

# Willow | Curriculum Newsletter Spring 1



## Inspirational Scientists

We will be asking children to research the lives of inspirational scientists and explore the importance of their imagination to the world of scientific discovery.

If you have any ideas for interesting and inspirational scientists then do let us know!

## Science and Design Technology

At the beginning of this half term, we were very lucky to receive a letter from Hasbro, the game creators. They have chosen our school to be an 'imagination station' and have given us a challenge to create our own imaginative games.

## Magnets

In order to create a magnetic game, we will first learn about magnets and magnetism through specific scientific skills, such as enquiry, observation, comparative and fair testing. After we have become experts in all things magnetic we will be designing and creating our own magnetic games.

## Light

This half term, we will also be exploring the subject of light, including reflection and how shadows are formed.

Through both units, we will be focusing on the progression of scientific skills which include classifying, observing and comparative and fair testing.

**What is the importance of imagination?**

## Computing

Linked to our Hasbro game challenge, in computing, children will work with example Scratch projects/games. They will explain how the scripts work, finding and correcting errors in them and explore creative ways of improving them. They will also learn to recognise some common types of programming error and practise solving problems through logical thinking.

## English:

We will be focussing on two texts in English this half term. The first is the children's classic, 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and the second is, 'Leon and the Place Between' by Graham Baker-Smith.

We have chosen these texts as we feel that their themes link directly with our enquiry question, 'What is the importance of imagination?'

Through these texts, we will be covering the statutory elements of the Year 3 English National Curriculum for reading and writing, including making predictions, studying how language contributes to meaning and understanding and grammatical foci such as the present perfect tense and summarising.

## Spelling

This term, we will be:

- focussing on the conventions for adding the suffix *-ous*
- adding the prefixes *sub-*, *re-* and *inter-*



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The following subjects will be taught discretely:



### Home Learning

Throughout the term, children will be given spelling, grammar and reading tasks to enhance and embed their learning, as well as Mathematics and rehearsal of their times tables, using Times Table Rockstars.

During this half term, we will also be giving the children some research home learning projects so please keep a look out for this. Sometimes, we will ask children to post their findings on our blog which can be found via the school website. We will send a Marvellous Me home to remind you that our blog has been updated.

Please see Mrs Mitson or Mrs Preston if you need to use the Kindles/computers to complete your home learning.

**Maths** - Addition and Subtraction - we will be covering these areas over this half term, in particular learning the formal written methods of addition and subtraction. We will also be concentrating on times tables in our basic skills sessions to try and ensure we know these back to front and inside out! Please help your child to practise these at home.

**French** - During this half term, children will be learning about French festivals and celebrations and how to describe important celebrations in their own lives.

### P.E:

**Monday PM** - Swimming (starts Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January)

**Thursday PM** - Games with Coach James

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL P.E KIT HAS YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN, AND IS IN SCHOOL MONDAY-FRIDAY IN CASE OF A CHANGE TO THE TIMETABLE.**

**JIGSAW: 'Dreams and Goals'** - In JIGSAW (PSHE), this term, we will be learning about how to set goals, aim high and achieve, even in the face of challenges.

**RE** - Christianity. The children will be considering and exploring the concept of Jesus' miracles and incarnation. The key question is: Could Jesus heal people? Were these miracles or is there some other explanation?

### Dates for your diary:

Week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> January - English open classroom week.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Poetry assembly

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February - PFA disco

Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> February - Walk to school week

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February - end of this half term.