



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

December 2017

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

As we approach Christmas, we want to ensure that you have all the key dates in your diary so I am writing another newsletter shortly after the last.

The school is in acting season following the success of Hamlet at The Grand Theatre. Not only have they shared the show in assembly, they have also been 'on tour' to Laurel Bank Care home where they entertained 16 residents. Furthermore, there are Key Stage performances to look forward to (on the 18th and 19th December) as well as Red Class assembly on this Friday, 1st December.

Other events your child will be excited about include the Christmas Fair (6th December straight after school) and Christmas Jumper Day (15th December) which will also be our school Christmas Dinner day. The Christmas tree is being delivered this week and, as in previous years, we are asking children to create and hang decorations on it!

This newsletter also contains reminders on where to find key information on our popular school website.

Thank you for your continued support, *Mr MacKinnon*

Dates for your diaries

Friday 1st December: Red Class Assembly

Wednesday 6th December: Christmas Fair 3:30pm

Tuesday 12th December: Flu Immunisations Yr Rec to Yr 4.

Friday 15th December: Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day.

Monday 18th December: KS1 and Reception Christmas Show at 2:00pm.

Tuesday 19th December: KS1 and Reception Christmas Show at 9:30am.

Tuesday 19th December: KS2 Christmas Show at 2:00pm.

Thursday 21st December: School closes at 1:30pm.

Monday 8th January: INSET

Tuesday 9th January: Back to School.

The screenshot shows a navigation bar with three main options: 'Our School', 'Curriculum', and 'Achievement'. Under 'Curriculum', there are links for 'Reception', 'Year 1', 'Year 2', 'Year 3', 'Year 4', 'Year 5', 'Year 6', 'Pupil Voice', and 'Outdoor Learning'.

WILLOW LANE CURRICULUM

Following the feedback from parents on the questionnaire, about the curriculum and age expectations, we have updated the resources online. On the website you will now find:

- Link to National Curriculum
- Willow Lane Curriculum (including termly topics)
- Willow Lane Passport
- Age Expectations for Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Pressing the **Curriculum Button** will give you an oversight of the school's approach to learning. At the bottom of the page you will find the whole school curriculum, the termly topics and our Willow Lane Passport of activities. By looking at the curriculum page, you know what your child is learning in class at the moment and you can plan events around this.

By Pressing the **Year Group** buttons, you will see text about the current topic too. You will also find a link at the bottom which shows what 'age expectations' for children in each year group look like. Most children will be working within their year group expectations and by the end of the Summer Term will be fulfilling these. Some children will be working below these and some will be working above them. By knowing what the expectations are, you can help your child and have discussions with teachers around key areas which are proving challenging.

HOMEWORK

At Willow Lane, the main homework across the school is Reading. Evidence shows that regular reading at home has a significant impact on children's progress. As well as the actual reading, an adult showing an interest in what they have read or (for younger children) reading with them, makes this impact greater.

In KS2 we have also sent home copies of times tables booklets and Willow Words. These are for children to practise maths and spellings from and can be a good resource for parents to use. Furthermore, children in KS2 also have Times Table test booklets. These booklets pose multiplication and division questions in a range of ways. The expectation is that these are completed weekly. The Government guidelines state that children should know all their times table facts up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4 and knowing these facts certainly helps in the classroom.

Year 6 have different homework because they are preparing themselves for the expectations of Secondary School.

If you have any queries on how best to support your child at home, please talk to the class teacher.



PUPIL PREMIUM AUDIT

The school has recently had a Pupil Premium Audit conducted by Lancashire. The feedback was very complimentary—both with our systems, our range of support and the impact it has had. Our staff support children well academically, socially and pastorally and the Governors have oversight of the impact through the committee structure.

Pupil Premium funding is provided by the government to support children who are, or have been in the last six years, eligible for Free School Meals. Details of how we spend this money can be found on our website under the 'Inclusion' section which is under 'Our School'.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

We currently have vacancies on our School Governing Body. We have a vacancy for a Parent and a Co-opted (member of the community) Governor. If you or anyone you know is interested then please encourage them to come and discuss the role with Mr MacKinnon. The role does demand time but is vital in helping ensure the school continues to improve.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

All over the country, parents are applying for places for Reception Class 2018. The deadline for these applications is **Monday 15th**



January and details about the process can be found under Admissions on our website. Applications for our Red Class have to be completed online and are organised by Lancashire County Council at

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools.aspx>

Please encourage friends and family to apply in time because missing the date causes a lot of difficulties and may mean a school place a long way from home!



TERM DATES

The Governors have agreed the term dates for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and these can be found on the school website. Please look at these before booking any holidays and may I remind you that any time off during term time needs to be agreed with the headteacher.

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