



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

December 2020

Dates for your diaries

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

As we approach the end of term, it is wonderful to visit the classrooms and see the children so engaged in their community based projects. There are photos of these approaches on this newsletter. The children, supported by you, have shown many examples of generosity which will improve people's lives and well-being at Christmas. Thank you.

In school, we continue to follow tight levels of hygiene and social distancing. We really want to avoid anyone having to self-isolate over Christmas so please ensure that if your child, or someone in the household, has symptoms then they should not attend school and should access a test. Despite the great news about vaccines, Covid 19 continues to be a dangerous disease and if we all follow the guidelines then we can help reduce its spread. School has a duty to be involved with Test and Trace even after term has ended and further details of this will come out separately.

While many Christmases will be different and harder this year, I wish you all the best for how you are able to mark it this year.

Merry Christmas, Mr Mel MacKinnon

**We must keep on
protecting each other.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

ONLINE SAFETY at CHRISTMAS

Many children receive technology as Christmas gifts and it's important to keep children safe on these devices. The Online Safety page on our website <https://www.willow.lancs.sch.uk/mums-dads-carers/online-safety/> provides links to Lancashire and national sites which have pages aimed at parents. Other mums and dads have found these useful for:

- understanding what certain APPs are for.
- learning about age restrictions on sites and games.
- finding suggestions on how to talk to children about technology.
- practical tips on ensuring everyone uses technology safely and sensibly.
- reporting incidents to national organisations such as CEOP.

At the thinkuknow.co.uk site there is a resource called 'Jessie and Friends'. This is a useful place to go to if you want to teach younger children (4 to 7 year olds) about online safety.

Thursday 17th December:
Cinderella Pantomime.

Friday 18th December: School
closes at 2pm.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Monday 4th January: INSET
Day

Tuesday 5th January: Back
to School

Monday 15th February to
Friday 19th February: Half
Term

Thursday 4th March: World
Book Day

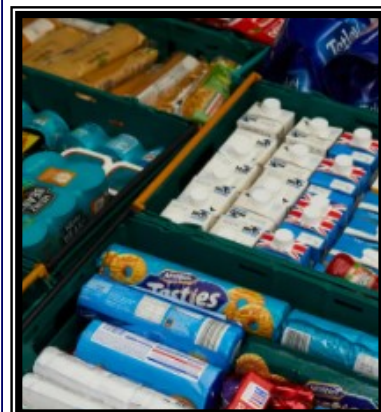
Friday 26th March: School
closes at 2pm.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Monday 12th April: Back to
School

Monday 3rd May: May Day
Bank Holiday

Monday 31st May to Friday
4th June: Half Term



PARENT GOVERNOR

We have two vacancies for Parent Governors on our Governing Body. An election will be held in the new year. If you are interested in finding out more about this important and supportive role, please talk to the headteacher.

Governors are involved in financial oversight and decisions, checking the school curriculum meets our ethos and vision and ensuring that our curriculum leads to good outcomes for our children. Governors can also be involved in recruitment. If you have the skills for any of the above that is great and if not there are training opportunities provided by LCC.



FSM over CHRISTMAS

You will be aware from the news that following Marcus Rashford's campaign, the government will be providing free meals (or vouchers for them) over the holidays to children entitled to benefit-related Free School Meals. The details on how these will be distributed are yet to be shared. It is our understanding that Lancashire Council is taking responsibility for this and school will assist in any necessary steps to help it happen smoothly.



PE KIT

Children will be continuing to come to school wearing their kit on their PE days next term. Please can you ensure that under their choice of tracksuit that they are wearing school PE kit. This is available from the uniform shop if your child has outgrown their kit.

VENTILATION in SCHOOLS

As well as operating in bubbles, increased cleaning and frequent hygiene, you will be aware that schools are following ventilation advice in order to dilute any air borne Covid pathogens. As the weather becomes colder, classrooms still continue to require this ventilation. The heating has been adjusted to account for this but classrooms still can feel cool on cold and windy days.

Whilst children need to continue to wear school uniform, you may want to consider your child wearing vests, tops, tights etc under their uniform if they have mentioned feeling cold.



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