



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas 2017

Dates for your diaries

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Christmas is a special time at school and this year is no exception. We have seen festive arts and crafts sessions with parents, groups of children and whole classes. We have seen performances from all children in the school—be it the play from our younger children or the sensational singing from our older children. And we have been seasonal not only in school but out in the community with singing at The Priory and entering MP Cat Smith's Christmas card competition.



Thank you for your continued support and from all at Willow Lane may I wish you, your family, friends and loved ones, a wonderful festive season.

Mr MacKinnon

Monday 18th December:

KS1 and Reception
Christmas Show at 2:00pm.

Tuesday 19th December:

KS1 and Reception
Christmas Show at 9:30 am.

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.

25th January to 1st

February: Book Fair

Monday 12th to Friday

16th February: Half Term

Thursday 1st March:

World Book Day (dress up
as book character).

Friday 16th March: Green
Class Assembly.

Friday 23rd March: School
closes at 1:30pm.

Monday 9th April: Back to
School.

RESPECT at WILLOW LANE

Respect has been this half term's value. The children have a good understanding of what showing respect to each other and adults looks like and, in assembly, we have been looking at how we can show respect to our World and our Community. The children have generated excellent ideas including 'putting rubbish in bins' 'recycling' 'donating food and money to charity' 'helping people in the street' 'turning lights off' 'stopping pollution with electric cars' and 'walking not driving to school'.

At this time of year a lot of plastic bags are used and we have looked at what we can do about these as they cause pollution to make, don't decompose and fill landfill sites, clog waterways and harm animals in water and look awful when in hedges and trees. The children decided that they should:

- Reuse plastic bags when going Christmas Shopping.
- Recycle plastic bags if they can find somewhere to do this.
- Use baskets or other bags when buying presents.
- Only get a bag when they really really really need one.
- Use the bags again for example as rubbish bags or to keep football boots in.
- Store things in the kitchen or bathroom in bags.
- If they have to throw the bag away, make sure that it goes in a bin!



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

This year, the children dressed in their colourful array of festive jumpers both for their Christmas Dinner as well as the Save the Children charity. We know that whilst Christmas can be magical and a time of plenty for most, it can be more difficult for others. This simple way of giving to a national charity provides a useful way of demonstrating to children the importance of charity. Together we have raised over £150 and this will go to good causes around the country.

Year 6 have been collecting for a 'reverse advent calendar' this month. Each day, children have been bringing things in to give away rather than to receive. Their donations (including food and toiletries) will be donated to a local foodbank and we know they will bring cheer over this Christmas period.



READING at HOME

Thank you to all the mums, dads and carers taking time to listen to and ensuring that children read. As we complete our termly assessments, regular reading keeps coming out as one of the main factors influencing children's progress. Regular reading (little and often) is the most effective and keeping this up over the holidays will help your child's learning.

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

As well as education, keeping children safe is a core function of schools. Willow Lane, like all schools in Lancashire, has a duty to look after the children in our care and has a responsibility to pass on any concerns to Children's Social Care. We will work with families and other professionals to ensure that the children at our school are safe from harm. If you have any concerns about your child's safety, including online, then please feel free to come and discuss them.

PTFA CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to the PTFA for organising another successful Christmas Fair. As well as games, tombolas, raffles and stalls there was the opportunity to visit father Christmas as well as our popular 'Secrets' Room'. The halls and corridors were extremely busy and a big thank you goes to all the parents and staff for helping to make the event fun. Thank you to all the mums, dads, friends and families from our community for supporting the school at the fair. Together we have raised over £800! The School Council are taking suggestions from children on how to best spend it.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

School is full of excited children and the sound of lines and songs being practised. Our younger children will be performing a show including the nativity on:

**Monday 18th December at 2pm &
Tuesday 19th December at 9:30am.**

Our older children will be singing popular festive songs both as a whole Key Stage as well as individual classes. Their performance will be on:

Tuesday 19th December at 2pm.

After term ends, our choir will also be singing for the citizens of Lancaster at The Priory's next Friday. Tickets are essential for this and selling out quickly!



PHONE NUMBERS & CONTACT DETAILS

Christmas is often a time for new phones and a change of numbers. Please can you ensure that we have the most current contact details. That way we can keep you up to date on what is happening at school and get in touch with you should there be an emergency.

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