



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 2019

Dates for your diaries

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

What a great start to the new school year we have had and a particularly loud well done to the children in Red Class. They have settled in brilliantly with one child telling me this week that school was 'awesome'!

At the start of the year, it's useful to remember that putting children's needs and learning first is always the key factor behind our decisions. With 190 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.

Yours, *Mr Mel MacKinnon*

Friday 18th October: INSET

**Monday 21st October to
Friday 25th October: Half
Term**

**Thursday 31st October:
KS1 & EYFS at 3:30pm and
KS2 at 4:30pm.**

**Tuesday 5th November:
Reception 2020 Open Day.**

**Wednesday 6th November
& Thursday 7th November:
Parents' Evenings.**

**Tuesday 12th November:
School Photos.**

**Thursday 14th November:
Olympian Visitor.**

**Friday 29th November:
Christmas Tree arrives for
decorations.**

**Tuesday 3rd December:
PTFA Christmas Fair from
3:30pm.**

**Monday 16th December:
KS1 & EYFS Christmas
Show at 1:45 pm.**

**Tuesday 17th December:
KS1 & EYFS Christmas
Show at 9:30am.**

**Tuesday 17th December:
KS2 Show at 2:15pm.**

**Friday 20th December:
School closes at 2pm.**

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

**Term dates for 2020/21
and 2021/22 are online.**

SILVER AWARD

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award. This Government led award scheme is to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition — both in school and the community. With a total of 46 young people competing in interschool competitions last year, we are extremely proud of their successes and their positive attitude towards sports.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our five targets, set based on last year's outcomes and new Ofsted criteria, for the year are:

1. Teaching and learning across the full range of subjects is good and better.
2. Disadvantaged children are making good and better progress across the full range of subjects.
3. Children are responsible, respectful, active citizens who have age appropriate understanding of healthy relationships.
4. Leaders focus on improving standards of teaching, learning and assessment.
5. In EYFS, children are ready for the next stage of their education.

RESIDENTIAL VISITS

This year will see some changes to our residential visits. Year 6 will continue to visit London and Year 4 will continue to visit Tower Wood. However, Year 5 will now be visiting Borwick Hall—a Lancashire managed Outdoor Education Centre. The reason behind this is that we will then be able to offer different experiences including camping. Furthermore, we have seen a drop off in Year 5 attendance at Tower Wood due to visiting twice. We know residentials have a high impact on young children so want children to go on three visits over their last three years. As always, residentials will be subsidised and we have money set aside to ensure that financial circumstances do not pose a barrier to a child attending.



STAFFING UPDATES

Miss Nichols is currently on maternity leave and we have been joined by Mr Noblet on secondment in Year 6 this year. Mrs Birdsall is also on maternity leave and due back in the new year when she will resume her role as SENDCo.

OUTCOMES

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work in supporting our children to achieve with their learning. We are extremely proud that in all statutory assessments our children are achieving at least in line with the National averages. The support of parents, through reading, praise and supporting a child's education, is an important aspect in this. If you have any questions on how to support your child at home, please discuss them with the class teacher



ATTENDANCE

Thank you and well done to everyone for supporting your children's attendance so well last year. Our whole school attendance was over 96% (the Government Target) again and we continue to be proud of how well our attendance is and the impact this has on children's learning. As we start a new year, please can you ensure that we have up to date contact numbers and addresses in case we need to get in touch with you either for attendance or other reasons such as illness.

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

OPEN DAY

On Tuesday 5th November, we will be holding our drop in Open Day for prospective parents with children hoping to start in September 2020. If you know anyone who is looking at school places, please do encourage them to come and meet the children and staff and see the learning and facilities that our children enjoy.

FRONT of HOUSE

Thank you everyone for your support and understanding whilst we have been redeveloping the front of the school. The building work is on schedule and, fingers crossed, will all be open after half term. Children and bikes will enter through the gate on Willow Lane and make their way around the building as is happening now. Should you need to visit the office then you will be able to walk around the front of the school. If children need to be collected or dropped off during the school day, there will be an additional gate to be buzzed through. Not only will the new arrangement be more secure, it will also better represent the wonderful things which go on in our school, day in day out.