



Aiming High Together

DOVEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL Willows Academy Trust

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Friday 20th September 2019

Welcome to Dovedale

Welcome to all new and familiar families. It has been a great first few weeks with the children. Thank you for entrusting us to care for them. We have really enjoyed getting to know yourselves and your lovely children and it is already a pleasure to see them developing. Our priority this term is to help the children to settle into the school routines, learn school expectations, what a good learner is and to make new friends within the class. The children are well on their way in doing this. Throughout school this year our class names are themed around Olympic Countries. Mrs Robinson's Class is Great Britain and Miss Hutchinson's Class is France.

School Readiness

Thank you for your support with getting your children ready to come to school. This has had a very positive impact in how confident and happy they are whilst at school. We are particularly proud of how well most of the children are walking into school from the gate in the morning. Mrs Homer and Miss Haywood (teaching assistants) are happy to continue to support any children who need a familiar adult to walk with them. At Dovedale we believe in independence and walking into school from the gate is the start of this journey.

It has been great to introduce so many new things to the children over the past few weeks, including PE. We are very pleased with how most children are able to dress and undress themselves. Could we kindly ask that whenever possible at home could you encourage your child to develop this skill further? We thank you in advance for this.

Willows Academy Trust ... ASPIRE ... ACHIEVE ... THRIVE ... Willows Academy Trust



Company Name: Willows Academy Trust (www.willowsacademytrust.co.uk)

Company Registered No. 9093035 (England and Wales)

Registered Office: Sawley Junior School, Wilmot Street. Long Eaton, Nottingham. NG10 3DQ

Baseline Assessment

This academic year we are participating in a pilot of the reception baseline assessment (RBA) which is a new national assessment that will be administered in all primary, infant and first schools in England to pupils in reception classes. It will be introduced in autumn 2020.

The assessment will provide a snapshot of where pupils are when they arrive at school, establishing a new starting point to measure the progress they have made by the end of year 6.

It is a short (approximately 20 minutes), practical assessment focusing on their early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills. A teacher or teaching assistant will carry out the assessment one-to-one with each pupil, any time in the first 6 weeks of reception. It does not require any preparation at home or at school and will help teachers to understand what their pupils can do at the beginning of their time in reception.

Our Learning Journey

As you know our topic from now until the end of October is 'Super Me'. We will be asking the following questions: What makes a SUPERHERO? What makes me SUPER? Why is my friend SUPER?

The topic will focus on learning about different superheroes and what their super powers are, understanding that not all superheroes wear capes and that there are people in our world whom are real life superheroes such as doctors, nurses, police officers, fire fighters, Mummy's, Daddy's and even teachers! We are learning about each other and that there are things that make us unique from others and that's what makes us SUPER.

We know the children will love this topic as many of them have a huge interest in Superheroes.

On Wednesday 23rd October we welcome the children to come to school dressed as their favourite Superhero or in an imaginary superhero costume. This will be a day to celebrate the end of our first topic and will be a 'Superhero' themed fun packed day.

Book Bags

Today your child has been given their school book bag. We understand that some children have been bringing a large back pack to school, however, now they have their book bags these are no longer needed which will help vastly with ensuring our cloakrooms stay clutter free. We thank you in advance with this. We encourage the children to take their book bag home every day, but it is important that they are returned to school each morning. Please look inside your child's book bag every evening as letters and important information are placed in here.



Any 'spare' time you have at home to hear your child read will benefit them enormously. When you hear your child read and/or practise their words at home please could you write a short comment in their reading diary, alongside the relevant day / date letting us know how you feel they are progressing. As stated in the 'Reading at Dovedale' leaflet sent home in the welcome booklet we recommend you share your child's book and keywords three times a week. Children who do so will receive a sticker on their chart.

In your child's book bag you will find:

- **A reading book** – Initially reception children will be given a picture book without words. This is to help children feel confident when reading for the first time with an adult from school. Please help them to retell the story based on the pictures. When your child is able to read some basic words, they will progress to books with words. Please encourage your child to point to the words as they read through the book. We understand that some children may have prior experience of reading and these children will be quickly moved on once the class teacher has assessed their reading level.
- **Key Words** – You will find two picture sets of the characters from the Oxford Reading tree scheme- use these to play matching games with your child to help them familiarise themselves with the characters. Once your child is familiar with the pictures, they will be given just the character names as words followed by strips of high frequency words stapled in their reading diary. Please support your child by sounding out these words so that they are able to read them independently. Some of the words they are given cannot be sounded out- these are known as 'tricky' words. Try to help your child to learn these through repeated recall. We will provide new words in the wallet once your child is confident at reading them. Please help us to do so by ticking the key word each time your child reads it independently.

Rewards at Dovedale

At Dovedale we have a positive approach to behaviour management and use many different strategies to reward positive behaviour. They are as follows: -

- **Smiley Chart**- Both classrooms have a smiley chart. Each child starts on the green smiley face every morning and throughout the day if they show progress towards our Super Rules, they have the opportunity to move up the chart to the silver or gold smiley. The gold smiley is highly regarded and only 1 or 2 children achieve this each day. If they achieve the gold smiley, they will receive a reward which may include a golden ticket or prize. Alternatively,

children who struggle to follow our Super Rules may have to move down on the smiley chart but will always have the opportunity to move back up the chart before the end of the day. If your child comes home with a smiley sticker this shows, they have had a good day at school.

- **Sticker Charts-** Children receive stickers for a wide range of reasons within the school day. As they gather stickers on their chart, they will gradually be getting closer to achieving a bronze, silver and gold award.
- **House Points-** Children across school are allocated a place in either the Gold, Sapphire, Emerald or Ruby House Team. Throughout the school day children achieve house points for their team which are calculated at the end of every week. At the end of each half term the winning house team receives a small prize and an additional play time.
- **Star of the Week-** Each week one child in each class will receive a 'Star of the Week' award in our celebration assembly on Friday. You will receive a text to invite you to watch your child receive this award if they have been chosen that week. The text is sent home in advance to enable you time to make any necessary work arrangements. Our 'Star of the Week' will always take home the class mascot and diary home for the weekend as an extra reward.

Name Labels

It never ceases to surprise us just what the children manage to misplace in and around school, even when getting changed for PE in the classroom. If all items of clothing are clearly named, then they will be returned straight away as opposed to being added to the rather large pile of lost property.

Water Bottles

We encourage the children to bring their own water bottles into the classroom. Please ensure that only water is put in them and not juice. There are baskets for the children to keep their water bottles in enabling them to have easy access to them throughout the day, we ask that the water bottles are clearly labelled with their name and are preferably of a sports type bottle so that, should they get knocked over they are not likely to spill everywhere. If the children forget their water bottle there are water fountains in the corridor that the children have access to at all times.

Jewellery & Hair

To ensure the safety of your child our school policy regarding jewellery, hair and nails is as follows:

- Jewellery can only be worn for religious purposes.

- Any recently pierced ears need to be kept covered for the advised time of six weeks.
- We recommend that children who have long hair (below their shoulders) should tie their hair back for school; however, it is essential that it is tied back for PE lessons.
- Nail varnish should be removed for the school week.

Welly Walks

As part of our Early Years curriculum we like to make the best use of the outdoors we can. Weather permitting, we will take children on walks around the school grounds, exploring the wonderful nature that is on our door step every Monday. If your child has not yet brought a pair of wellington boots into school and (where possible) a waterproof jacket could these be sent into school before our next Welly Walk on Monday? Many thanks in advance.

School Money

You will have received a link to set up 'School money'. This payment system is used in a variety of different ways in school – to pay for: before / after school / holiday club; school trips; tickets for events and dinner money once in Key Stage 2.

Class Dojo & Webpages

Thank you to those parents who have already set up your 'Class Dojo' accounts. This is where you will see updates on the fun we are having at school - this may include photographs of group activities, sharing individual pieces of work or just those 'in-the-moment' opportunities that happen on a daily basis in an Early Years classroom. We will also use this as a communication tool to keep you updated on up and coming events that may be happening. It would be great if you could also share any exciting moments that happen at home via your child's individual portfolios.

Our webpages will also be updated on a regular basis to give a general overview of what we are doing in class and any forthcoming events.

Volunteers

We are always very grateful for any extra help and support in school from parent helpers, grandparents, aunties and uncles, or anyone else you know who may be interested. The jobs we tend to ask people to help out with range from hearing the children read, painting with them and working with small groups of children to help them with their work. To help in school you are required to have an up to date DBS check. If you, or if you know of anyone who would like to help out in school please come and see Mrs Wilson in the school office who will arrange the necessary paper work for you.

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Phonics Information Evening

On Thursday 17th October we will be holding a Phonics Information Evening for parents. Thank you to those families who expressed an interest in attending this event during our induction visit. The evening will include an introduction to early reading and how we teach phonics at Dovedale. Please complete the attached slip to secure your place on the evening.

We are really looking forward to the year ahead with yourselves and your children.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs Robinson & Miss Hutchinson

Phonics Information Evening – Thursday 17th October

I/We would like to attend the above event at the following time.

My child will / will not be attending (please circle).

	✓	Please specify the name/s of the attending parent/s below.
Session 1 4:00-4:45		1. 2. Parents of: _____
Session 2 5:00-5:45		1. 2. Parents of: _____

Signed: _____