



Willow Summer 2 Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome back to everyone! We hope you had a restful and fun-filled half term week and the children are ready to face the final 7 weeks of this school year. We have lots planned so the time will fly by and before we know it, it will be the summer holidays! As you know, Mrs. Austin is going to be leaving at the end of the school year and she will tell you more about it later in the newsletter. **"It is going to be very hard to be leaving the lovely children in Willow class. They really are a very special group of children who get on so well and have a such a wonderful enthusiasm for learning and having fun. I will miss them but wish them well in their journey of learning, hopefully having given them a desire and a love to learn and continue to learn, have adventures, make mistakes but learn from them throughout life."**

Within this newsletter, we will share:

- Where is Mrs. Austin going to?
- Review of last terms learning.
- Willow curriculum for Summer 2

- Key texts for this term
- Key dates
- Reminders

Mrs. Austin is off to Africa!



This is going to be the last Willow newsletter that I will be writing as I am going to be travelling to eastern Uganda in September to work in a school in a deprived area, just outside Mbale. It is going to be a real adventure for me - I've never been to Africa and I am going to volunteer on my own but as I always say to the children, it's good to step out of your comfort zone every now and then! I am going to be teaching in a school called 'Child of Hope' which is a Christian-based charity, providing free education from its schools as well as healthcare and welfare to children from the poorest and most vulnerable families. It is trying to tackle the key barriers to create a meaningful future for these slum children. There will be no lap tops, interactive white boards, Google to get ideas for teaching, just imagination and resources that can be found all around us - a bit like when I started teaching 35 years ago!!

As part of our topic on Africa last half term, we looked at this school and the children compared a school day there compared to one at Astley. They loved the make-shift pay area, made out of old car tyres! We also looked at the climate and the geography of the area. I think a few may have thought they were coming with me, as we did 'pack a suitcase' suitable for a trip to a hot and mosquito- ridden country! I have told them that, however much I would love to take them with me, I can't but I will keep in touch and send photos and messages once I am there.

It would be lovely to be able to take some things for the children in Uganda with me, as a gift from the Astley children and one thing suggested was children's summer clothes , sturdy black shoes and trainers that your children have grown out of. Many of the children at Child of Hope only have their school uniform, 1 other set of clothes and no good shoes. If you do have any old but still wearable items that you would be willing to donate, I would be very grateful. Please do not go out and buy anything new - I know times are hard for everyone - just outgrown items. Thank you.

Apart from that, I am going to really enjoy my last 6 weeks at Astley in Willow (best class in the school!!) We do still have learning to do but I will try and make it as enjoyable as possible (for all of us!)

Thank you for my wonderful time at Astley - I will have lots of fond memories to lookback on.

Mrs. Austin x



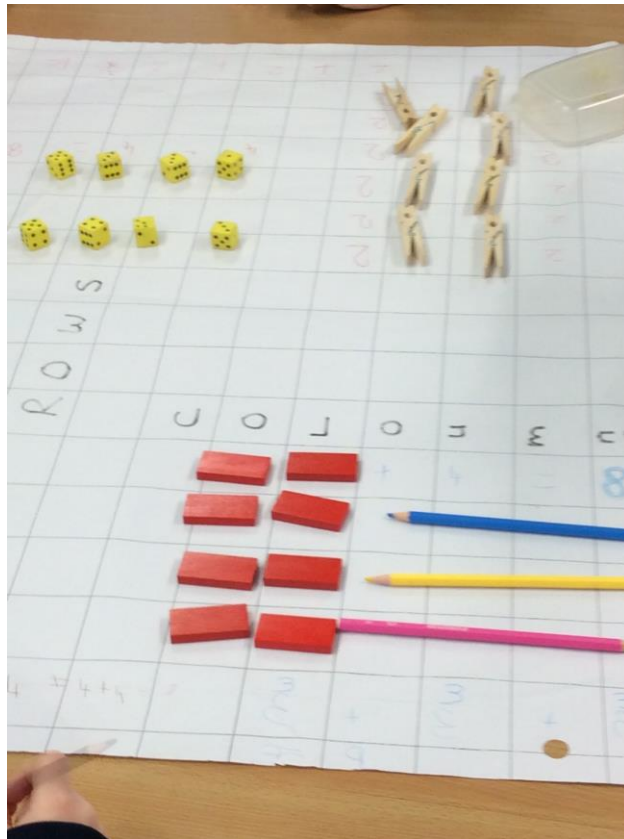


Review of last term







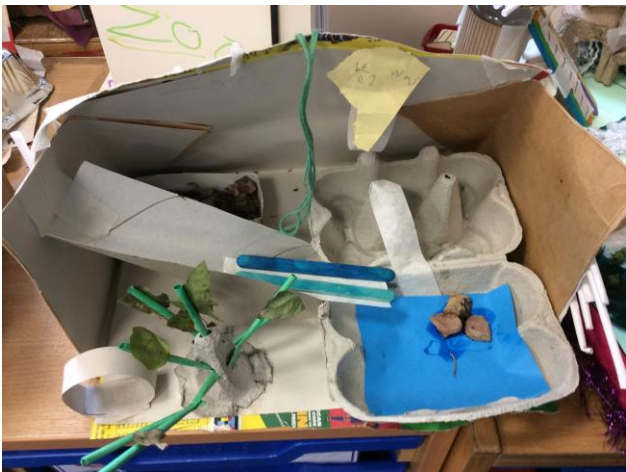














Curriculum

In Writing our texts will be linked to the seaside as this links with our topic, **What are the features of the coast?** and **Who said the coast was a good place to visit?** We will be using the texts to understand punctuation and grammar as well as the importance of exciting vocabulary. We will write a postcard, plan a picnic, write instructions to make a sandwich and write our own descriptive narratives. Handwriting is still a focus, correct letter formation and orientation, joining and 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 - a favourite, 'Mr. Penguin and the Catastrophic Cruise' ' We have lots of fiction and non fiction books about the coast in our class library that the children can borrow to bring home. We want to instill in them a real love of reading.

In Maths we are looking at fractions - $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and equivalent fractions in Y2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ in Year 1. A lot of this is done practically, then looking at objects, quantities and numbers. Next time you share a pizza or a cake or share out a number of sweets, maybe you can ask the children to help you and describe the fractions.

We will be consolidating all our number facts , addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and use them in problem solving and reasoning activities.

Learning the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables for Year 1 plus 3 and 4 for year 2 is still important and we have started a Times Table Challenge in class twice/week.

The children will be continuing with Time and then looking at bar charts and visual ways to represent maths.

In Science the question that we are answering is '**What Do Plants Need to Grow?**' Lot of practical experiments, growing plants in different conditions - even '**hydroponically**'- will make this topic exciting and memorable. We may even grow some food to eat.

In DT we will be creating our own balanced picnic to make and share at the end of term and maybe a few smoothies to eat on the beach!

In PE we are looking at Fielding and Striking skills and then using these in a game of non-stop cricket and rounders. The children will be continuing their swimming lessons at Perdiswell too.

In RE we will be asking the question, **What does it mean to belong to a faith Community?** The children will continue to build on their knowledge of Judaism, comparing it with Christianity.

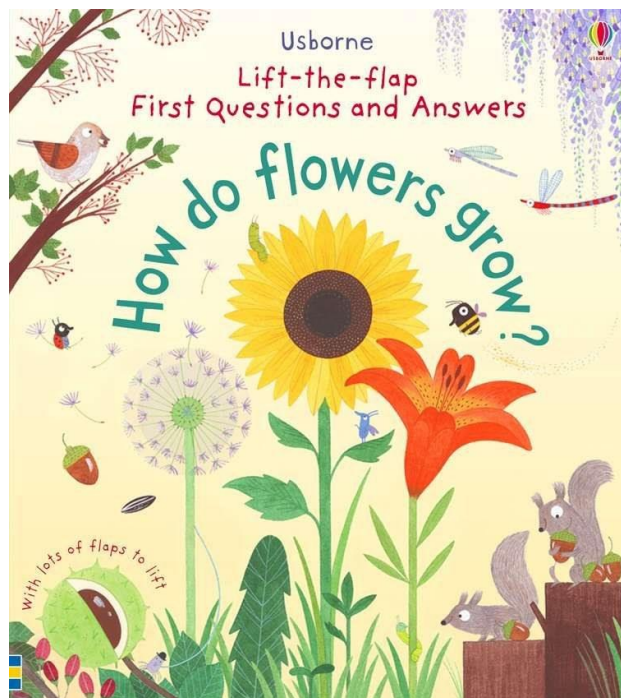
In Music we will listen to listening to Sea Shanties and some classical music linked to the sea. Hopefully this will inspire them to create their own music too.

In Computing the children are looking at Programming and also improving their use of lap tops by logging on, choosing a Word Document, writing a sentence, changing the font and then saving their document -all key skills as they move up through the school.

In PHSE we will be looking at **Growing and Changing**, very apt as they move onto or within their new classes.

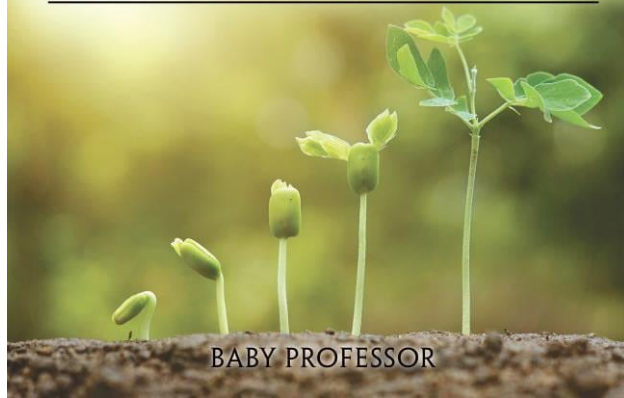
So a busy, busy time.

Key Texts

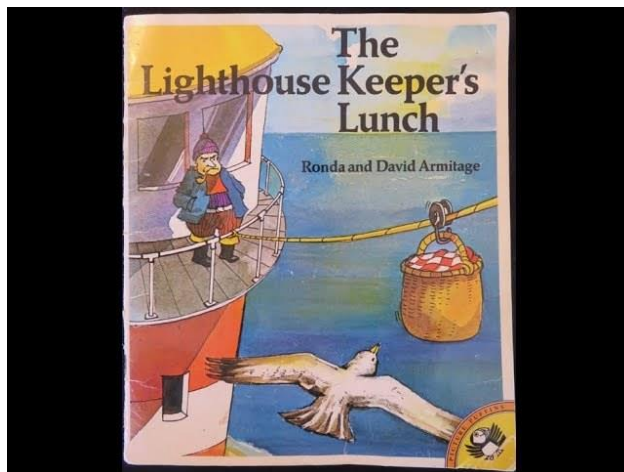


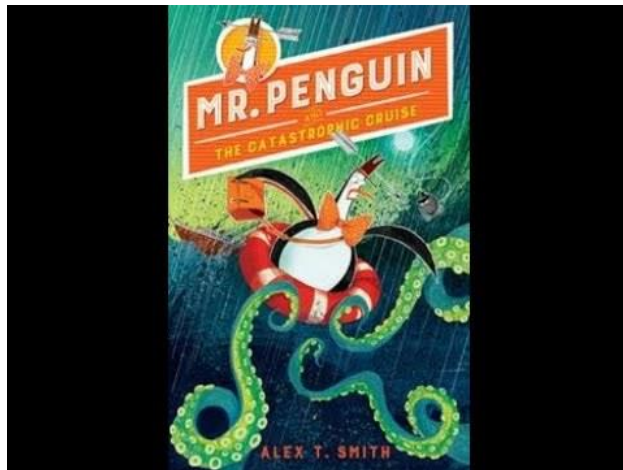
HOW DO PLANTS GROW?

BOTANY BOOK FOR KIDS | CHILDREN'S BOTANY BOOKS



BABY PROFESSOR





Key Dates

Summer Term 2 - Athletics will commence on Wednesday 12th June and run for 5 weeks, ending on 10th July 2024. We are now full for this club.

Monday 10th June - 14th June - Phonics Screen Checks

Sunday 23rd June - Bikeathon (Friends Event) 1-3pm

Tuesday 9th July - Sports Day TBC weather permitting

Thursday 11th July - Move Up Morning (Transition Day)

Monday 15th July - Sports Day (reserve date)

Monday 15th July - Rocksteady Performance to parents

Thursday 18th July - leavers service at St Peters Church PM

Thursday 18th July - leavers discos at the village hall

Friday 19th July - Last day of term - No SnP after school today

Friday 19th July - Change the Rules Day

- Water bottle everyday.
- Sun hats in school incase it's hot.
- Waterproof in school incase it rains!
- A jellybean when your child reads with you at least 4x each week.
- PE kits in school all week.

Any concerns or problems, do email on 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 :)