



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2020

Dates for your diaries

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Thank you for your ongoing support during these challenging times. By working together in following the restrictions and keeping good communication between home and school, we are able to better support children and ensure we don't add additional stress to their day. As we face a change from lockdown to the tier system, school remains open and following the same established systems and procedures that have proved effective so far.

As we approach the end of term, staff continue to put in lots of effort to deliver engaging learning and make it special with Christmas linked learning, experiences and events. This newsletter gives you some important news linked to these. Please be aware that things may change at short notice (eg if a class has to self-isolate). We are also planning on bringing vital Spring joy to our grounds with children involved in planting hundreds of flower bulbs.

As ever, should you have any queries or thoughts about your child's time or learning at our school, please do not hesitate to phone and talk them through.

Yours, Mr Mel MacKinnon

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

This Christmas, as well as learning about the Christmas Story and covering the Christianity based Religious Education units within our curriculum, every class will be involved in a community project. This year, even more people may be facing a more difficult Christmas and we know that by thinking about and helping others our children will develop positive values. Projects include decorations and cards for the local care home, food parcels for a local charity, presents for a charity collecting for families facing hardship at Christmas and cracker gifts for children in hospital. We are working closely with all involved to do this safely.



STAFFING UPDATES

As many of you will know, Miss Gaunt is expecting another child in the new year. After 14 years of teaching at our school, she has made the difficult decision to resign to spend more time with her young family. We wish her all the best for the future. Miss Frankland will be moving from teaching Blue Class to Yellow Class in January. She has done a brilliant job in Year 4 and whilst we know she will be missed by those children, we will appoint the best teacher we can to take over from her.

PARENTS' EVENING

Thank you for working with us on our different approach to Parents' Evening and for your positive feedback. We recognise that communicating with teachers is harder at the moment but please do feel free to phone up and arrange a telephone call if you have any concerns about your child or their learning.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Children will be able to bring in Christmas Cards for their friends. Please could name and class be put on the front and, if cards are for the same class please, can they be held together with a rubber band. Cards can be 'posted' the week commencing 7th December and will be given out in the final week.



MAYOR of LANCASTER

The Mayor of Lancaster is asking primary school age pupils from across the district to design him a Christmas card. The successful design will be sent to a number of important people such as Her Majesty the Queen! For those children wishing to enter the competition their design should:

- Be on a piece of A4 paper of any colour
- Use strong colours but avoid using glitter
- Not have things stuck on to it – they don't copy well
- Include their name, age, address and telephone number in the email

Designs should be scanned and sent to the Mayor's Office by email - mayor@lancaster.gov.uk. The closing date is Monday 7th December.

The winner will receive a surprise gift from the Mayor before Christmas.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

In line with previous years, Red Class will performing a nativity. This will be recorded and shared with parents.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

Children can bring in homemade decorations for our tree from Tuesday 1st December. Please name these. The tree will be in the dining hall where all children can enjoy it.