

🌿 Willow Class Weekly Learning Reflection 🌿

What another great week we have had in Willow Class! The children continue to show fantastic attitudes towards their learning, and we are so proud of everything they have achieved.

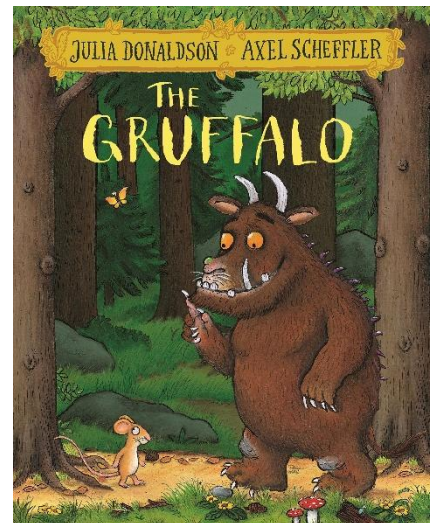
We are beginning to see the children really finding their feet, settling into routines and growing in confidence each day. As the term progresses, you may start to notice that your child is feeling a little more tired by the end of the week. This is completely normal as they adjust to the demands of the school day and all the exciting learning they are taking part in.

📖 Reading

We have had another successful week celebrating reading at home, and lots of children are continuing to earn raffle tickets by reading five times a week. Thank you for your continued support with this. Developing a love for reading is such an important part of children's learning journey.

Our focus text this week has been *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson. We have explored new vocabulary from the story and incorporated these words into our daily *Words and Phrases of the Day*. By the end of the week the children all knew the story of by heart, which was wonderful to see and hear! Our focus vocabulary included:

- Stroll
- Terrible
- Jaw



🌈 Reception Learning

🔊 Phonics

Reception children have continued revising their phonics sounds both during lessons and within our continuous provision. We have been working hard to build confidence in recognising and recalling sounds quickly.

📖 Mark Making and Early Writing

The children have loved creating treasure maps and engaging in lots of mark-making opportunities this week. It has been wonderful to see so many children

Phonics Sounds	Video Link
g	Lesson 11 (part 1) - Reception
o	Lesson 12 (part 1) - Reception
c	Lesson 13 (part 1) - Reception
k	Lesson 14 (part 1) - Reception

independently choosing notebooks and clipboards to create their own lists, maps and stories. Their confidence as early writers continues to grow every day.

Maths

In Maths, we have continued exploring patterns and identifying patterns in our environment. The children particularly enjoyed creating their own repeating patterns through our "**Clap Your Hands and Wiggle Your Fingers**" song.

Perhaps ask your child if they can remember how the song goes and whether they can create a pattern of their own at home!

KS1 Learning

English

In English, we have continued our literacy unit based on **Stardust by Jeanne Willis**.

The children have been developing descriptive sentences inspired by the night sky and our main character, **Mabel**. We are now preparing for our independent writing task next week and have been practising all the skills we will need for success.

A particular focus this week has been **presentation in our books**. We have introduced:

- Margins
- Finger spaces
- Neat handwriting
- Careful presentation

The children are already beginning to use these independently, which is fantastic to see. One area we are continuing to work on is ensuring letters and numbers are formed correctly and facing the right way.

Phonics Sounds	Video Link
Longer words	Lesson 11 - Year 1
Longer words	Lesson 12 - Year 1
Longer words	Lesson 13 - Year 1
Longer words	Lesson 14 - Year 1
Review the week	Lesson 15 - Year 1

Spellings: Year 1- words with the tch sound
catch fetch kitchen switch hutch ditch witch patch match batch
Spellings: Year 2-Words where 'c' makes a /s/ sound before 'e', 'i' and 'y'
race ice cell city fancy space lace circle circus rice

+ Maths

KS1 have started their new topic of **Addition and Subtraction within 20**.

We have been exploring:

- Part-part-whole models
- Number bonds within 10
- Ways numbers can be represented

A particularly important skill we have been developing is **subitising**.

What is subitising? Subitising is the ability to recognise how many objects there are in a small group without needing to count them one by one. For example, when a child sees five dots arranged as three dots and two dots, they can instantly recognise that there are five altogether.

At home, you could support this by showing your child groups of dots (up to 10) and asking:

- "What do you see?"
- "How do you see it?"

For example: *"I can see 3 dots and 2 dots, which makes 5."*

This helps children develop number sense and confidence with mental maths.

Geography

This week we explored **human and physical features** through a walk around our local area.

We discussed how:

- **Physical features** occur naturally, such as trees, rivers and fields.
- **Human features** are made by people, such as roads, houses and playgrounds.

The children enjoyed spotting examples of both within our village.

Science

In Science, we explored **seasonal changes** and discussed the transition from **Autumn to Winter**.

We:

- Recapped the four seasons
 - Discussed how the weather changes throughout the year
 - Completed a summer and autumn clothes sorting activity
 - Thought about what clothing is suitable for different weather conditions
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PSHE

Our focus this week was **rights and responsibilities** within the classroom.

We discussed:

- Why rules are important
- How rules keep us safe
- How rules help us learn

We also revisited how we can support one another through:

- Listening carefully
 - Sharing resources
 - Taking turns
 - Not talking over others
 - Showing kindness and respect
-

Computing

This week we used laptops to develop our understanding of how computers work.

We focused on:

- Using a mouse and trackpad
- Double-clicking
- Clicking and dragging

The children practised these skills using the Paint application and thoroughly enjoyed creating their own digital pictures.

We also revisited the different parts of a computer and discussed what each part does.

Design & Technology (DT)

This week in DT, we recapped what **sliders** are and how they can be used to create moving pictures within books and cards.

The children designed and made their own simple slider mechanisms using card and templates. First, they carefully drew a line on a piece of card and cut along it to create a slot. They then made a separate strip of paper to act as the slider and threaded it through the slot. Once the mechanism was working, the children decorated their templates and added a rocket picture that could move up and down as the slider was pulled.

The children showed fantastic perseverance and fine motor skills while cutting, assembling and testing their designs. They were very excited to see their rockets move and enjoyed exploring how simple mechanisms can create movement.

Optional Home Learning Activities

These activities are completely optional and are designed to reinforce some of our learning from this week.

Reading Challenge

Continue reading together at least five times this week and record this in your child's reading record.

Gruffalo Vocabulary Hunt

Can your child use one of our new vocabulary words in a sentence?

- Stroll
- Terrible
- Jaw

Bonus challenge: Can they act out the word too?

Phonics Sound Spotting (Reception)

Choose a sound and go on a hunt around your house. How many objects can you find beginning with that sound?

Early Writing Challenge

Create a treasure map, shopping list or simple story using marks, pictures and words.

Pattern Making

Create a repeating pattern using:

- Claps and taps
- Toys
- Colours
- Leaves collected outside

Can your child explain the pattern rule?

Subitising Game (KS1)

Draw quick groups of dots from 1-10 and ask:

- "How many can you see?"
- "How do you know?"

Encourage your child to explain the groups they can see rather than counting each dot individually.

Human or Physical?

Whilst out on a walk, challenge your child to identify:

- Human features
- Physical features

How many can they find?

Seasonal Spotting

Look for signs of Autumn:

- Falling leaves
- Acorns
- Coloured leaves

- Cooler weather

Can your child explain how Autumn is different from Summer?

DT Challenge

Can you make a moving picture at home? Try creating a simple slider using card, paper and scissors. What could move on your picture?

Ideas:

- A rocket blasting into space
- A fish swimming through the sea
- A car driving along a road
- A Gruffalo appearing from behind a tree

Encourage your child to explain how the slider mechanism works and what happens when it is moved. 😊

 **We wish you all a happy, restful weekend and thank you for your continued support.**

From the Willow Class Team 