



# WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

January 2020

Dates for your diaries

## Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Following what felt like endless bugs leading up to the holiday, it has been a smooth start to the new year and new decade at our school with improved attendance, excited children and lots of engaging learning on the horizon.

The Willow Lane Curriculum delivers more than the National Curriculum including every child cooking, every child gardening, Kidsafe teaching to help keep children safe and our Willow Lane Passport. But it's also how we deliver the National Curriculum, including our use of cross curricular half termly topics, which our children enjoy. Lessons are engaging and relevant and as I walk around school there are children measuring dinosaurs in maths, handling weapons and artefacts in history, unwrapping books delivered by the Book Wizard, retelling stories through drama and creating life like fruit and vegetable sculptures in art. If you are engaged in what you are doing then you learn more and that is why we 'teach to the heart'.

Here's to another great year and the start of great decade at our school.

Yours, *Mr Mel MacKinnon*



## CLIMATE FRIENDLY SCHOOL

There is a climate emergency happening on our planet and today's children are more aware of the climate friendly behaviours than generations before them. As a school, we will be building on our current practice to become more climate friendly. At a school level, this has meant a survey of current use of services and their efficiency and governors will be making decisions on how to improve these. With children, we are reinforcing practical day to day behaviours—switching off lights, taps and using less plastic—to use less resources. The School Council are also working with the catering team to make our packed lunches 'single use plastic' free. They are also looking at what trees we have in our school grounds and planning to plant more to capture carbon and provide habitat for wildlife.

**Monday 27th to Friday 31st January: Book Week.**

**Tuesday 28th January: Reading Breakfast at 8:30am.**

**Friday 14th February: Orange Class Assembly.**

**Monday 17th to Friday 21st February: Half Term.**

**Thursday 5th March: World Book Day.**

**Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th March: Parents' Evenings.**

**Friday 27th March: Yellow Class Assembly.**

**Friday 3rd April: School closes at 2pm.**

**Monday 20th April: Children Back to School.**

**Wednesday 29th April: Willow Lane Has Talent**

**Friday 8th May: VE Day Bank Holiday.**

**Monday 11th to Thursday 14th May: Key Stage 2 SATS.**

**Thursday 14th to Friday 15th May: Year 5 Borwick Hall Trip.**

**Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd May: Year 4 Tower Wood Trip.**

**22nd May: Indigo Class Assembly.**

**Monday 1st to Friday 5th June: RE Week.**

**Thursday 4th June: Class Photos.**

**Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th June: Year 6 London Trip.**

## CLASS ASSEMBLY DATES

Please make a note of our ever popular class assemblies which celebrate the half term's topic through drama, singing and art as well as sharing learning from the class. Please make a note of the relevant dates as some have changed:

- Red Class— 26th June at 2:30pm
- Orange Class—14th February at 2:30pm
- Yellow Class—27th March at 2:30pm
- Green Class— 6th July at 2:30pm
- Blue Class— 3rd July at 2:30pm
- Indigo Class—22nd May at 2:30pm
- Violet Class—Autumn term.



## LIBRARY VISITS and CARDS

As part of our Book Week, every child in school will be visiting our local library— Lancaster Central Library. Many children already have a library card and all children will have the opportunity to get a card. This card allows your child to borrow up to 20 items (including books and audiobooks) for free. For young readers, there are no charges for overdue books but you will be sent reminders and not able to get more out until you have returned outstanding books.

We are lucky to have such a great library within walking distance of our school. As well as books for young children there are books for all ages as well as free popular events aimed at pre-school children too.



## GOVERNOR POSITION

We currently have two vacancies on our Governing Body—one for a Parent Governor and the other for a Co-opted (Community) Governor. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help the school with this role, please talk to Mr MacKinnon.

*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)*

## CHANGE 4 LIFE

Schools are a place for learning but not just the subjects such as maths, history and DT. Our children learn positive behaviours and values through our Values Education and our children learn about healthy lifestyles through clubs, assemblies, growing fruit and veg and cooking as well as during PE and science lessons.

Our weekly Change4Life club inspires younger children to make healthy breakfast and sporting decisions which will lay the foundations for healthy choices later in life.

We all want the best for our children but sometimes we need help finding out what is the best. You can help your children with making these healthy choices. The NHS Change4Life website offers ideas for activities and food choices which you can not only do for your children but also with your children.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>