



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Dates for your diaries

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

It has been a calm, focused and keen start to the new school year and the children have settled back in to school really well. I am particularly impressed with how well Red Class have started at 'big school' and they are already busy learning. Thank you parents for your help with this.

At the start of the year, staff are busy too—pulling together action plans, tweaking the curriculum, embedding expectations and planning trips and visits. The children are the most important people at our school. As staff and school leaders make their decisions, it is useful to remember that putting children's needs and outcomes first is always the key factor. With 187 children in school, not every decision will please everyone but let me assure you that every decision will have been made putting children's learning first.

As ever, should you have any queries or thoughts about your child's time or learning at our school, please do not hesitate to come and talk them through.

On a personal note, I shall be on paternity leave for two weeks at the start of October and Mrs Fish will be Acting Headteacher at this time. Here's to another successful and enjoyable year,

Mr Mel MacKinnon



Wednesday 26th September:
Parents' Reading Session
(Rec and Y1) at 9am.

Thursday 4th October: PTFA
Film Night.

Wednesday 17th October:
School Photographs.

Thursday 18th October:
Open Day for Reception
2019.

Friday 19th October: INSET

Monday 22nd October to
Friday 26th October: Half
Term.

Monday 29th October: Back
to School.

Wednesday 31st October:
KS1 followed by KS2
Halloween Disco.

Tuesday 6th & Wednesday
7th November: Parents'
Evenings

Wednesday 5th December:
Flu Vaccinations.

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

Monday 7th January: INSET

Tuesday 8th January: Back
to School.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our five targets for the year are:

1. The broad and balanced curriculum helps children acquire knowledge, understanding and skills in all aspects of their education.
2. Teaching in English and Maths is good or better.
3. Teaching in all subjects is good or better.
4. Children are confident, self-assured learners. Their excellent attitudes to learning have a strong, positive impact on their progress.
5. Progress across Key Stage 2 (including for disadvantaged children) in English and Mathematics is in line with other children nationally.



OUTCOMES 2018

Below are the headline figures for the statutory assessments our children take. We are really proud of how children all across the school have done with these challenging assessments and this year our focus is on embedding our current good practice and supporting children in KS2 to achieve better outcomes.

Early Years (Red Class): School 69.6% - in line with Lancashire 69.7%

Key Stage 1 (Yellow Class): School 67% - above Lancashire 64%

Key Stage 2 (Violet Class): School 43% - below Lancashire 64%.

WE ARE READING

We are proud to be a part of the Lancashire 'We Are Reading' group. Regular reading is key to helping children learn and leads to excellent progress because:

- It teaches new vocabulary.
- It is a skill used across all subjects.
- It develops creativity such as story creation.
- It models correct use of language, grammar and punctuation.
- It is enjoyable!

Around school, you will see areas and displays promoting reading. There will also be events running throughout the year to give this vital and exciting activity status. We will share more information about these sessions as the year goes on.

Thank you to you all for ensuring your child reads regularly at home. As teachers we can see which children do this week in week out as it does have a huge impact on how well they do. If you need any help with books or ideas on how to help with reading then please talk to your child's teacher or attend one of our sessions.



MATHS NO PROBLEM

Having piloted the Maths No Problem approach last year, we are all excited about rolling this out across school. This Singapore based approach includes problem solving and paired discussion in every lesson. Not only is this proving popular with the children but has had a clear impact on the classes who piloted the approach and we look forward to seeing the academic outcomes in the future.

STAFFING UPDATES

Welcome to Duncan Webster (Teacher in Y5), Gemma Chisnall (Teacher in Year 4), Kerry Beck (HLTA in Reception) and Lou Mosey (Teaching Assistant in Year 5). As well as these new members of staff, who have hit the ground running, there have been some changes to year group teams. Please make sure you know who teaches your child's class as these are key points of contact for any questions. Lorraine Benerfer is currently on leave recovering from an operation and we wish her a speedy recovery.

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