



# WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,**

As we approach the first Parents' Evenings (over two nights on the 6th and 7th November following feedback from parents), many of you are talking to teachers about what you can do to help with your child's learning. As a school, we ask that parents ensure children read regularly as this has been proven to have a lot of impact on children's progress. Not only do children develop as readers but they learn new language and ideas which they can then use in their own writing. Furthermore, the act of showing an interest in a child's reading gives it status and this alone has a lot of impact.

In fact, it is the simple things which often have the most impact. Asking your child about what they have been learning and how their day was and then probing for more than the answer 'fine'. Talking about the topics children are learning and discussing the words on class newsletters help children too as does looking at information linked to topics in books or online. Doing this together has most impact as children are keen to share what they know with mums, dads and carers.

We know that these things can take time in people's busy days but we also see the positive impact these acts have on children's learning. If you have any questions on how to help your child then please ask the class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Mr Mel MacKinnon*



## TIMES TABLES

Within the new National Curriculum, children are expected to know all their times tables (up to  $12 \times 12$ ) by the end of Year 4. Some of you may have heard that the government are bringing out a new online multiplication test for children in Year 4. The latest information we have received is that it will be optional in June 2019 and mandatory from June 2020.

Having a speedy recall of times tables and division facts (ie knowing that  $6 \times 5 = 30$  and  $30 \div 5 = 6$  etc) is a vital skill for maths across KS2 and beyond. Children in KS2 are taught times tables at school and complete homework linked to these, however this is an area in which parents can really help. Unlike some other areas of mathematics, times tables are still approached in the same manner as when parents were at school. Why not try asking your child some questions and practising chanting their times tables at home? There are also many examples online (see over) which could help you with this.

## Dates for your diaries

**Friday 19th October: INSET**

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

**Wednesday 31st October: KS1 3:30pm followed by KS2 4:30pm Halloween Disco.**

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

**Friday 16th November: Children in Need.**

**Friday 30th November: Green Class Assembly 2:30pm.**

**Wednesday 5th December: Flu Vaccinations.**

**Friday 7th December: Blue Class Assembly 2:30pm.**

**Friday 14th December: Christmas Jumper Day.**

**Monday 17th 1:45pm and Tuesday 18th 9:30am December KS1 Show.**

**Wednesday 19th December KS2 Show 2:30pm.**

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

**Monday 7th January: INSET**

**Tuesday 8th January: Back to School.**



### PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRES

Last year, we had 61 responses (31%) to our Parental Questionnaires. Your views are extremely helpful and let us know what you think is going well about our school, as well as what could be improved. Last year, you identified areas to develop including 'information about the curriculum' and 'road safety'.

We continue to work with the local councillors on road safety and we will keep you updated with this. Regarding the curriculum, we adapted and added sections to our website which give you an overview of the expectations and the learning covered in each year group. We look forward to hearing your views this year.

### CLASS ASSEMBLIES

In the second half of this term, we will be having the first of our popular Class Assemblies. These take place on a Friday afternoon (2:30) and involve sharing children's learning and enjoyment of the topics they have been studying. Assemblies have included dramatic performances, quizzes, songs, dance and children's versions of popular books. It means a lot to the children to perform to an audience so we hope you are free to come in and enjoy your children's learning.

Green Class—30th November

Blue Class—7th December

Violet Class—8th February

Red Class—29th March

Orange Class—17th May

Indigo Class—5th July

Yellow Class—12th July

As well as class assemblies, all children will be performing in the lead up to Christmas and the dates for these shows are on the other side.

### CHARITY & DRESSING UP DAYS

We like to give you as much warning as possible about specific charity days and events. Taking part in charity events is a useful way for children to develop empathy for others in different circumstances.

On Friday 16th November, we will be having a Spotacular for *Children in Need*. Children will be able to wear their own clothes with a spotty theme for a £1 contribution to this charity. On December 14th, we will be wearing Christmas jumpers and tops with a £1 contribution for *Save the Children*.

After Half Term, we will also be selling merchandise linked to Remembrance Day and the Royal British legion. Following our poppy planting, the children feel a particularly strong affinity with this charity.

On 7th March 2019, we will be joining thousands of children across the country as we celebrate reading and dress up for *World Book Day*. More details about this will come out closer to the time.

1.  $8 \times 4 =$
2.  $3 \times 7 =$
3.  $9 \times 6 =$
4.  $108 \div 9 =$
5.  $8 \times 7 =$
6.  $4 \times 12 =$
7.  $11 \times 5 =$
8.  $6 \times 4 =$
9.  $7 \times 9 =$
10.  $6 \times 12 =$
11.  $108 \div 12 =$
12.  $54 \div 9 =$
13.  $49 \div 7 =$
14.  $8 \times 2 =$