

Welcome to Willow

2025- 2026



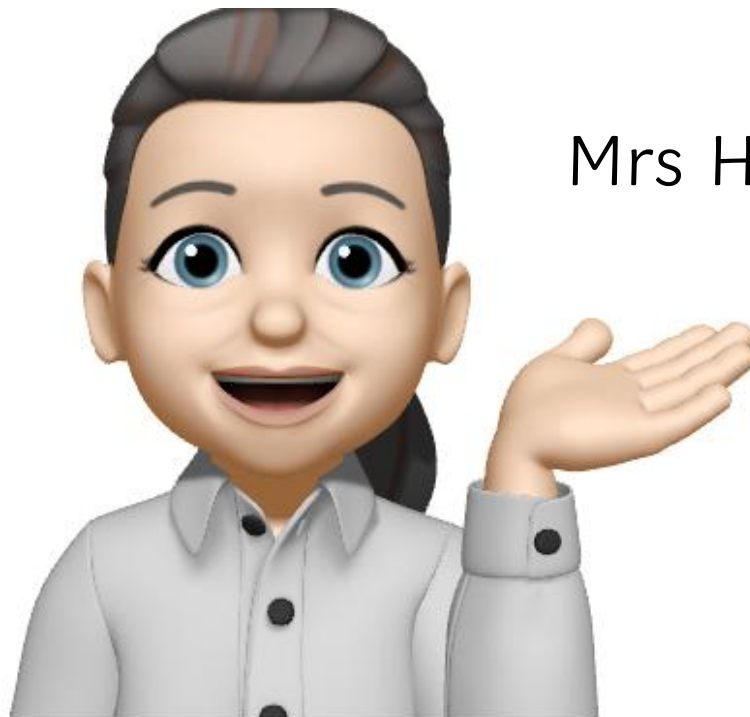
Meet the team



Mrs Heath



Mrs Harper



EYFS Curriculum Information

We follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years.

Our learning is based around the seven areas of focus.

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



Early years foundation stage statutory framework

For group and school-based providers

Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five

Dated: 11 October 2024

Effective: 01 November 2024

[EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers](#)

[Development Matters - Non-statutory curriculum guidance for the early years foundation stage](#)



If you wish to read more about the Early Years Curriculum – here are two documents that underpin our daily practices. Here you will also find the end of Reception Early Learning Goals. These will help us to capture your child's individual progress and their readiness for Year One,

We are a play based setting. Your child will learn through:

- ▶ Exploring
- ▶ Investigating
- ▶ Discovering
- ▶ Hands on opportunities that ignite enthusiasm and curiosity
- ▶ Growing independence
- ▶ Risk taking



Uniform Expectations

Full uniform is expected in Willow Class.

- ▶ Blue jumper/ cardigan
- ▶ Blue t-shirt
- ▶ Grey trousers/shorts/skirts/dresses
- ▶ Footwear must be black
- ▶ Hair must be always tied back.
- ▶ Only one pair of stud earrings are permitted.
- ▶ PE kit should consist of a blue t-shirt, black shorts and trainers. They will also need a tracksuit for cooler days. This should remain in school. These are to be taken home every half term.

Please ensure all uniform and belongings are clearly labelled. This includes hats, scarves, gloves, etc. Please **LABEL EVERYTHING.**



EYFS IS MESSY!



- It fosters curiosity, Imagination and exploration.
- It encourages communication and language
- It practices good concentration and nurtures future Skills.
- It promotes physical development.

Our Routine

8:30 – Gates open

8:45 - Registration

Daily Phonics Session

Indoor and outdoor play provision

Literacy

Indoor and outdoor play provision

Maths session

Indoor and outdoor play provision

12:00 - Lunch

Registration

Topic/RE/ PE session

Indoor and outdoor play provision

Story

15:15 – Home

Willow Class will also have French, Music and Forest School sessions fortnightly.



Snack Time

We have free flow fruit snack throughout the day.

We have lunch at 12 o'clock. We collect it independently and eat it together in the hall.

The menu will be available for you to discuss with your child and children then order in the morning registration.

Alternatively, you are welcome to send in a packed lunch.

In the afternoon we have free fruit as a snack.

Please send in a labelled water bottle (not juice) into school every day.



Forest School

Please come dressed in suitable weather gear: sun cream and hats if it's hot, waterproofs, wellies and warm clothes in the colder weather.

Be prepared for mud!

Our school calendar is kept up to date with all key events.



Behaviour Policy

In Willow we are READY, RESPECTFUL, KIND and SAFE.

Class dojo is part of our whole school positive reward system that allows you as parents to connect to Willow Class and see your child's dojo points and 'monster' via an app or email if you prefer.



25 Dojo Points	50 Dojo Points	100 Dojo Points
Change avatar and receive a dojo sticker.	Raffle ticket into half termly prize pot and certificate.	Hot chocolate/ Ice cream sundaes with the Head or Deputy.
Dojos will be reset back to '0' at the end of each term		



Top Table

There will be a VIP table set up in the hall on a Friday lunch time where a child from each class will be chosen to sit with a member of staff based on their positive behaviour from that week. A 'Top Table' invitation will be sent home the day before to inform parents.

Phonics and Reading

In phonics we use **Ready Steady Phonics**, a high-quality scheme across the whole of KS1 to ensure consistency and quality teaching. We will send home reading books that are uniquely tailored to the level of reading and the sound your child is currently working on. These will be sent home every Friday.

Our school expectation for reading is a minimum of 4 times weekly. Your child will also choose a book to share from our library. This is an additional opportunity to enjoy a story and inspire a love of reading for every child.

We will be holding a Phonics and Reading evening in the Autumn term to help you support home reading. More information about this will be shared at a later date.



Maths

As a school we use **White Rose Maths** along with other fantastic resources to help your child gain the concept of number, shape and the use of different functions such as adding, subtracting, doubling and halving.

We use lots of practical resources including numicon pieces for visual understanding.

Top Marks is a great website to help support your child at home. Programmes such as Numberblocks are also great to help embed a strong early understanding of number.



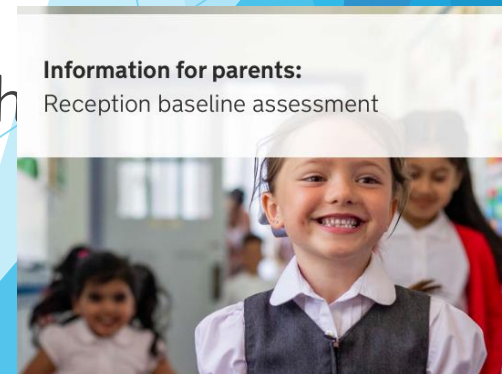
Reception Baseline

The reception baseline assessment (RBA) will happen within the first 6 weeks of your child starting reception. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for us to measure progress.

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with.

Your child cannot 'pass' or 'fail' the assessment. Its main purpose is to create a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils.

[Information for parents: reception baseline assessment](#)














Homework

Our expectation is that children read 4 times each week. They will receive a dojo point for reading for 4 times and 2 dojos if they read more than four times. Please make sure that these reads are recorded in your child's reading log.

Each term we will send out a homework grid with lots of activities that you can complete. The completion of these tasks is optional.



Willow Class, Autumn 1 <u>Friendships and Animals</u>	
<i>All tasks are in addition to times tables practice, daily reading and the learning of weekly spellings. Each activity is optional and worth 2 dojo points. Please provide physical or photographic evidence via class dojo/ email.</i>	
Topic	Health/ Wellbeing
<p>Create a friendship flower. In the middle draw a picture of yourself and on each petal, draw what makes a good friend.</p> 	<p>Go for a "listening walk". Grab your shoes and go for a walk outside. Pay close attention to what is around you. Can you describe and talk about what you hear and see?</p> 
<p>Bake an item for a friend. Take photos to show you making your baked goods.</p> 	<p>Dig out some old photos and spend some time looking at photos of friends, family and loved ones. Not only is this a lovely way to remind you of some great memories but it is also a super conversation starter!</p> 
<p>Use some small animal toys to make a pretend zoo. What do you need to do to look after the animals in your zoo? What food would they eat? Have they got somewhere to sleep? What else would the animals need to be happy?</p>  	<p>Shake your worries out. Start by setting a one-minute timer, jump up and down and wiggle your body. At the end of the minute, place a hand on your heart and listen to your heartbeat. How does your body feel?</p>  <p>Silly to Calm: Quick kids yoga movement break complete with dancing and breathing.</p>
<p>Read a book linked to the topic of <u>Suggested book list:</u> Stuck – Oliver Jeffers Paper Dolls – Rebecca Cobb Aunt Amelia – Rebecca Cobb A First Book of Animals – Nicholas Davies and Peter Horace</p>  	<p>Enjoy a "Stay at Home Spa Day". Start your spa day off with some bath time bubbles, then take part in a short mindfulness activity. Recharge your batteries over a teddy bear afternoon tea. Finally, end the day by reading your favourite book in a homemade den.</p>  

Communication

Our class page is updated every half term to share the key information on what we are learning.

The school calendar is kept up to date with key events across the school.

Our PE and forest school sessions will be on the calendar also.

Please use Class Dojo for messages, information and updates.



Smallwood CE Primary Academy



Smallwood Academy:

Preparing For School



- ▶ Promote independence – Can they get dressed independently? Can they use a zip/ buttons?
- ▶ Can they help to set the dinner table or pour their own drink?
- ▶ Practice attending to toilets needs and discuss the importance of handwashing.
- ▶ Encourage turn taking and sharing.
- ▶ Give your child instructions and remember and follow.
- ▶ Numbers/shapes are everywhere! What numbers/shapes can they spot?
- ▶ Read and share books as much as possible.
- ▶ Practice recognising their name.
- ▶ Encourage lots of activities to develop fine motor skills – cutting, play dough, pegging out the washing, threading pasta tubes or beads.



Key Dates

Monday 1ST & Tuesday 2nd Sept – INSET

Wednesday 3rd September – First Day of Autumn Term

Thursday 4th September – Meet the Teacher

Friday 5TH September - Welcome Service

Thursday 18th September - New Starters School Disco

