

Useful Parent Information for Year 5 & 6: Willow Class 2018-2019

GENERAL CLASSROOM PRACTISE

Mindset

In our classroom, as in our school, we aim to develop an ethos where having a growth mindset is encouraged. It is evident in the way that we speak, the way we organise the room and in the work we set. This mindset allows us to embrace taking risks in our learning, to not be afraid to make mistakes and to recognise that the brain changes and grows: we do not have a fixed ability.

Key aspects of growth mindset at Stone with Woodford C of E Primary School:

- We celebrate making mistakes – we can learn from them;
- We never give up – perseverance and practise is the key if we are to succeed;
- We learn from each other;
- We don't compare ourselves with others;
- We challenge ourselves and take risks;
- We remember that our brains are making new connections and growing all the time.

You can watch some short videos which explain this further at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUWn_TJTnU

<https://www.mindsetworks.com/parents/growth-mindset-parenting>

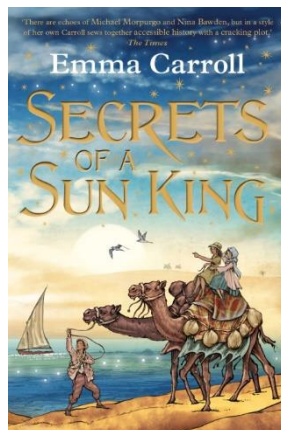
<https://www.oxfordlearning.com/growth-mindset-tips-for-parents/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-try-new-things>

Talk Partners

The practise of talk partners is embedded into how children learn together in our school. Each week children sit and work alongside a new talk partner, who they discuss and problem solve with.

Reading



We are a reading school and we are reading teachers, with a passion for reading - which we want to share with our class. We take every opportunity to develop

children's love for reading. This includes our new and inviting book corner, where we display books face on- alongside quotes from the authors and recommendations. Children can write short comments of recommendations for their peers once they have read a book. Also, being part of the Cheltenham Literature Festival Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils book group gives us time to work alongside other teachers and pupils, accessing new children's literature, including meeting authors of the books. Reading is a vital part of every school day. We discuss with the children new books we have read ourselves, others we are hearing about through twitter feeds from children's authors and prominent reading teachers and constantly recommend books to groups and individual children through getting to know them as readers. Class reading from our class novel (this term - *Secrets of a Sun King* by Emma Carroll) is a special time: children listen to and discuss the book, using *tune in tune out* as a method to encourage them to read aloud. We shall also be going to the Cheltenham Literature festival next month to work on our writing skills with author Christopher Edge (*The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day*) and listen to Abi Elphinstone (*Sky Song*) talk about her book-about what inspires her and how she writes.

Just as we read with and to the children, reading aloud or share stories with their parents has a huge impact in developing a love of books and an enjoyment of text. We hope that, as they move through year 5 and 6, you will still read aloud to your children.

Reading independently regularly is vital. The School Reading Diary books (orange) are how we ask children to keep a record of this home reading. Please encourage your child to read frequently and widely at home; they can read both fiction and non-fiction books as well as magazines, comics and text on the computer. We expect children to read at least 5 times at home per week. This can be to an adult or independently and should be noted down. Certificates within the book will be awarded as they reach benchmarks- eg 25 reads, 50 reads.

Spellings

Each day we spend some time focussing on specific spelling rules and patterns, alongside focus on words from the Year3/4 and Year 5/6 spelling lists (needed to be spelt correctly in independent writing to achieve age-related expectations by June). The full list of the week's spellings is in each child's spelling book but each day a group from this list are the focus of teaching time. The full list will be tested on Friday morning each week. These should be practised at home a recommended 5 times a week or more, ready for testing each week on Friday.

A spelling test makes up 20/50 marks of the SAT SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) test and therefore plays a significant role in their overall mark.

Maths

The Government expectation is that children should be able to quickly recall all their times table facts (up to 12 x 12) and the related division facts by the end of year 4. A test is due to be introduced - possibly this year.

If your child is unable to do this presently it is vital that they spend time at home focussing specifically on memorising these in order to be able to work confidently on the year 5 and 6 maths curriculum. We can provide them with sets of laminated times table cards which they can use for practise at school and at home regularly. It is only by constant repetition that these facts will become second nature- it really is down to practice. The online game, *hit the button* is another way to practise times tables:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

We will continue with the *Maths Passport Challenge*. These challenges are designed to cover a wider range of skills and are designed to develop quick recall of key facts. These are completed on a Friday. The tests will not be set as homework, but the skills your child is working on in their challenge may, at times, form part of their homework.

However, maths is not all about speed, it is also about problem solving and perseverance. We have begun our year of maths by looking at how we learn through making mistakes, how our brains change and grow and how essential it is to work hard to learn the most. Each week we have 1 maths lesson dedicated to the teaching of solve problems techniques- using a wide range of strategies. STOPS is a **S**ystematic **T**eaching **O**f **P**roblem **S**olving and the children love it!

As parents, we urge you to not to say to your child that you were/are no good at maths; as this has been recently proven to have the biggest impact on children's (particularly girl's) maths attainment of all!

Homework

Reading (5 times a week-recorded in the home reading diary) and spelling practice are amongst the most important homework for everyone. In addition to this, children will be given Maths homework each Friday, which should be returned the next Monday. The purpose of this additional homework is to consolidate and reinforce the learning happening within the classroom and allows for any follow up teaching afterwards. Literacy homework will be set to

fit in with writing topics and could be in the form of a 100 word challenge or a grammar or punctuation exercise.

Occasionally other homework will be set, linked to the topic work in class. SUMDOG (the maths online game which all children in Willow have their own personal login for) is always excellent fun too.

Independence

Work is set from 8:30 every morning, ready for the children as they enter the classroom. In order to encourage independence, we ask you not to accompany your children into their cloakroom; allow them to enter the school building on their own and organise themselves.

What to Remember to bring to School and When

A pencil case containing pencils, rubber, sharpener, coloured pencils and a ruler is needed every day by Year 5 & 6 children. Children must have their spelling book and their reading book and home reading diary in school every day.

PE kits should be in school every day. Willow have a weekly PE lesson on a Wednesday but sometimes extra opportunities arise and the kit will be needed on other days. In the autumn term Willow have swimming on Monday pm and will have dry sports in term 2. (Earrings must be removed for PE lessons. There is an expectation that if children wear earrings to school that they can take them out independently for the PE lesson.) Coats need to be in school every day as the weather may have changed by playtime or lunchtime. Please supply your child with a fruit snack, if required, for them to eat at morning break time.

Weekly routines in a nutshell:

- Thornbury leisure centre Mondays of autumn and spring terms for swimming or dry sports.
- PE every Wednesday
- Spelling and Maths Passport Challenge tests every Friday

Homework in a nutshell:

- Reading homework: 5+ reads at home per week, recorded in home reading book
- Maths homework set Friday, to be handed in the following Monday.
- Spelling homework: 5+ practises of spellings recommended at home per week.
- Times tables: 5+ practises of cards and/or hit the button game online recommended at home per week (of the times tables your child is working on, if not all known to 12 x 12)
- Written homework (100 word challenge, SPaG, comprehension, topic) will be set at times- but not a weekly routine.