

Elsenham C of E Primary School



2025 WILLOW CLASS -AUTUMN NEWSLETTER Mrs Carruthers & Mrs Duplaw

Welcome to Willow class! The children have had a fantastic start to the new year, settling into their new classroom and the routines and responsibilities of Year 5 brilliantly.

Our P.E. days are Wednesday (outdoor) and Thursdays (swimming). Please ensure your child has the correct P.E. kit in school and earrings are removed.

Your ongoing support and communication is hugely appreciated throughout the year so please do not hesitate in speaking with us via the office or at pick-up should you ever need to. We look forward to meeting you at our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Wednesday 10th September at 16:30 or 17:15.

Mathematics

Following the national curriculum, our focus will be on place value knowledge as well as rounding, negative numbers, factors, prime and composite numbers, and fractions. Throughout this period, formal written methods for the four operations will be consolidated. At home, children need to continue to practise quick recall of number facts, particularly multiplication tables. Please encourage your child to practise regularly on Times Table Rock Stars.

Science

Our unit is 'Living Things and their Habitats'. We will be studying the life cycles of animals and plants as well as experimenting with how plants can reproduce.

And there's more!

In history this term, we will be studying Ancient Greece. We will be looking at primary and secondary historical sources and investigating what they can tell us about life in Greece and its impact on the wider world at this time.

Where does our energy come from? In geography, we will be looking at renewable and non-renewable energy in order to answer this question.

Swimming will start again (18th September) for our indoor P.E. sessions and we will be working on fitness, cross-country and tag rugby for outdoor P.E.

In computing, we shall look at E-Safety. An important topic in and out of school. Please discuss what has been taught in class with your child so it stays fresh in their mind.

In R.E., we begin our year with a philosophical unit that explores the question 'Is believing in God reasonable?'. Looking at many viewpoints and studying the works of great philosophers is sure to bring about intriguing discussions.

Food will be our D&T focus this term, exploring seasonality, where food comes from, as well as planning and adapting a recipe.

English

This term, we will be studying a wide range of text types, many linking to our topics. Our first writing unit this term will be 'The Lighthouse', which we are sure will engage the children as we write a newspaper report based on a film clip. Following this, we will be working from our guided reading text 'Who Let the Gods Out' by Maz Evans, which links perfectly to our history topic of Ancient Greece



A quick note about reading: This year, we'll no longer be using traditional Reading Records in Year 6. Instead, we're introducing Padlet—a digital platform where children can log books, write reviews, and get inspired by what their classmates are reading. We'll also continue using Renaissance: once a book is finished, pupils complete a short quiz to check understanding and help ensure they're choosing books that both challenge and engage them.

We will also provide statutory spellings that the children should revise at home. In school, we will study spelling principles each week in order to help the children tackle unfamiliar words and they will be tested on these words on Thursdays.

Children will be building on their grammar knowledge and will be learning some new and exciting ways to vary their sentence structure and make their writing interesting to read.