



DUNSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Growing and Achieving Together'

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Willow!

We have been having a fantastic time getting to know your child and watching as they become more confident in the setting. They have been amazing at coming into school! 😊

Below you will find some important information about Willow class...

Tapestry - We use Tapestry to share some of the exciting learning that goes on in Willow class and really appreciate the comments that you add. Remember that we love to read and share Tapestry entries from home, as it helps us to get to know your child even better!

'Tapestry Talkers' – It is important that children speak in full sentences and we are keen to develop their vocabulary and promote quality talk in the classroom. Each Friday, two children will be chosen as our 'Tapestry Talkers'. They will have the opportunity to stand up and talk about a Tapestry post with their peers the following week. The photos you add could be of nature, a special day out or something linked to a pet, hobby or achievement. Please support your child by talking to them about it at home.

Reading Books – Next week, your child will be bringing home a grey reading book which supports story telling (a very important part of becoming a good reader and writer). As we complete our baseline assessments and start our phonics program, we will begin to introduce books and word sheets which will be at your child's level of development. Reading books will then be changed three times a week, as required, on a Monday, Wednesday and a Friday. Your support with **daily** reading is vital; please share your comments each time they read, to let us know how they are getting on 😊. We would really appreciate it if your child's reading wallet could be in school every day.

Please could ALL children bring in a book bag for their belongings; this can be popped into their named tray... Unfortunately, we don't have space for any rucksacks in the Willow cloakroom.

Phonics/home learning – At Dunstone, we teach phonics through 'Song of Sounds' and we will soon begin to teach letter sounds. This is the song that we sing at the start of each phonics session...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48uf9l6P2xQ> Feel free to practise this at home too.

Every Friday, we will send home the sounds that we have learnt during the week. We would love for you to practise each of the week's sounds and discuss them with your child; there will be some suggested games and phonics activities in the front of their home learning book. There is also plenty of space to comment and for your child to show us how they are getting on. They can practise letter formation too. We teach pre-cursive letter formation using 'Letterjoin'. We really appreciate your support at home, as it can make a huge difference to progress and they will love to teach you 😊.

Writing - Please encourage your child to have a go with 'writing' even if it is shapes, squiggles or lines at this stage. We want them to gain confidence and value all mark making from the start. As we teach the sounds and letter formation in class, they will naturally start to use recognisable letters. We will also be encouraging them to practise writing their names regularly, once they are ready, and with correct formation.

Maths - We will be looking at numbers to 10 and then beyond, with a focus on number recognition, counting and ordering, through fun games and activities inside and out. Please help your child to spot numbers out and about and count whenever the opportunity arises.

Behaviour system - We follow the whole school behaviour system (please see the school website). We focus on being ready to learn, and we know that it's good to stay GREEN! If someone shows us an outstanding attitude to learning, or that they are following the 'Show me 5' rules, they will be given a sticker for going on Super Green.

P.E. – Our P.E session will take place on a Wednesday morning. From Wednesday 16th September, please could your child come to school in their PE kit ready for some fun in the hall or playground. They will need to wear their coloured PE top, plain tracksuit bottoms/leggings and their school jumper along with trainers. We will also be physically active every day in our outside learning areas.

Clothing - Please ensure that your child **always** has a coat as we go outside in all weather. They will have access to waterproof coats to protect clothing from mud as much as possible! Our backdoor is usually open so it might be helpful to dress your child in extra layers on cold days. Please can you provide your child with a pair of named wellies for use in our outside areas and on visits to the woods. Willow class will also be attending a 'Wild Tribe' sessions with Miss Lyon on Tuesday mornings.

Water bottles- Please ensure that your child brings a named **water** bottle to school every day for use in class. This is in addition to the drink required in their packed lunch box. We would really appreciate it if you could ensure that your child recognises their bottle and can read their name label.

*****Please remember to name ALL uniform and belongings. This is essential in Willow class 😊.***

Thank you so much for your support with saying 'Goodbye' at the gate each morning! This is already working well and enables us to have a very settled start to each day 😊.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We are really looking forward to a fun year!

Best Wishes,

Amy Carpenter and Fiona Sluman



**We're working
towards Artsmark**
Awarded by Arts
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