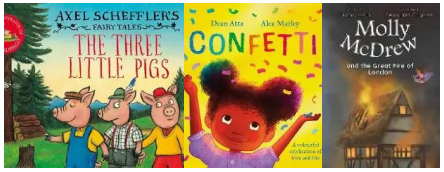
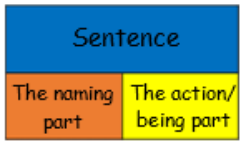
Willow Class Newsletter
Autumn 1 2026

English
We will start the year by looking at 'What is a sentence?' and helping children to understand and spot the different parts, through using the sentence bar model. We will be looking at forming all of our letters correctly and begin to write short captions for pictures. Please note – Year 2 will begin using the terminology noun and verb, and begin to join letters using the diagonal stroke'. We will use the books below to showcase our skills by writing, short sentences, captions and a fact file.





Science
During this half term, we will be looking at the key question 'How are animals the same and different?' We will learn how to identify common animals and body parts. We will additionally learn about how to group animals and consider what they need to survive. We will learn about what different animals need to survive and will discuss their diets. The children will understand the difference between herbivores and carnivores.



Religious and Worldviews Education
We begin our year with a focus on creation as we answer the question, 'What is creation?'. We will begin by reviewing the Christian creation story and the story of Adam and Eve. We will then make comparisons to the Jewish views on creation to spot similarities and differences.



French
We will focus on recapping our previous learning around introductions, numbers and key sounds in French, as well as adding to our learning about what it is like to go to school in France.



Computing
We will begin our learning with a focus on looking at the technology around us. Following this, we will look at how to use a keyboard and a mouse. Lastly, we will look at digital painting.



Additional information
Home learning will be set weekly on a **Friday** and will need to be handed in on the following **Friday,** along with your child's reading record to be checked and the book to be changed. Reading should happen at **least 4 times at home** each week and recorded in the reading record.
Please ensure all uniform, including PE kit is named and in school at all times.

Any questions, do not hesitate to contact us via willow@trentyoungs.dsat.org.uk

Phonics/Reading
The children will be taking part in daily phonics and reading sessions. In Year 1, we will revise Phase 3 and 4 GPCs before beginning to look at the start of the Phase 5 GPCs. Year 2 will start by revising their phonics skills so far to ensure they are ready to begin the 'Bridge to Spelling' unit in Autumn 2. The children will be bringing home reading books related to their reading ability as well as a book to share for pleasure.



History
This half term, we will be exploring the question "How did the Great Fire of London change people's lives?" This will develop the children's ability to use sources to reconstruct the past, and will help to develop the children's understanding of cause and consequence.



Maths
Year 1: We will begin by focusing on numbers up to 10; representing them in tens frames and recognising numbers as both numerals and words. We will also start to look at number bonds to 10 using building blocks and pictorial representations. Finally, we will look at different ways of adding to 10 by using part-whole diagrams and begin to lay the foundations of the inverse of addition.

Year 2: The year will start by looking at the value of different digits in numbers within 100. We will follow this by counting forwards and backwards in steps of 2, 3 and 5 from 0 and in 10s both forwards and backwards from any given number. Lastly, we will begin to explore addition and subtraction using diagrams and by counting on.



Art
This half term, we will be introducing the idea that artists can be collectors & explorers as they develop drawing and composition skills.



Design Technology
Our focus will be upon mechanisms as we create "moving monsters." We will identify different mechanisms and look closely at a sliding mechanism and making our own.



Physical Education

Our first unit will be ball games where we will be looking at different ways to receive and pass a ball, using different footwork patterns and finding space to do these, before using these in different styled games. Our second unit will be 'Fairytale Dance', where we will develop our balance, agility and co-ordination skills.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
Willow Class will be looking at 'me and my relationships'. We will think about our feelings towards different things and what makes a good friend.



Music
We will explore dynamics within our music lessons using the seaside as our inspiration. We will think about the importance of pulse when listening and performing.

