



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



May 2017

Dates for your diaries

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Following the previous letter regarding funding in education, I wanted to share more thoughts from a letter written by a collection of Chairs of Governors.

“Following a meeting of Governors across the county we are writing to express serious concerns about school funding. Current budgets in all our school are insufficient to meet costs. Schools have to pay more for the things that we buy and the people we employ. It is getting harder to balance the books, an experience we are all familiar with when balancing our home budgets.

In schools at least 80% of our budget is spent employing staff, therefore any cuts to budgets will hit teachers and teaching assistants most heavily- the people who you rely on to educate your children.

Far from alleviating these pressures, the funding formula revision will make matters worse for nearly fifty percent of schools who will lose out further- a double hit for too many schools. The National Audit Office has highlighted that by 2020 schools will face a real term drop of £3 billion...

...Our concern is that the impact upon all of those children whom we are tasked to educate will be devastating. Children will be taught in bigger classes, vulnerable children will not have proper support and families will not be able to access the services they need. The quality of education will fall and standards will decline. The aspiration of “excellence everywhere” will be unattainable.

We hope that you can raise these issues with your MP and prospective candidates. We would expect that in addressing the financial crisis funding would be sufficient to ensure that:

- *Enough funds are provided to cover existing shortfalls in school budgets.*
- *The Fair Funding Formula is readdressed.*
- *Any revisions made will not impact negatively upon disadvantaged children.”*

I share these thoughts not to paint a dark picture but to highlight there are things which can be done. We all want the best education for the children in school now and in the future. However there are decisions currently being made which pose real challenges for all schools. With this letter is a leaflet for a local march and rally where members of the community will be able to share their concerns about this issue.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr MacKinnon

Monday 1st May: May Day Bank Holiday.

Monday 8th to Thursday 11th May: SATs Week.

Friday 26th May: INSET Day.

Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June: Half-term.

Monday 5th June: Back to school.

Thursday 6th July to Friday 7th July: Y6 London Trip.

Thursday 13th July: Sports Day.

Saturday 15th July: Summer Fair.

Friday 21st July: School closes for Summer at 1:30pm.





TOWER WOOD

49 children enjoyed three days at Tower Wood—a Lancashire run residential on the shore of Lake Windermere. They learnt a range of skills including map reading and sailing, developed in maturity as they lived away from home, made their own lunches and served each other meals and enjoyed experiences in a stunning landscape. We feel that it is important for children to take part in such activities and that is why it features on our Willow Passport. Thank you to all the staff involved in organising and running the trip.

HAPPY RETIREMENT MR SMITH

After nearly 14 years of service, we are sad to see Graham Smith, our site supervisor retire at the end of April. Graham has done so much for the school and so much of his hard work is unseen but vitally important.

The school is neat and tidy because of the team he leads by example. The grounds are safe and free of hazards due to his early morning checks. The classrooms are bright and attractive because of the decorating he has done in the holidays. The health and safety of the school meets the expected standard in all areas because of the risk assessments and systems he implements.

I'm sure you will all join us in wishing Graham "THANK YOU MR SMITH and HAPPY RETIREMENT!"



PTFA BINGO

Thank you to the PTFA for organising our community Bingo event. Parents and children enjoyed the games together and there were lots of prizes for 'lines' and 'full houses'. The event raised money which will go towards this year's target of raising enough funds to install a life saving defibrillator.



SPORTS DAY

Sports Day is on Thursday 13th July this year—put it in your diaries. Key Stage 1 and Early Years will be in the afternoon and Key Stage 2 will be in the morning. All the children will be participating whilst wearing their team colours and there will also be opportunities for younger siblings, parents and staff to compete. It's not too late to start training!

*You can keep up-to-date with dates, day to day learning and curriculum letters on our website:
www.willow.lancs.sch.uk*