



# WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



July 2021

*Dates for your diaries*

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

It feels strange to be writing my final newsletter as we come to the end of a chapter in both mine and our school's life. But what a chapter it has been. Being your headteacher has been the highlight of my teaching career and I leave full of pride at the things we have achieved, full of fond memories and touched by your kind words.

A school works best when school and home work together and I have often said how important the word 'Community' in our title is, even though we rarely use the full term. We (and by that I mean the school leadership, the governors, the staff, the parents, the wider community and importantly the children) have been on quite a journey together and there is a lot to be proud of.

The school has grown from strength to strength, the numbers on role have risen to over 200, the school has moved from Requires Improvement to Good, the grounds have been developed so every child can grow and cook, the curriculum has been enhanced to provide lots of experiential learning, the number of children going to the grammar school has risen, the children have loved the new trips introduced, we have navigated the pandemic and...the list could go on and on. A walk through our school and our grounds really does show you that we 'teach to the heart' and our children love being in school. They love school and they love learning and an education at Willow Lane is a great start to a child's life.

Leaving is never an easy decision for a headteacher to make but it is made easier by knowing the school is in a strong place with caring, committed and hard-working staff in all departments. Successful appointments have been made and time has been given to a smooth transition so that it really does feel like handing on a baton. I wish Miss Naylor every success in leading the school from next September.

Thank you again for all your continued support,

*Mr Mel MacKinnon*

SUMMER TERM

Friday 16th July: Leavers' Assembly at 09:15.

Friday 16th July: End of Term at 14:00.

Monday 19th July: INSET

Tuesday 20th July: INSET

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Wednesday 1st September: INSET

Thursday 2nd September: Children back to school.

Friday 22nd October: INSET

Monday 25th to Friday 29th October: Half Term.

Friday 17th December: End of term.



The Recycled Man

## STAFFING UPDATE

Next year, Lucy Naylor will be supported by Duncan Webster as the new Deputy Headteacher. Joe Barnes will be joining the teaching team in Blue Class and Claire Marsland is joining our team of excellent teaching assistants. Hayley McCinley and Emma Winder will be joining our Welfare Team too and I wish them all good luck at our school.

## START OF YEAR

School staff will be keeping up to date over the holidays with regard to any changes in government guidance. To avoid too many unnecessary changes, school will be opening following the current same drop off and collection systems and timings from 2nd September. Similarly, school will only be having essential visitors in the building. This will be reviewed at the start of term and the changes will be shared. Thank you for working with us and the systems so well.



The Greatest Showman

## GOOD BYE FROM MRS FISH

As I get ready to leave Willow Lane School for the very last time after 16 years, I want to take this opportunity to say a big THANK-YOU to everyone, Mums, Dads, Carers, staff, governors and most of all to the children. We have had good times, challenging times and everything in between! Willow Lane is a completely brilliant school, with wonderful children and a fantastic community. I would like to wish every one of you the very best of wishes and a bright and happy future.

Take care,  
Mrs Sarah Fish



The Bluebird and the Robot



The Recycled Man

## GOOD LUCK

As well as myself moving on the new ventures, other staff are leaving at the end of this term too and we wish them all the best of luck.

A school could not wish for a more dedicated and committed deputy headteacher and we wish Sarah Fish the best for her retirement. Other staff retiring this year include Lorraine Benefer and Sandra Reay and we thank them for all they have given to our children over the years.

Jack Freeman is moving on to pastures new and Kate Mason is taking up a place on teacher training and we know she will make a great teacher of the future.



Year 6 Trophy Winners

## TEST & TRACE

If children or staff develop symptoms up to midnight on Sunday then school will need to be informed about this and the outcome of any PCR test. School have a duty to contact any close contacts and this will be done through the text and website systems.

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) and our Facebook [www.facebook.com/WillowLaneCP/](https://www.facebook.com/WillowLaneCP/)