



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



March 2018

Dates for your diaries

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Officially, Spring started last week and the children are ready for it following the snow, chilly winds and flexible playtimes we have had to endure.

Thank you to parents for helping children arrive at school safely and to the grounds staff too for preparing routes and paths so everyone can be safe. The positive feedback on how we handled the snow—from well organised snowball throwing to safe pathways—has been great to hear.

This newsletter has a theme of acting upon feedback from the children's suggestions to parent questionnaires. Willow Lane as a school belongs to our community and through working together we can achieve the best for all of our children.

Thank you for your continued support,
Mr MacKinnon

Monday 12th March to Friday 16th March: Science Week
Friday 16th March: Green Class Assembly.
Monday 19th March: Parents' Evening.
Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd March: Life Education Caravan.
Thursday 22nd March: PTFA Easter Egg Hunt.
Friday 23rd March: School closes at 1:30pm.
Monday 9th April: Back to School.
Monday 23rd to Wednesday 25th April: Tower Wood
Monday 7th May: May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 28th May to Friday 1st July: Half Term
Monday 4th June: Back to School.

PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to the 61 Parents (31%) who took part in our Parental Questionnaire. The results are back in and it is extremely positive to hear that:

- **100%** of you say your 'child enjoys school'.
- **97%** feel that children are 'making good progress'.
- **98%** feel children are 'learning new things'.
- **94%** feel school 'supports learning at home'.
- **95%** (up from 91.5%) feel children 'behave well'.
- **97%** state that children are 'safe and cared for'.
- **97%** feel school is helping children 'become mature, responsible and independent'.
- **95%** feel confidence is gained through 'performing in assemblies and productions'.
- **95%** feel school provides 'extra activities'.
- **95%** of you would 'recommend school' to another parent.
- **95%** feel you are 'given sufficient notice about forthcoming events' and T2P (our texting system has proved a hit with this).
- **100%** of you feel 'welcome in school'.



ALL WEATHER PLAYGROUND

The diggers arrived this week and are busy transforming an area of grass around the climbing frames into an all-weather surface. This will increase the size of the playground, allow us to use this area all year round and keep children safe when traversing the equipment. A survey of children revealed that not being able to go on this area due to adverse weather was one of their bugbears about playtime through the Winter months. Using Sports premium funding, the Governors agreed to finance the redevelopment of this area. What a great example of school responding to children's input!



AREAS to DEVELOP

There were four questions in the Parental Questionnaire where we can see development is needed.

- 1) **90%** (up from 86.4%) of you feel children are 'not bullied'. As a school we do not tolerate bullying of any kind—in person or online—and follow our policy to challenge this when it happens. Should you have any concerns about bullying please come and see Mr Mackinnon.
- 2) **87%** (up from 76%) feel 'well informed about progress'. We were very pleased that 96% of families attended Parents' Evening as this is one of the main times of finding out about progress. Teachers are also able to meet at other times so should you want to find out more please feel free to arrange a time to meet.
- 3) **80%** have enough 'information about curriculum'. Teachers can provide you with this and overviews of Year Group expectations are available under the Curriculum section of the website.
- 4) **77%** of feel 'road safety outside the school' poses no problem. We have met with Councillor Dowding to express your views and looked at the signage along Willow Lane with her. We have asked the Council to review this signage to ensure it is clear where the school and crossing are.

CRICKET

Many of you will know that we have been working with the Lancashire Cricket Foundation this year. We have been using part of our Sports Premium money to employ a brilliant coach—Steve Pemberton—to teach cricket for half a term in Years 1 to 6. This will be built on each year to develop and embed skills. It will also encourage more children to take part in activities at the local and great Lancaster Cricket Club where some of our children are already impressing.

As well as in-school coaching sessions, we will be taking part in more inter-school fixtures. This term children have attended training sessions for these and a team of Year 5 boys took part in a local Morecambe and Lancaster competition. They played excellently, showed great behaviour and proudly brought the trophy back to Willow Lane!



PTFA EVENTS

Keep an eye out for our popular upcoming events this term including:

- Thursday 22nd March: Easter Egg Hunt in the school grounds for parents and children.

If you are keen to help then please talk to Mr Higgins.

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