



# WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

February 2020

Dates for your diaries

## Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

It's been a chilly and wet start to 2020 and the children are enjoying seeing the signs of Spring starting to emerge with our daffodils and snowdrops coming out. The bulbs the children planted at Westfield Memorial Village can be enjoyed and we have more community projects planned for the future. The children are waiting for the new trees, planted as part of our climate friendly approach, to start budding too.

You will have noticed that we have increased the area of playground over the half term. This provides a specific area for our Year 6 to hold their playleaders' activities. At lunchtime, these trained children manage a range of games for younger children which not only boosts the younger children's skills but develops our older children as role models and builds up their responsibility.

Here's to another great year and the start of great decade at our school.  
Yours, *Mr Mel MacKinnon*

**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.**

**Date tbc: Sports Day.**

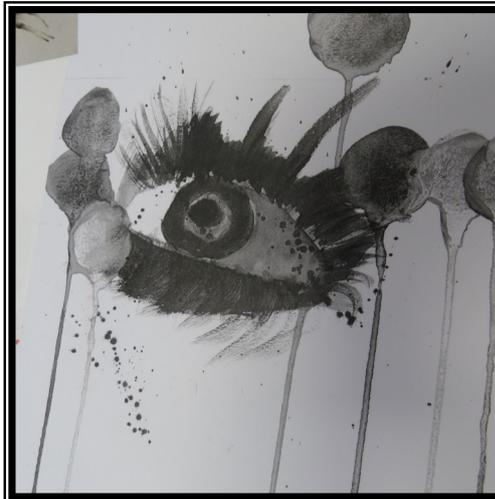
**Saturday 4th July: We Are Reading Festival at LMC.**

**Date tbc: Summer Fair.**

**Date tbc: Leavers' Show.**

**Friday 17th July: Leavers' Assembly.**

**Friday 17th July: School closes at 2pm.**



## ART at WILLOW LANE

Our curriculum delivers the National Curriculum and one of the subjects within it is Art. As children move up the school they develop as artists by learning specific techniques (such as mixing colours with paints, block printing, shading with pencils) and learning about and using the style of artists (both global and local). Children's art is also developed through working with artists as part of the TIME project which looks to raise the quality of teaching of art, music and drama in schools.

The children's learning is captured in class floor books and art is given high status around the school through attractive displays showing children's original masterpieces. This newsletter gives you some examples of the drawing, pastel work and sculpture which your children have been involved in.

## RESIDENTIAL DATES

As part of our Curriculum, we have three residential trips. This Summer, Year 4 will be visiting Tower Wood for three days of outdoor adventurous activities, Year 5 will be visiting Borwick hall for two days of camping and outdoor activities and Year 6 will be visiting London for three days of site seeing including historical and cultural experiences. As a school, we know that the experiences and learning that takes place on these trips is really important and that children can develop skills and interests which they draw upon in later life. The governors ensure these trips are subsidised and that there is a reserve of money so that family finances are not a barrier to any child going. If you have any concerns with your child being able to attend then please come and see Mr MacKinnon.



## CORONAVIRUS

We take the health and safety of children, staff and our community seriously and we are registered to receive daily updates on the Coronavirus. As part of the government's response, there may be actions which need to be taken in the future but at present the advice is on handwashing and dealing with tissues etc. These can be found within our 'Latest letters' section of the website.

There is likely to be raised anxiety and the government has launched a new helpline (see right) to help deal with this. If anyone in your household shows symptoms they should call 111 for advice.

Children may also show higher levels of anxiety as they pick up on other's concern and the volume of coverage in the news. This can be a normal reaction for children when they persistently hear certain messages. If your child is showing raised anxiety we recommend first and foremost listening to and talking things through with them. If you need help with this then please ask.

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

This year, the focus of Children's Mental Health Week was 'Find your Brave'. This fit well with one of our school values 'courage' and all the children considered what this might mean through looking at age appropriate books, articles and videos. Everyone can sometimes feel afraid and everyone has it in them to find courage. Examples of how this was discussed in our school included children performing on stage in front of adults, children practising learning or sports to overcome challenges and children with disabilities taking part in activities some may think are beyond them.

Children's Mental Health is something that people are rightly more aware of. If you have any concerns about things your child may be feeling or saying then please talk to your child's teacher or make an appointment to see Mrs Banks who is part of the local Mental Health Champions network.

## Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

Yesterday, we launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

- No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

## 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)**