



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2019

Dates for your diaries

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Last week saw our annual Open Day for Reception 2020 and it was great to have 22 families visiting across the day. This is the most yet and there were many mums and dads who didn't realise what great facilities our children have and the range of ways in which they learn. Everyone was very positive about the children's behaviours—both their politeness and eagerness in lessons—and we are proud that visitors always pick up on this. If you are looking for a place for your child, please remember that Reception places are applied for on the Lancashire website even when brothers or sisters attend our school.

There were also lots of happy mums and dads and positive comments over our Parents' Evenings too. If you weren't able to attend please do get in touch to arrange a time with your child's teacher. 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*

Tuesday 12th November:
School Photos.

Thursday 14th November:
Olympian Visitor.

Friday 15th November:
Children in Need.

Friday 29th November:
Christmas Tree arrives for decorations.

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

Friday 13th December:
Christmas Jumper Day.

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

Tuesday 7th January:
Children Back to School.



CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a great time in a Primary School with children involved in many seasonal activities. Through RE lessons, including puppet shows and visitors, children are reminded of the links to Christianity and the key messages shared at this time of year.

Children bring joy to others through performances including the KS1/Reception show—including the nativity by Red Class—and KS2 treating visitors to seasonal singing. Our choir also fundraise through carol singing as well as perform at the local Laurel Bank residential home which the residents always enjoy. Children will also be performing to wider audiences through a singing event at The Priory.

Our tree will be arriving at the end of November and children will be decorating it again. Children can bring in decorations (with their names on) created in whatever medium they choose and hang these on the tree. We are always impressed by the children's creativity! There will also be our fundraising Christmas Jumper Day and our Christmas dinner to look forward to as well.

Our PTFA Winter Fair is always a popular event for mums, dads and children. This takes place inside the school at the end of the day and includes arts and crafts activities, games, opportunities for purchasing gifts, the popular raffle and a chance to meet Father Christmas. Please make sure you are aware of key dates (see this newsletter, texts and the notice board) and we look forward to celebrating the season with you.

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

As per good practice, we update this policy at least annually to ensure it is in line with the latest guidance. We recognise that this policy contains many abbreviations, legal terms and links to other documents however previous feedback has indicated it is understandable. This policy is checked and approved by the School Governors.

The updated policy is available to view on the school website—within the policies section—and if anyone has any queries or suggestions please do contact one of our DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads) Mel MacKinnon, Sarah Fish and Kirsty Banks.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and as a school we will take actions if we believe a child is at risk of harm. As a school we work alongside other agencies in order to fulfil this moral and legal obligation.

WINTER GRITTING

As we approach colder months, there is always the risk of snow and ice. When conditions demand, we clear snow and grit pathways through the playground so that access is possible through both pedestrian gates to all the classrooms. We are not able to grit the entire playground so ask that children are kept to the gritted areas.

With regard to roadways and pavements leading to school, these are the council's responsibility and no council is able to grit every road. You can find out the council's gritting routes at www.lancashire.gov.uk We recommend that parents leave extra time for journeys (thinking about where they park if applicable) and that everyone takes care when walking on pavements when severe winter weather strikes.

FRONT of HOUSE

Thank you for all the positive feedback from visitors regarding our new front of house. Whilst there had been no incidents of concern, it is reassuring to hear that mums and dads see the new arrangement as safer regarding entering the site, especially for cyclists, and that the office and lobby area make the building feel more secure.

If you want to see a member of staff or need to visit the office, please come around via the front entrance and speak to the helpful team. All visitors are reminded to come via this front entrance so that we know who is in the building seeing whom. Teachers are not allowed to let visitors enter through the classrooms for example at the start or end of the day.



PTFA
Halloween
Disco



SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS & STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS

As a school, our children are skilfully assessed by teachers on a daily basis to see what they know and what they need to learn next. Children's progress is monitored termly and school uses this information to plan interventions and challenge children, as well as to feed back to parents for example at Parents' Evenings.

As a Community School, our children are assessed more formally at certain stages of their school lives. These assessments take place in the Summer term. For younger children, these teachers assessments are completed sensitively and informally, with children often not realising they are occurring. The assessments are at the end of Reception, against the Early Learning Goals, in Year 1 during a Phonics Assessment and in Year 2 where children are assessed in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science. In Key Stage 2, the children in Year 4 complete a timed online times table check called a Multiplication Tables Check and in Year 6 children sit SATs tests for Reading, GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and Mathematics as well as have their Writing assessed by the teacher and moderated by colleagues.

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