout the school day, with lots of opportunities for movement and endless opportunities for developing gross and fine motor skills. The children will continue to have two PE lessons a week (Wednesday and Friday), focusing on revising and refining a whole host of physical skills and developing overall body strength, coordination, balance and agility. Children will be given the opportunity to develop their small motor skills so they can use a range of tools competently and safely. We will be introducing tools such as graters and peelers at snack time to help prepare our snack!

The children will continue to be encouraged to develop their independence with tasks such as taking off coats, toileting, undressing/dressing and using cutlery correctly at lunchtime. We were incredibly impressed with the progress they all made in Autumn term, particularly with changing for PE! Please continue to encourage your child to be as independent as possible with these tasks at home. We are going to work hard on doing the zips up on our coats this term!



## Literacy

During this term, we will be reading lots of wonderful stories about animals and Space. This will include non-fiction books too. We will continue with our daily RWInc daily phonics sessions, focusing on identifying more sounds and blending them to read words. We will also begin to focus on reading some common exception words (words you can't 'Fred Talk' like my, was, said, the). Children will be encouraged to spell words by identifying the sounds in them (using their 'Fred Fingers') and we will continue to support them with forming lowercase and capital letters correctly. We will be introducing the use of a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, finger spaces and full stops.

An adult in school will hear your child read once a week. Please ensure their reading book is in school every day and please support your child's reading by listening to them read some pages of their school reading book at home as much as possible and recording this reading in the yellow reading record. This really does help their reading progress immensely and as always please do spend time sharing and enjoying a range of stories at home with your child. Modelling reading and instilling a love of books in your child is so important to their development.

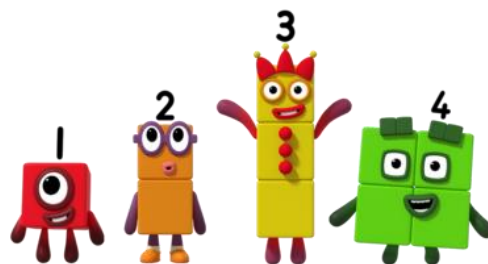
Our Class Library time will continue to be on a Friday afternoon so please ensure your child's Library folder and book is in their book bag on this day.



## Mathematics

Maths will continue to be practical, engaging, purposeful and fun and there will be plenty of opportunities for maths throughout the day in Reception. From counting how many children are in our class that day, to timing how long it takes us to line up for lunch, to working out the correct answer to our phonics challenge vote, to noticing patterns in music and dances- we just love maths!

This term, we will be continuing to count and compare numbers. We will practise our subitising (recognising the number of objects in a small group without counting) and linking a numeral with its value. We will practise identifying what is one more/one less than a given number and start exploring addition and subtraction in more depth. The children will learn more about 2d and 3d shapes and measure, including length, weight and capacity and will continue, copy and create repeating patterns.



## **Understanding the World**

As we move from Winter to Spring we will observe the changing season and how the natural world is changing around us, focusing on describing what we see, hear and feel whilst outside.

Willow Class love looking on Google Earth together and exploring different countries and we will continue to discover countries that are special to us and interest us, discussing how they are similar and different to the UK. Through books and discussions, we will talk about people and events from the past, to help deepen children's understanding of the past and present.

During the Spring Term we will spend time learning about lots of special celebrations including New Year, Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, World Book Day, Mother's Day, Pancake Day and Easter.

We are very lucky to have a diverse range of cultures and families in our class. If your family celebrates a special event or festival, please do let me know so we can learn about it in class. If you would like to come into school and share anything about your culture, religion, job or special interest with Willow Class to help better their understanding of the world we would be very grateful and would welcome you with open arms!



## **Spanish**

Spanish will continue to be taught once a week over the term by Señora Laroche. The Children thoroughly enjoy their Spanish lessons and this term their Spanish learning will be focused around Spanish culture as well as colours and numbers to 10. Olé!



## Expressive Arts and Design

The children will continue to have access to a range of creative resources which they can explore and use throughout the day to express their ideas and feelings. Their colour mixing techniques will be developed this term and we will continue to teach them different ways to join materials, using care and precision. We will encourage children to notice features in the natural world and use these to inspire their creativity.

Willow Class love to express themselves through music, singing and dancing and we will continue to provide many opportunities for children to express themselves through this art form. Through our 'Composer of the fortnight', the children will gain an insight into different types of music from across the globe and we will encourage children to listen attentively to music, discussing changes and patterns as a piece of music develops. In our weekly Singing assembly the children will learn new songs and enjoy the experience of singing alongside the rest of our school.

Children will be encouraged to be as imaginative as possible and develop storylines in their pretend play. They will be provided with a wide range of props for play to encourage imagination and over the term our role play area will be transformed into a variety of settings- from a Vet Surgery to a Chinese Restaurant- the children will no doubt have great fun acting out different roles in this area!



## Star of the Week

Every Friday, I will be continuing to choose one child to be the star of the week. This is based on our school's DARE values:

- **Determination**
- **Aspiration**
- **Respect**
- **Enthusiasm**

The children will also be able to collect dojo points for demonstrating these values during the school day – these count individually as well as for their house.



## Tapestry

I know lots of you enjoy seeing what your children have been learning at school via Tapestry and looking at photos together with your child is a great prompt for eliciting information about their day and learning! Please do continue to post any pictures or learning from home that you would like us to talk about in class.



I am so looking forward to this Spring Term with Willow Class and working in a supportive partnership with you.

Please do not hesitate to come and ask me any questions, my door is always open.

Kind regards,

Mrs Troublé

*Reception Teacher*