

# Willow Spring 2 Newsletter

## Welcome

Welcome back to everyone! It was only a short half term but we packed a lot in! The children have loved learning all about The Great Fire of London and we have been impressed with the knowledge they have retained, facts as well as an understanding of how devastating it must have been to lose your home. Please come along to Willow's assembly on Wednesday, 28th February at 9am to share our learning all about this historical event.

We have an exciting half term planned with lots of activities and events - you can read more about them further in this newsletter. Another busy but fulfilling 5 weeks when the children will continue to enthuse about their learning, showing creativity and enjoyment.

We are very lucky to welcome Mrs. Nanni this Spring half term. She will be working alongside all of the children in Willow and supporting the teaching and learning in the classroom. You can find out more about Mrs. Nanni in later pages.

Within this newsletter, we will share:

- Meet Mrs. Nanni
- Review of last terms learning.
- Willow curriculum for the next 5 weeks.
- Key texts for this term
- Key dates
- Reminders

If you have any questions or concerns, please see us either in the morning, afterschool or send an email to [willow@astley.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:willow@astley.worcs.sch.uk)

Thank you.

Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Hurst, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Nanni.

Hello Willow. My name is Mrs. Nanni.



We are a family of four. I have two young children and one pet dog called Rocco, who are very special to me.

I spend a lot of time outdoors with my family. We like to go on adventure walks and visit parks.

I like to travel to Spain in the holidays where we enjoy the sandy beaches, do lots of swimming and relax reading books. I love reading!

My daughter and I spend a lot of time with horses at weekends. We ride them and groom them. We think all animals are lovely. My favourite animals are dogs and horses.

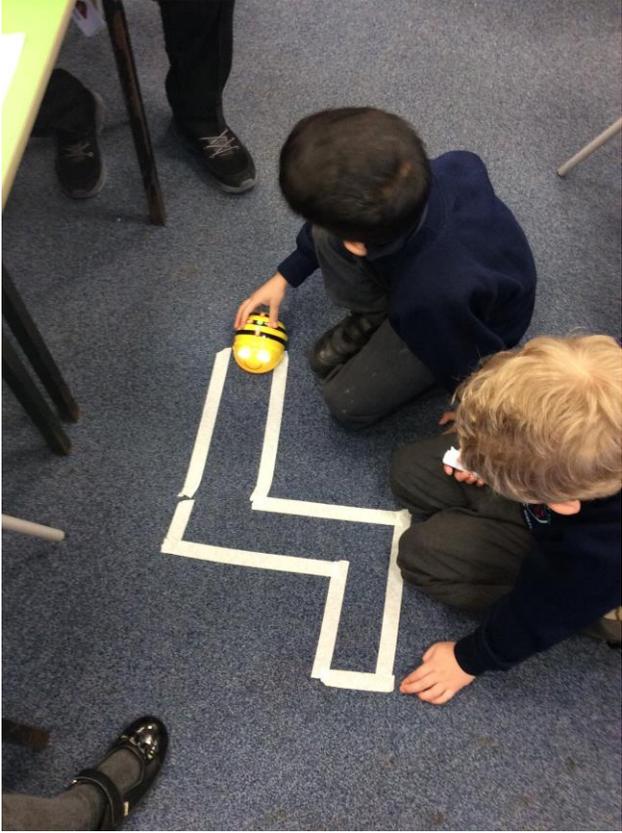
I am very kind and caring so you can ask me for help anytime!

Review of last term





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## Curriculum

**In Writing** one of the texts we will be using is 'Fantastically Great Women who changed the World' to link with our **History topic, 'Is everyone treated fairly?'** learning about **Mary Seacole** and comparing her with **Florence Nightingale**. We will be using the texts to understand punctuation and grammar as well as the importance of vocabulary. We will write a fact file as well as a letter. The Year 2 children are starting to join their handwriting and year 1 are focusing on the correct letter formation and orientation, recognising upper and lower case letters. We are continuing to learn the Common Exception Words (CEWs) and learning spelling rules.

**In Reading** we are continuing with our daily Phonics and guided reading groups, encouraging fluency and expression. We read a lot of other books throughout the day, linked to various topics as well as sharing our class reader - 'James and the giant Peach.' We want to instill in the children a real love of reading.

**In Maths Year 2** are looking at money -

- recognising and using symbols for pounds (£) and pence (p) and combining amounts to make particular values
- finding different combinations of coins that equal the same amounts of money
- solving simple problems in a practical context involving addition and subtraction of money of the same unit, including giving change.

- We are linking this to the recall and use of multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables.

**On Fridays** the children are looking at Measure - choosing and using appropriate standard units to estimate and measure length (m/cm); mass (kg/g); temperature (°C); capacity (litres/ml) with lots of practical work, using rulers, scales, thermometers and measuring vessels.

**Year 1** are also looking at coins, sorting into the different denominations and counting in 2s and 10s and then

they are

- using number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20
- add and subtract one-digit and two-digit numbers to 20.
- solving one-step problems that involve addition and subtraction, using concrete objects and pictorial representations, and missing number problems such as  $7 = ? - 9$ .

**On Friday** the children are looking at measure, comparing, describing and solving lots of practical problems for lengths and heights [for example, long/short, longer/shorter, tall/short, double/half]

- They are also looking at mass/weight [for example, heavy/light, heavier than, lighter than] , capacity and volume [for example, full/empty, more than, less than, half, half full, quarter]

**In Science** the question that we are answering is '**How do animals and humans change over time?**' Lot of research, looking at photos and experiments will make this topic exciting and interesting.

**In Art** we are looking at expressive painters, exploring how painters sometimes use paint in an expressive and gestural way. We will explore colour mixing and experimental mark-making to create an abstract still life.

**In PE** we are building on our Fitness Skills and also increasing and Net and Wall skills. We will develop our understanding of attacking and defending principles in net games, tennis using a ready position to defend their court and placement of a ball into space. We will develop their throwing, catching, tracking and hitting a ball skills. We will also learn how to score points in these types of games and how to play to the rules.

**In RE** we will be asking the question, **How do people celebrate Easter?** The children will continue to build on their knowledge of Judaism, linking it with Easter at the end of the term. The children will take part in Experience Easter, a hands on morning up at St Peter's church.

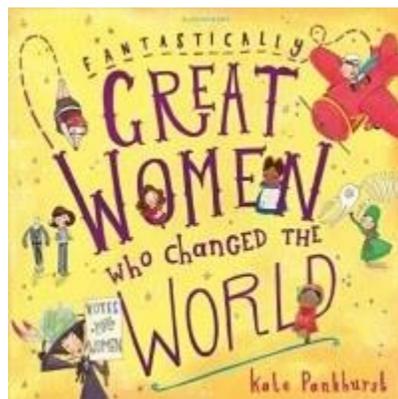
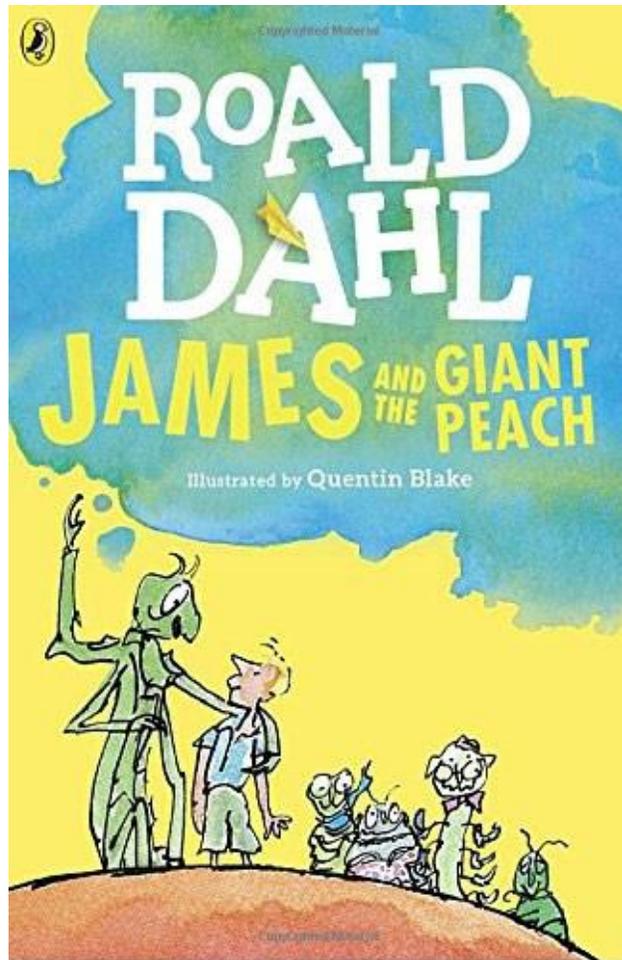
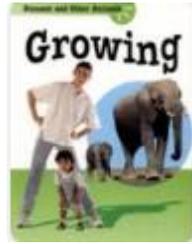
**In Music** we will listen to and appreciate some classical music, Mars from The Planet suite by Holst. This will lead to some improvisation and drama.

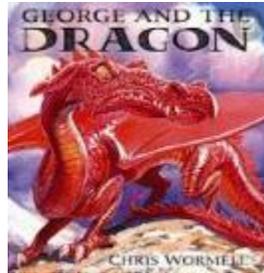
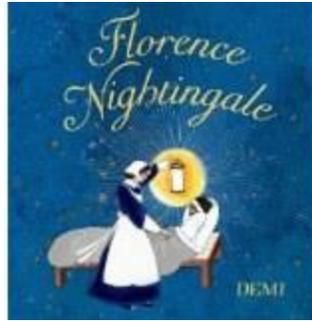
**In Computing** the children are looking at data and how we collect and record it, using tally charts, pictograms etc before using computer programs.

**In PHSE** we will be looking at **Rights and Responsibilities**.

So a busy, busy time.

Key Texts





## Key Dates

# World Book Day

## Thursday 7th March 2024

**1** Celebrations at Astley

The school leaders and class councillors met together to share their and their classes ideas on how to celebrate World Book Day.

Our aim is year is to develop further the children's pleasure for reading, and to find their own joy in books.

**1** Family reading in school - 9am to 9:30am

Families are welcomed to come into school and read with their children between 9:00 and 9:30am. We will be in our Teams to enable this.

**2** Story Hats

Using materials and objects you can find at home, create a story on a hat. The children should come to school on Thursday 7th March wearing their hats and we will celebrate them during that week's celebration assembly. You could represent a story, a poem, a non-fiction book or a graphic novel.

**3** Create a book

Throughout World Book Day, the children will apply their Design Technology skills to create their own books and stories. We're looking forward to see what type of books are created and the stories they tell.



**2 - Water:** Please make sure your child has a water bottle at school every day.

**Fruit:** is available for children to take out during break.

**Reading:** Thank you for the support you give in reading every night with your child. This makes all the difference and we count up the reads per week and award a jellybean for four or more. We check reading progress regularly and move children up a book band when they are ready..

**Coats & outdoor shoes:** Do remember to always have these in school please. Thank you.

**Spellings:** We practise spellings every day in our reading lessons but any help you can give at home to help the children learn the CEWs is very much appreciated.

**Times tables:** Please keep practising – 2x, 5x, 10x until the children can recall them fluently and out of order.

**PE Kits:** Please can you add a named sweat shirt and jogging bottoms to your child's PE kit as well as a pair of socks if your child wears tights. Thank you.

**Seesaw:** We are adding a reading activity every week as well as sending messages if the daily timetable changes so please do log in regularly. We will add photos too of activities.

Any concerns or problems, do email on [willow@astley.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:willow@astley.worcs.sch.uk) or leave a message in the office and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

**Mrs Austin, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Hale and Mrs Nanni :)**