



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2018



Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

It was great to see so many of you attend our Parents' Evening. Working together has a huge impact on your child's learning. Being aware of how well they are doing and what can be done to help at home is part of this. Many of you had questions about our 'Maths No Problem' approach to teaching Maths. We are considering the best way of giving you more insight into this approach so keep an ear out in the new year.

At this time of year, Christmas features highly on children's agendas. At school, all children will be looking at Christianity in their RE lessons linked to this as well as taking part in events such as the Christmas Fair, Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day. Our children can also be heard daily on the community station Beyond Radio (103.5 FM) in their Advent Calendar feature.

Thank you for your continued support, *Mr Mel MacKinnon*

WOOSH

Our Breakfast and After School Clubs are becoming ever more popular and we are unable to exceed our maximum capacity of 16 children. To avoid disappointment, ensure you are booking places online in advance. If you are having any difficulties with the online booking service, please ask either the WOOSH or Office Staff for assistance.



ONLINE SAFETY

We have been approached by a number of parents for advice about online/e-safety recently. In the run up to Christmas, this can be particularly relevant as children may be receiving gifts which allow them to go online. As part of our curriculum, we teach children how to stay safe online and it is vitally important that you talk to your children about this too. You should make your expectations about safe online use clear as well as reinforcing who to tell if something goes wrong. For suggestions you can visit the Online Safety page on our school website at <https://www.willow.lancs.sch.uk/mums-dads-carers/online-safety/> This links to county and national sites which can offer tips and advice in an age appropriate manner.

Dates for your diaries

Monday 3rd December: Green Class Assembly 2:30pm.

Wednesday 5th December: Flu Vaccinations.

Wednesday 5th December: Christmas Fair 3:30 to 5pm.

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

Wednesday 12th December: Coffee Morning -9am Red Class.

Friday 14th December: Christmas Jumper Day.

Friday 14th December: Christmas Dinner 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.
(No WOOSH After School Club)

Friday 21st December: Choir at The Priory at 7pm.

Monday 7th January: INSET

Tuesday 8th January: Back to School.

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February: Half Term.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

We hope that you are able to join us for the Christmas Fair on Wednesday 5th December at 3:30pm. There will be a number of games for children to play, craft activities for them to join in, a parents' and children's raffle as well as our popular secrets' room (where no parents are allowed and children buy presents for family members) and the opportunity to meet Father Christmas. There will also be snacks and refreshments and the money raised by the PTFA will go towards resources for the children at our school.

If you are interested in helping the PTFA with the smooth running of the fair then please talk to Mr Higgins or another member of the group.



WINTER GRITTING

As we approach the colder months, we want to ensure all children get in to school safely. We will be monitoring the weather and gritting accordingly. In practice, our priority is to grit to the front entrance so everyone can get into school safely. We then clear and grit pathways from the gates, around the sides of the school and to the classrooms and KS2 door. Outside of the school, we ask children and parents to make their way safely and, in assemblies, remind children of walking sensibly alongside roads. We encourage people to allow longer for journeys when there are adverse weather conditions.

NUT ALLERGIES

We have children in school with a range of medical needs and our staff work to ensure that everyone is safe all of the time. Whilst some schools have a 'no nuts' policy, many schools, including ourselves, do not. Due to the nature of nuts and traces of nuts being in many products, we are unable to guarantee that the premises is completely nut free and do not want to create a false sense of security.

We keep children safe through working together with parents to ensure we have up to date information. Furthermore, we do not allow children to share their packed lunches. Children may bring nuts and nut based products in to school in their packed lunches and it is important that those with an allergy as well as those without know that sharing food can have medical consequences.

Our school meals are prepared by Lancashire Catering. The products they purchase are captured on a spreadsheet which identifies any allergic foods. They also have a list of the children to cross reference meals against.

At present, we do not have any children who have air borne intolerances. Should this change, we will review our approach in consultation with parents and medical advice.



SCHOOL GOVERNORS

The Governors would like to extend a warm welcome to Richard Hawksby who has joined as a co-opted governor.

If you are interested in being a school governor—either now or in the future—then please have a conversation with current parent governors or myself.