



# WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

January 2019

## Dates for your diaries

### Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

The new year has started well at our school and it is a pleasure to walk in to the classrooms and see the creative ways in which our children learn. This week I've watched spheres being dropped in to sand trays to investigate gravity, observed eggs being submerged in various liquids to see what happens, listened to Viking stories be planned and seen fantastical maps get drawn to help navigate fantasy locations. And all of this after last week's celebration of all things reading!

As we approach the midpoint of the school year, I am proud of how well our staff are teaching and how well your children are learning. The engaging experiences had in the classroom and beyond make adults and children alike love learning. Please do make a note of the Parents' Evenings to ensure that you have a chance to see books and talk to teachers about how well your child is doing and what else can be done to support them.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Mr Mel MacKinnon*

**Monday 11th February:**  
**Violet Class Assembly at 2:30pm.**

**Wednesday 13th February:**  
**PTFA AGM at 2:30pm.**

**Thursday 14th February:**  
**PTFA Film Night**

**Friday 15th February:**  
**Confucius Institute for Chinese New Year.**

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

**Monday 25th February:** Back to School.

**Saturday 2nd March:** We Are Reading event at L&M College.

**Thursday 7th March:** World Book Day.

**Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th March:** Parents' Evenings.

**Friday 15th March:** Red Nose Day.

**Friday 29th March:** Red Class Assembly at 2:30pm.

**Monday 1st April to Wednesday 3rd April:** Tower Wood.

**Thursday 4th April:** Easter Egg Hunt 3:30pm.

**Friday 5th April:** School closes at 1:30pm.  
(No WOOSH After School Club)



## BOOK WEEK

We have had a fabulous Book Week at school where we have continued celebrating the fact that 'We Are Reading'. Over 50 families attended our Reading Breakfast and enjoyed croissants, juice and books together. The children and you have helped raise £667 for the school library through the Book Fair and have tested our imagination through the wonderful Story Jar creations. If you haven't seen these yet then I strongly recommend enjoying them at the front of the school. The classroom doors look exciting redecorated as book covers and the children have enjoyed writing their own stories with exciting settings, characters and predicaments to solve. Reading for pleasure is the best way for children to learn new vocabulary and spellings and the ideas borrowed from great books can be adapted for their own wonderful writing.

### **BLACK SHOES—SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Please can we remind you all to ensure that children are following the school uniform expectations and wearing black shoes. These can either be black school type shoes or black trainers. Trainers are a great option as they look smart and mean children can run around comfortably at playtime. However, they should be completely black. Boots are not school uniform.



### **PAYMENTS**

As well as using our popular online payment system, we can accept card payments over the telephone. Please have your card ready when ringing to book sessions. WOOSH After School Club has been full on several occasions recently, so please can we also remind all parents and carers that to avoid disappointment, and to ensure we have the correct provisions, WOOSH club sessions must be booked in advance.

### **LEAVE of ABSENCE**

Please can we remind all mums, dads and carers that any leave of absence (being away from school for reasons other than sickness) needs to be discussed with the school. Part of this process is completing the relevant form—available from the office. Leave of Absence will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and holidays will not be authorised in term time due to the loss of learning over that period. If children have five days of unauthorised absence— either in one block as a holiday or spread over a term—then both parents may be issued with a Penalty Notice (£120 per parent per child).

### **HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR**

At Willow Lane, our children enjoy learning languages. In Red, Orange and Yellow Class they learn songs, words and phrases in French, Spanish and German. Across Key Stage 2, the children study Mandarin and it is wonderful to see how much they can confidently speak, read and write by the time they are in Year 6. We will be celebrating Chinese New Year with whole school assemblies looking at the event, a themed lunch and a visit from the Confucius Institute. This organisation is linked to the University and promotes Chinese language and culture through outreach activities. Keep an eye on the blog for up to date experiences.

### **PREVENT STRATEGY**

As a school we educate children in how to keep safe through our PSHE sessions, assemblies and Kidsafe lessons. We also work with other agencies, including Social Services and the Police, if children are at risk of harm. One area of Safeguarding is radicalisation and we have a duty to protect children from extremist and violent views. The attached leaflet gives you an insight into how we deliver Prevent at our school. We do not deliver sessions on eg terrorism or radicalisation but do promote values such as tolerance and democracy through experiences such as visiting places of worship, values education and voting for school councillors.

If you have any questions or concerns about the content of this leaflet, please speak to Mr MacKinnon (the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead).

### **SAVE THE CHILDREN**

Participation in charitable events helps children's personal development, as well as benefitting the recipients of our donations. We participate in local, national and global events to help children develop empathy with the local, national and global communities they are part of. Thank you for your help in raising £150.30 for Save the Children through our Christmas Jumper Day event!

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