



# Willow Brook News

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2021

[head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](mailto:head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a quick email to welcome you to the last half term of the academic year! Whilst the frustration of missing all that usually fills these weeks remains with us, there is still a great deal in store for the children and we hope to complete the year with a little optimism and joy.

Our Year 6 children look rather fabulous in their new hoodies. Whilst I still can't answer the 'why are they purple?' question that I've been asked quite a lot, they are very proud!



On their behalf, I want to thank our Friends committee for kindly organising and purchasing them.

The final topic of the year is a whole school one. It is rather apt as we run up to the holiday season, that our theme is 'The Journey'. Each class has set sail to track a famous voyage – one in fact and one in fiction.

Reception are following bears and Wild Things and were a little shocked to meet a rather scary version on their 'bear hunt' across the field on Monday!

Year 1 and year 5 are meeting those who travelled aboard HMT Empire Windrush as part of their history studies and learning a great deal from the outcome and impact of the journey many decades later.

Year 4 have set sail aboard The Mayflower and are already full of the names and lives of those on the passenger list.

Year 3 have a different kind of journey ahead. They are travelling with the recently departed Ancient Egyptians as they meet 42 gods and complete their quest to find Osiris (meeting the 'devourer' being the alternative!). A strong nerve will be in order!

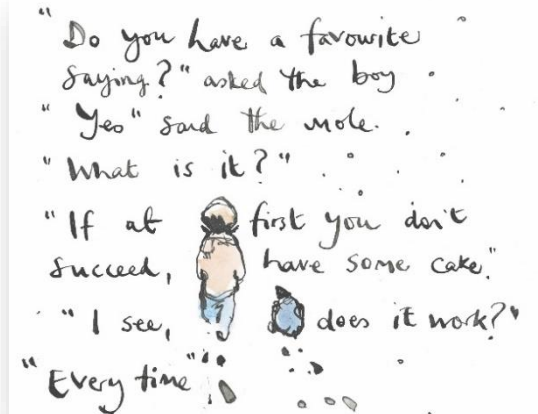
Year 2 set sail from Southampton on Monday and have already sent postcards home, dined in splendour and met the captain of the Titanic... I've got that sinking feeling...

Year 6 are off on The Silk Road and are already connecting the Han Dynasty with the rich culture, ideas and traditions that tie so neatly all that they have learnt in primary school history.

The whole school plan is attached and should give you an overview of our Willow Brook journey!

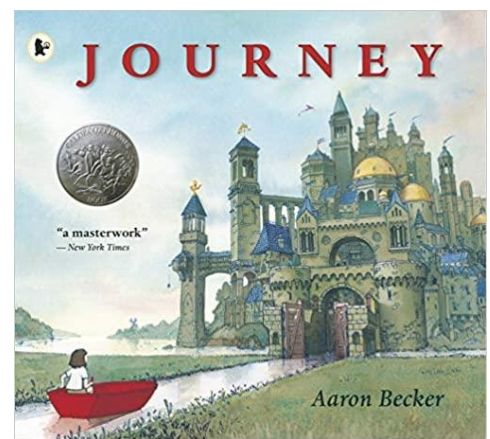
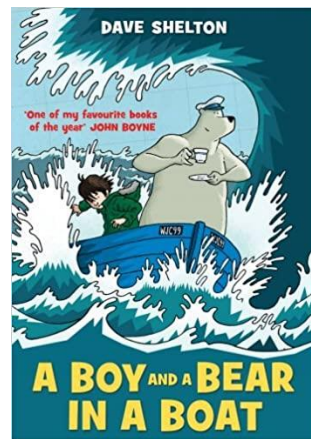
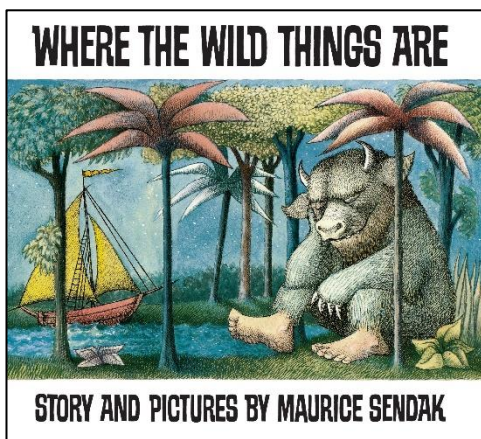
In philosophy on a Friday, the children are using a rather fabulous book called 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy to explore their views and ideas. If you haven't encountered the book, please take a look – you'll love it. Alternatively, it makes a perfect story to relax to at bedtime (for an adult or a child!) - you can find it here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000r630>

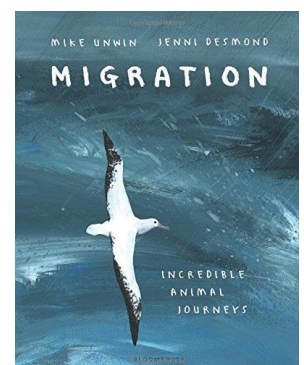
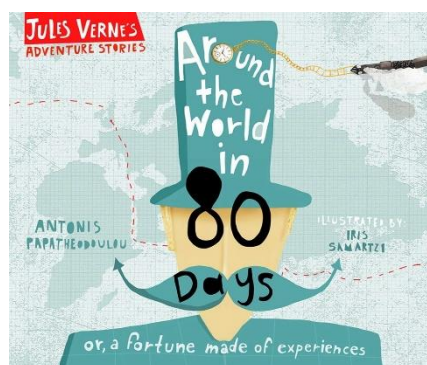
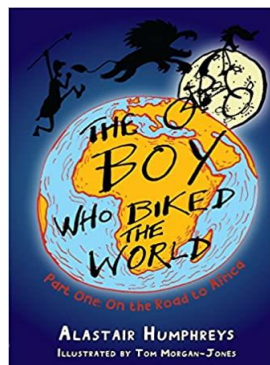
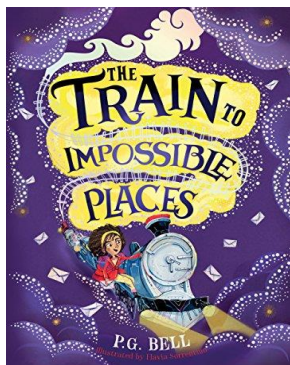


If you are looking for inspiration for a good read to share with your child, other books that are perfect to support our current curriculum (and will be used in school) might include:

For our younger children

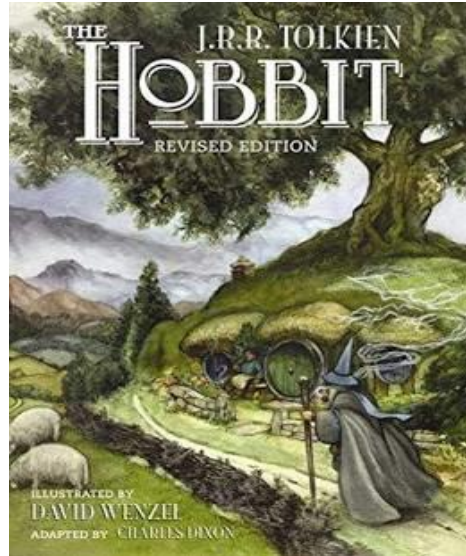
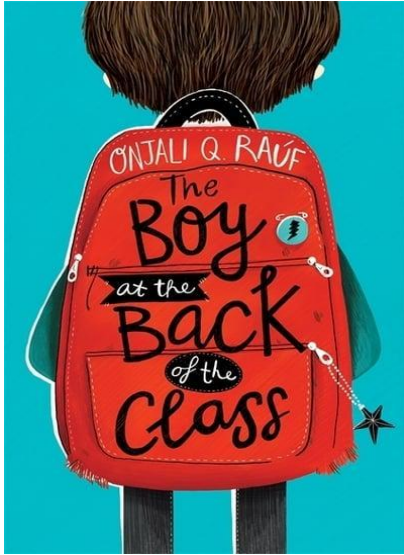


For middle years





For older readers



In our art and design lessons, we will be on a bus! I think you'll appreciate just what our project is going to be as soon as you are aboard!

As I have said, this term we will do our best to give the children as good an 'end of year' experience as we can. Whilst it is looking like we may have to carry on without you as our audience, we will have picnics and sports afternoons and many of the other events that usually help us to mark the summer term. The children will also have an opportunity to meet their new teachers and experience life in their September classrooms. I am pleased that our staffing structure remains the same for next year and can confirm that teachers will be staying in their current year groups. So, EYFS will be in the capable hands of Mrs Sampson and Mrs Cotton.

Year 1 will have Mr Boyd

Year 2 - Miss Johnston and Mrs Fleming

Year 3 – Miss Brearey

Year 4 – Mrs Best

Year 5 – Mrs Smith

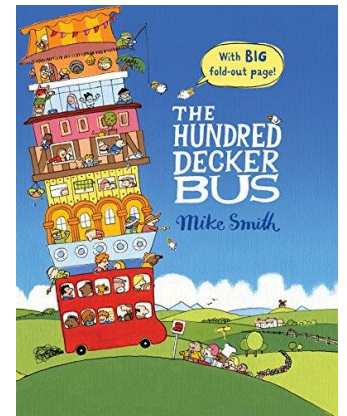
Year 6 – Mr Jones.

End of year reports will be with you in the first week of July and you will have the opportunity to speak with teachers, if required and respond to any issues raised before we break up on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

For now I wish you a restful weekend and hope that you enjoy the sunshine that has been promised!

With my very best wishes to you all,

*Louise Ballard*





# THE JOURNEY

## Summer 2021

*'The best journeys answer questions that in the beginning you did not even think to ask.'*

*These are the voyages of the Willow Brook children. Their half term mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new lands and civilizations. To boldly go where... few have dared to go before!*

### As language specialists...

Journals, historical recounts and fictional travel will be at the heart of our half term. Historical expeditions and world-changing key characters will immerse pupils in both fiction and non-fiction texts. Children will become experts when it comes to comprehending and constructing narratives in this genre. To inspire a love of reading, each class will study extracts and stories from new and familiar authors that are appropriate and challenging. From timeless novels (such as *The Hobbit*) to classic picture books (such as *Where the Wild Things Are*), texts will reflect National Curriculum aims and be chosen to build vocabulary and relevant literary experience. Writing skills will be developed through cross curricular learning and again will include both fact and fiction work to enable pupils to demonstrate their understanding and progress. Pupils will all continue to work on age related grammar and language techniques to improve all elements of the English Primary Curriculum. We will endeavour to promote a love of reading by enjoying whole class stories related to the topic.

### Across the curriculum

#### As expressive artists

We will design and create fantastical decks based on the book, *'The Hundred Decker Bus'*. Through weekly 'My World' writing using themes from *'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'*, we will learn the techniques of the artist Charlie Mackesy. With ink and watercolour we will create an illustrated book of our own. Creating a gallery to showcase our half term will teach children about the standard required and the pleasure involved in presenting and critiquing art and concept.

#### As language speakers

Our journey will take us to France where a day of culture and conversation will complete our language studies.

#### As musicians and computer specialists

We will improve our skills of presentation and experience new programmes and software to present our history work with ambition through recorded sound and vision. Music will be

#### As theologians and thinkers

We will explore how pilgrimage and journeys of faith fit and have significance within established religions. The children will also use their 'My World' sessions to reflect in the ups and downs of life's journeys as we ponder on the hidden values and attitudes within *'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'*.

#### As fitness experts

We will dedicate curriculum and extra-curricular time to promoting fitness and healthy lifestyles. In the run up to Tokyo 2020, Olympic enthusiasm will bring team spirit and competition to the fore in our own quest to run faster, throw further, jump higher, and promote the Olympic values of friendship, excellence, respect, determination, inspiration and equality.

### Knowledge of the World and citizenship

People travel for many reasons. Children will be introduced to the joys of exploration and adventure and how culture really does broaden the mind. Journeys that push boundaries and find new frontiers develop resilience as well as knowledge, and pioneers forge new paths for us to navigate. Some choose to travel. Their culture and way of life has historical context that can be unpacked and understood. Others have no choice but to travel. As refugees, migrants and asylum seekers regularly feature on national news, do we fully appreciate their stories and right to a life of peace and security? There are age-appropriate discussions to be had and points of view to be informed and challenged, and this topic offers the content and opportunity to broaden metaphorical horizons.

### As mathematicians we will...

Call on the many skills required by an intrepid traveller to apply mathematical strategies to reasoning and problem solving. From distance and temperature to time and geographical data, reading, collecting and presenting 'real-life' information is a skill. Applying calculation strategies will enable children to consolidate and rehearse this year's learning.

As always, we aim to move from the 'concrete to the pictorial to the abstract' to develop thinking, mental agility and engagement.

### As historians we will

Set off alongside historical figures to experience the significance of their journeys and the impact that their voyages had on the world. With visitors to school sharing first-hand knowledge on the arrival of *The Windrush*, two classes will explore events within living memory. Taking a chronological step back in time, other children will travel with key characters aboard the Titanic and learn the fate of their fellow passengers. The Silk Road was the world's first global superhighway where people with new ideas, new cultures, and new religions made exchanges that shaped humanity. Our oldest children will learn from the historical diaries set in the ancient world. The Egyptian journey to the afterlife takes us further back into the ancient world. Guided by the gods and following the Book of the Dead the Hall of the Dead and the throne of Osiris remained the ultimate destination.

### As scientists

Each year group will complete individual studies according to their curriculum. Practical investigations will take on journey related content and provide opportunities to observe, test and record our thinking. Investigating modes of transport in our travel theme will open STEM studies on flight and floating (or not, in the case of the Titanic!) and will enable us to explore and construct.

### As geographers we will

Use mapping skills to plot and understand historical journeys. According to our progression key stage 1 pupils will use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language to describe the location of their topic and plan their own routes on a map for outings into the community.

Key stage 2 pupils will 'use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world' in the journeys that they study and use their learning in maths to 'observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area'.