

# Windmill Class 2025-2026

Welcome to, or back to Windmill Class! We are very excited to get started and settle into this new term. Below you will find some brief but useful explanations of various structures and routines for Windmill for the coming terms.

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## Homework and ways to support at home:



Our only expectation for homework is that **you read at least four times a week** with your child. We will also send flashcards home with children who may find they have some phonic sounds they are focussing on – please do these as frequently as possible, more than once a day ideally. We may also at times send spellings but if we do you will be advised of this.

Children in Year 2 have TTRS log ins. Please try and encourage them to do this daily.

Year 1 children might want to consider using Numbots, the subscription is £9 for the year, and there is no expectation you will subscribe but if you choose to this will only positively support your child. It really helps with their mental maths and speedy recall of number facts,

Free maths websites you might want to use at home are: White Rose 1 minute app - a free app which supports number facts, subitising and number bonds.

Hit the button for doubles, halves, number bonds and times tables- it is good to practise doubles and halves within 20 and number bonds.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.snappymaths.com>



## Reading:

We expect you to read with your children, aloud, at least 4 days a week, at home for around 10 minutes. If you can get into the routine of daily reading this will benefit your child hugely. This might fit into your bedtime routine, whilst dinner is being prepared or even before school in the morning. Please continue to support this by recording your signature in the reading diary every time your child reads.

We are continuing to use the ULS reading records this year. Unlocking letters and sounds is the phonics scheme that we use and the records are provided with lots of QR codes to scan and help you at home.

Children's reading books are changed weekly (but this is a different day depending on the child). For the books to be changed we have to see evidence, in the reading records, they have read their book at least 3 times at home. If the book is not changed its because it is not evident in the diary that they have read that book three times. We ask the children to read the book 3 x to support with children's decoding skills, fluency and comprehension.

**Children need to bring their reading books and records in every day.**

**We are only going to be sending 2 books home** because reading the same book multiple times encourages children to engage with story. The more they read it the more they take away from it. Re-reading the book encourages the children to develop a range of different skills that together combines to make them fluent and confident readers. Re-reading the text also allows them to have a greater capacity for paying attention and making sense of WHAT they have read.

**The more that you read,  
The more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
The more places you'll go.  
-Dr. Seuss**



### Weather:

Please ensure your child wears a school jumper and brings a coat **every day** as the weather is very changeable! These **MUST** be labelled clearly with your child's name!



### PE Kits:

Sessions will be held on **Monday and Wednesday** each week. Pupils **must come to school wearing their PE kits on these days.**



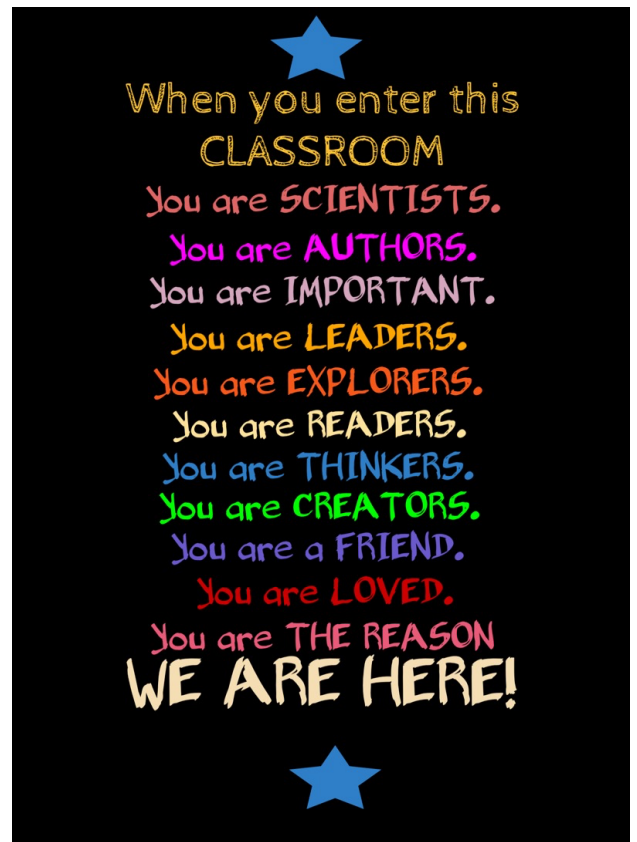
### Drink Bottles and Lunch Boxes:

It is important that children have a fresh bottle of water in school each day and a healthy snack of fresh fruit or vegetable for break time. This should be one of their '5 a day' only. The children are provided with fresh fruit but if your child is particularly fussy please feel free to send one in.

Please can we ask that **nothing gets brought in from home**, and things only get brought in if they are a celebration of an outside achievement: for example if it's a sponsored bike ride or a swimming certificate.

In Windmill Class we like to celebrate all of the **positive behaviours** the children have towards their learning. This year we have named our tables (as voted by the children) after sea animals. We have **turtle, dolphin, killer whale and killer whale table**. They earn house points for listening, tidy tables, contributing to carpet time, fantastic work and many other attributes. These marbles link with the school values of: **compassion, curiosity, courage and community**. Each week the table with the most marbles get to go in the prize bag. This encourages the children to work together as a team and be supportive to each other.

You may have already heard your child talk about 'Learning Power Hero's'. This is a very exciting role in our class and one each child will earn (more than once). This person has to have shown a fantastic attitude towards their learning, really tried their best and persevered. They may have overcome a challenge they've found tricky or simply supported others at their table and been a good friend. This person gets to sit in the learning throne all day, and help with all the everyday jobs including taking the register down and leading the line.



If you have any questions, please feel free to email the class account [windmill@stmarysprimaryportbury.org](mailto:windmill@stmarysprimaryportbury.org) or ask me on the door.

I look forward to fantastic year with your children and I have lots of exciting activities planned.

Miss Massey ☺

# 15 BENEFITS OF READING TO YOUR CHILD



Improves concentration skills.	1	
Helps with reading comprehension.	3	2 Creates a curiosity of the world.
Improves language skills.	5	4 Broadens vocabulary.
Promotes ease in learning.	7	6 Helps with pronunciation of words.
Inspires.	9	8 Develops an imagination.
Assists in cognitive development.	11	10 Entertains.
Teaches empathy.	13	12 Creates bonding time with parents.
Expands their attention span.	15	14 Encourages strong listening skills.

“READING IS A PASSPORT  
TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES.”

- MARY POPE OSBORNE



Reading  
IS THE  
**GATEWAY**  
FOR Children  
THAT MAKES ALL OTHER  
Learning POSSIBLE.

- BARACK OBAMA

