



# Willow Lane Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mel MacKinnon

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

## Updates linked to Covid 19

Firstly, I want to say a big thank you to you all for supporting us in our need to reduce adults in school. Through day to day contact, parents' evenings and meetings, you have helped maintain good communication. Not having you in school looking at children's learning, watching children perform and having informal day to day interactions is a real shame and something we are looking forward to once the pandemic is over.

This letter follows our usual question and answer format to update everyone on changes and queries that have been raised.

## What will Christmas look like at Willow Lane?

- Unfortunately, we will be unable to hold our usual busy schedule of shows, singing and fairs.
- Reception Class will be performing a nativity. Scenes will be recorded, edited and shared online with families.
- Singing is always part of our Christmas. The whole school will be creating a recorded performance linked to 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and this will be shared with families.
- Our Christmas Tree will be up and looking for children's decorations to adorn it.
- Each class will be involved in a 'Community' project alongside a local organisation eg Laurel Bank Care Home.

## Are there any changes to drop off and collections?

- The drop off and collection routines remain the same.
- If you are unable to drop off/collect then please let the office know who will be. Under current conditions, this should be the same other adult each time.
- We are advising adults to wear face coverings at this time and thank you for working with us to reduce the transmission in our community.
- Please can we remind people to social-distance whilst waiting on the pavement and not to gather at the end of the path out of school.

## If my child has to self-isolate how do I access remote learning?

- Our approach, shared by letter on 1<sup>st</sup> October remains the same.



- Bubble closure will lead to a pack of work and online videos accessed through Seesaw.
- Individual self-isolation will lead to learning linked to a number of websites. Thank you to teachers who have gathered these links on the back of the newsletters and these can also be found online under each year group at <https://www.willow.lancs.sch.uk/curriculum/>

### **What happens with FSM if a child is self-isolating?**

- Children may be entitled to FSM (Free School Meals) if they live in households receiving income-related benefits. This is different to the UIFSM (Universal Infant Free School Meal) for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
- School will fund absences for children entitled to FSM if the absence is linked to Covid-19.
- In the event of a bubble closure, FSM households will receive a voucher from Edenred for the two weeks. This is the same system we used during lockdown so families will be familiar with it.
- In the event of individual self-isolation, school will provide a supermarket voucher for the value of the absence.

### **Who will get support over the holidays?**

- You will be aware that following a campaign led by Marcus Rashford, a £170 million winter grant has been allocated by the government.
- The money will directly support families as well as support food banks and increase holiday activity clubs.
- The details are not confirmed on how this will be distributed to Free School Meals families but our understanding is that this will be allocated by Lancashire rather than individual schools.

Thank you again for your ongoing support during these challenging times. We are very fortunate that we have not had to close any bubbles but this could happen at any point. In order to continue to minimise the impact of any positive cases please remember to:

- Self-isolate as a household should anyone develop symptoms of COVID 19.
- Access a test as soon as possible.
- Inform the school of the outcomes of any test.

Thank you for helping keep our community safe,

*Mel MacKinnon*

**MEL MACKINNON  
HEADTEACHER**

