



WILLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

October 2017



A message from Mrs Gallimore

We have had a great start to the new year.

Year 4 have visited the Kinara restaurant to experience Indian food and to learn about catering careers. The Year 6 children have just enjoyed their residential at Lea Green - it was great to be able to join them on Monday and share the experience with them.

Our Harvest Assembly was very well attended and the Padley Centre was extremely grateful for all of your donations. Thank you for being so generous. Many families are currently filling shoeboxes for Romania. If you would like an insight into what happens to our shoeboxes please watch <https://vimeo.com/197370399> Please remember that shoeboxes must be returned by Monday 30th October.



Canal & River Trust

The Canal and River Trust delivered two assemblies to promote water safety. We hope these will encourage the children to play more responsibly in our village and safely around water.

These assemblies were booked in response to reports of our children playing in close proximity to the river without adult supervision.

Gold Sports Award We were thrilled to receive our Gold Sports Award in recognition of our sporting achievements last year. We collected the award at the South Derbyshire Sports Awards at Pingle Academy. I would very much like to thank all parents and staff who have transported children to and attended matches, tournaments and competitions. A special thank you needs to be said to Mrs Powell and Mrs Parkes who have both committed much personal time to improving our sporting achievements.



New School Blog

Mr Rodgers has set up a new whole school blog to share examples of work from across the school. We will regularly post photos and information about what we are doing. It is a great way to find out about what is happening in school too. The children would love to see more feedback on their posts so please feel free to leave a comment. Please share with family and friends too. Access the blog through the website or <http://willingtonprimaryschool.edublogs.org/> <http://willingtonprimaryschool.edublogs.org/>



Important Dates

Return to school	- 30th Oct
Shoebox deadline	- 30th Oct
Flu vaccinations	- 30th Oct
My Maths meeting-5:30pm-	1st Nov
Year 2 Class Assembly *	- 3rd Nov
Friends AGM—2:30pm	- 6th Nov
Friends Cake Sale-3:00pm	- 6th Nov
New Parent Open session	- 8th Nov
Parent Interviews	- 8/9th Nov
Year 6 Class Assembly *	- 10th Nov
Year 4 Class Assembly *	- 17th Nov
Disco	- 17th Nov
Rec hearing test	- 21st Nov
Year 1 Class Assembly*	- 24th Nov
INSET DAY	- 27th Nov
New Parent Open session	- 29th Nov
Christmas Fayre	- 1st Dec
KS1 Theatre Trip	- 5th Dec
Christmas Dinner/Jumper	- 6th Dec
KS2 Theatre Trip	- 7th Dec
Rec Conkers Trip	- 8th Dec
Christmas Productions	- 13/14th Dec
Christmas Party	- 18th Dec
Break-up for Christmas	- 19th Dec
INSET DAY	- 2nd Jan
New Parent Open session	- 10th Jan
Break-up for half-term	- 16th Feb
Return to school	- 26th Feb
World Book Day	- 1st Mar
Break up for Easter	- 23rd Mar
Return to school	- 9th April
Class photographs	- 25th May
Break-up for half-term	- 25th May
Return to school	- 4th June

Parent Hub

All 'first contact' parents should have received a text message from school this week. This message included a leaflet about how to download the Parent Hub app. Other parents (with parental responsibility) can download the app and receive messages. We would appreciate it if as many parents as possible used the app as messages to the app are free for us to send. This newsletter will have been sent out through the message system too and going forward we hope to reduce the amount of paper based communication. If you would still like to receive a paper newsletter in the future please complete the slip on the last page of the newsletter or there will always be copies available in the office. Family members like grandparents can download the app so that they can receive general news and messages too.



Holidays in term time

Please note this extract from our Attendance Policy:

'Holidays in Term Time

There is no facility now for headteachers to authorise term-time holidays. Requests for Exceptional Leave may be submitted to the headteacher but these do not cover requests for holidays in term time.

Any period of leave taken without the agreement of the school, or in excess of that agreed, will be classified as unauthorised and may attract sanctions such as a Penalty Notice.'

Therefore, from 1st September 2017, if requested, Derbyshire County Council will consider the issue of a penalty notice for any period of holiday absence which has not been authorised by the Headteacher regardless of a child's wider school attendance.

Playtime snacks and sandwiches at lunch time



We now have a number of children with allergies to nuts, so we would like to ask all parents to avoid sending nuts or nut products in for break and lunch time.

Also, to avoid any choking hazard, please can all parents ensure that grapes and cherry tomatoes brought into school are cut up.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting

Since September we have been following the government health protection advice with regard to diarrhoea and vomiting. The full advice can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/625988/Exclusion_table.pdf. The advice is that children are excluded whilst they are symptomatic with either diarrhoea and sickness and for **48 hours** after the last symptoms. We appreciate that this can cause issues for parents regarding childcare but strongly feel that following this advice should reduce the number of sickness bugs in school and should ensure that we are not in the position where we have to close school due to a severe outbreak (two local schools have had to do this, this week).

Parent Interviews

You will receive a Parent Interview letter on Monday 30th October. You will be able to request time slots for the evenings of Wednesday 8th November and Thursday 9th November. Please return your slip as soon as possible because request slip will be returned to you on Friday 3rd November. **Please remember to make alternative arrangements for all babies and children as these are not permitted on the evenings.** If you are unable to do this, please see the class teacher to make an alternative appointment on a different day when children can accompany you to the meeting.

Open Sessions

If your child was born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 they will be eligible to start school in September 2018. You should apply for their infant/primary school place by 15 January 2018. You will be able to make your application via Derbyshire County Council from 9am on 13 November 2017. Further details can be found here https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school_places/default.asp

We have organised three Open Sessions to give prospective new parents/carers the opportunity to have a look at our school.

Where: Willington Primary School, Trent Avenue, Willington, Derby, DE65 6DN

Dates: Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 11:00am

OR Wednesday 29th November 2017 at 9:00am

OR Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 2:30pm

You will get the opportunity to have a look round the school and ask any questions you may have.

Assemblies/Productions/Parent Interviews - Crèche Availability

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers, pre-school children and babies are not allowed in assemblies, productions or at Parent Interviews. This is to ensure that our children's achievements can be heard, valued and celebrated. We do, however, have the following in place:

- A crèche **will be** available for class assemblies.
- A crèche **is NOT** available when we hold whole school assemblies/productions OR for parent interviews.

We hope this clarifies the position. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Free School Meals (info from Derbyshire website)

A lot of people don't apply for free school meals. That's why Derbyshire are continuing with their campaign to encourage all families to register regardless of if they believe they may be eligible. You don't need to worry about other children knowing your child gets free school meals. Only the office staff and teachers will know. You could save £400 a year for each child and your children could benefit from a good hot meal at lunchtime. The school will benefit too as they'll get the pupil premium of £1,000 a year from the government for each child eligible for free school meals. It is important to apply even if your child/ren are in KS1 because of the school funding element.



Your child may be able to get free school meals if you (or the young person themselves, where appropriate) get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit* (WTC) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- *You can get this help if you get Working Tax Credit and you are in the four week 'run-on' period where your WTC is due to stop because you have stopped work or reduced your hours
- Universal Credit

Even if you meet any or all of the above criteria families will not be eligible if they are claiming Working Tax Credit

It is easy to apply at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals OR ask the school office for a form.



Parking

As a school, we are still receiving many complaints from parents and neighbours about inconsiderate parking, including cars preventing local residents leaving their drives. I am also very concerned about reports of dangerous driving and parking which is putting our children at serious risk. Staff are also concerned that inconsiderate parking may prevent emergency vehicles gaining access to school quickly in an emergency situation. I have been in touch with the local police who have supplied the banner on the fence and they also hope to carry out some monitoring visits. Please walk to school whenever possible or consider parking a little further away to reduce the congestion. Please avoid parking at the bottom of Trent Avenue and on the zigzag yellow lines on Vere Close.

TERM DATES 2016/17 & 2017/18

Friday 20th October 2017—School closes for half-term
Monday 30th October 2017—Children return to school
Tuesday 19th December 2017—School closes for Christmas
Wednesday 3rd January 2018—Children return to school
Friday 16th February 2018—School closes for half-term
Monday 26th February 2018—Children return to school
Friday 23rd March 2018—School closes for Easter
Monday 9th April 2018—Children return to school
Friday 25th May 2018—School closes for half-term
Monday 4th June 2018—Children return to school
Friday 20th July 2018—School closes for summer

INSET DAYS 2017/18

Monday 4th September 2017
Monday 27th November 2017
Tuesday 2nd January 2018
Friday 22nd June 2018
Monday 25th June 2018

Uniform/PE Kits

We feel that uniform helps children to be proud of their school identity, they look smart and are well prepared for work! **Could we please ask that all uniform and school shoes are of a “school uniform style” (items can be obtained from many local stores/our uniform providers) and not of a fashion type of clothing/shoes?** Each child needs to have their P.E. kit in school everyday (including pumps for all children and trainers for KS2). All items should be named and contained in a drawstring bag.

Juniors will also need an outdoor P.E. kit. (trousers, sweatshirt, trainers)

Jewellery, including ‘friendship’ bracelets must not be worn in P.E. – it is dangerous. If your child has pierced ears, ear-rings must be removed by the child for P.E. If they cannot do this you must provide suitable tape. Please ensure that your child only wears small stud type earrings to school.

REMINDER KS2—MyMaths Parents Meeting

Wednesday 1st November 2017 @ 5.30pm

All KS2 children have received a letter regarding the above. Can we remind parents to return the reply slip letting us know whether you are able to attend and whether you will be bringing your child/ren. Many thanks.

Paper Newsletters

Child/ren name/s _____ Year group/s _____

I would like to receive paper newsletters.

Signed _____