

# Willowbank Weekly



[www.willowbank.devon.sch.uk](http://www.willowbank.devon.sch.uk)

7th June 2017

**Don't forget to order school dinners by tomorrow!**

## **Safety at the beginning and end of the day**

Please ensure your children stay on the path, when they walk into and out of school. We are looking at how we can secure the path that the children walk along as they go in and out of school to the main playground. We are aware that at the moment some of the younger and pre-school children are going down behind or on the new railing and wall. There is not built for this purpose and the bramble hedge behind it has no fence built in it, so the drop to the road is significant.

## **Ties during the summer term**

Between now and the end of the summer term, we would like to allow the children to not wear ties if they chose. We are conscious that in the very hot weather, they can be uncomfortable. The rest of the uniform should stay the same and shirts should be buttoned to the button just below the top. This is a trial for this summer term and is not something that will continue in the Autumn Term. We will review how it goes ready for next summer term. If children do wear ties, we do expect them to have their top button done up. Many children will be happy to carry on with this and will look smart.

## **Holidays in term time - please talk to Grandparents and give very careful thought to your requests**

We really understand that having family time is very important.

As teachers, we would like to take this opportunity to explain the impact that a holiday during term time has on your child. Our lessons are planned so that each part of each lesson is a time when children develop their learning: be that a memory, a skill, an understanding or the ability to apply something in a different situation. If a child misses a lesson, they have missed something that will be built on in the next lessons. They work together, see, hear and talk about what a teacher has modelled to them or discuss answers to questions. Much of what they do cannot be put on sheet to take home - learning is a collaborative on-going activity. The number of holiday requests we are currently getting is meaning that trying to fill the gaps for each individual is not fully possible (we cannot re-teach the lesson again).

Your child's attendance is important to us.

## **New Safeguarding team and new Child Protection Policy on the Website**

Some of you will have spotted our new faces on our safeguarding signs around school or the main entrance. All adults in school look after the welfare of your children and if there are specific queries, we have adults who are trained to a higher level to work together to ensure that we protect children from any harm. Miss Grose, Mrs Hulbert and Miss Sullivan have been on this team for a long time now and they are now joined by Mrs Bundy, Miss Mingo and Mrs Haddican. If you have any concerns about any child please talk to any member of staff who will communicate with this team. Also please see the posters in the main entrance which point you to DEVON MASH - 0345 155 1071. You can speak to someone for advice.

We are just introducing a new Child Protection Policy - it follows the updated Devon Model Policy and is now a very clear document. Please see it on our school website.

**Summer Fete - SINGING** - please join us - Our children sing beautifully and with lots of confidence. Please encourage them to join in at the summer fete on Saturday when they will all be able to

perform some of the many songs they know. Miss Isaac will be gathering the whole school at different times - come along and listen!

### **September Plans**

As the school grows, the classes change - from September we will have 34 children leaving and 54 joining us! It takes us to a very exciting stage that, in FS and KS1, we will have parallel classes. This means that there will be:

2 Foundation stage classes - Starling and Robin

2 Year 1 classes - Siskin and Linnet

2 Year 2 classes - Goldfinch and Dove

3 mixed Yr3/4 classes - Heron, Avocet and Kingfisher

1 Year 5 class - Buzzard

1 Year 6 class - Hawk.

### **Teachers for Next Year**

As you know, both Mr Broomhead and Miss Hurford have moved on to pastures new. You'll be pleased to know that Miss Hurford is delighted with her present of a new office chair.

This means that we have appointed 2 new Unit leaders to add to our other very strong members of staff. They are both coming with a real focus on learning and bring experience over many years.

More details to follow.

I also need to take this opportunity to inform you of other staff changes which we are now aware of. We have appointed a new Key Stage Two teacher - Miss Powell as a full time teacher from September; she joins us from a school in mid Cornwall.

We are pleased to say that other teachers have been offered opportunities to develop their skills further - we are also sorry to see them go and would like to thank them for all they have done during their time at Willowbank School.

Miss Eustace is taking the opportunity to become the full time SENDCo at a larger school in Exeter. You will be pleased to hear that the familiar face of Mrs Jaworski will be taking over from Miss Eustace as our SENDCo and has already started to come in to ensure the transition is smooth. We welcome her back from her maternity leave.

Mrs Best is finishing at the end of term to explore pastures new.

Miss Fitzsimmons is taking an amazing opportunity to teach in China and will be jetting off in August. Mrs Bundy has taken the opportunity to become Foundation Stage leader of both the Reception Class and the Pre-school at Sampford Peverell with Miss Hurford.

We are excited about the new team that is in place, this will be a team of very strong and experienced teachers to add to our existing very strong staff.

The only vacancies that we have to fill are the Foundation Stage team and this is because Mrs Bundy was not appointed until the last week before the holidays. The adverts for new teachers are out today so that we can appoint as soon as possible. To support the youngest children coming in, the teaching assistant team - a key part of Foundation Stage- will be remaining the same and will support the transition process as in previous years. We will explain further our plans when we meet with the new parents next week.

Miss Jaworski will be visiting pre-schools for any children with additional needs.

We will inform you of which classes teachers will teach when they have been confirmed.

### **Open afternoon**

Our whole school open afternoon will be held on Wednesday 14th June from 2.30pm-3.10pm; we look forward to welcoming Parents, Carers, Grandparents and siblings.



### **PTFA news**

#### **Summer fayre**

Our annual Summer Fayre is this Saturday at 11am! Please support your PTFA and the school by coming along. We will have the return of the Pimms tent and other refreshments and the usual stalls and games for the children.

The successful Lego competition is also returning. Children are invited to build an original Lego model (please do not use kits) and to bring it along to the fayre. Prizes will be awarded for different age groups at the end of the fayre along with the raffle.

Please continue to drop in any donations of toys, books, bottles and tombola prizes either by putting them in the donation bin or by handing them into the office.

If you are unable to come to the fayre but would still like to support us, Mrs Ingram will have some raffle tickets in the office this week.

If you are able to help on the day please come along any time after 9am and speak to a member of the PTFA, we will be wearing identity tags!

#### **Discos**

The last disco of this school year will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Foundation, Years 1 and 2 – 5:45 – 6:45

Years 3, 4, 5, 6 – 7-8pm

The PTFA will always take on board feedback from events and following concerns about the length of time it took to get into the disco we will be making some changes.

The doors to the disco will open 10 minutes prior to the disco start time to allow children to be registered safely. The registration table will be moved to outside the office and children will be able to wait inside the school entrance supervised by staff. Parents of Lower school children should collect their child through the hall door BUT please ensure that you have signed out your child with the adult attending their class. This will allow Upper school children to be registered at the front of school. Upper school parents can again collect children through the hall door.

As I'm sure you can understand, the children's safety is the biggest priority for the PTFA. We have to register each child to ensure that in the event of a fire we know exactly who we have on the premises. The PTFA comprises only 10 parents and friends and because of this, ensuring everyone is looked after means that sometimes things take a little time. We would like to thank you for your patience.



#### **Fidget Cubes**

The same advisories/rules apply to fidget cubes as to fidget spinners: please ensure they are clearly marked with your child's initials and class. We do not expect to see them in the classroom, but children are welcome to play with them on the playground during break time and lunch time.



#### **Lost property**

Ollie in Year 3, has lost a silver, double bladed fidget spinner and Morgan in Year 6 has lost a pink Specsavers glasses case which contains a pair of pink glasses. If found please hand into the office. We have some badges in the office: a trustworthy badge and school council badge, if either of these belongs to you please come to the office to claim them.



#### **Class photographs**

Please be aware that the date of the Class photos has changed. These will now take place on Friday 23rd June.

## Fairy Tales



### Foundation

This week we have been visited by the 'Fairy Tale police'! They are looking out for Jack, who climbed the beanstalk and stole some coins, a golden hen and a harp from the Giant. We have needed to set up a role play police station to deal with the various sightings and have been writing incident report forms. We have also been learning about doubling/ halving and counting in 10s and 2s.



### Years 1 & 2

Welcome back! We are in our final term in our classes and are looking forward all the exciting learning opportunities we will have. The children have come back with a positive attitude to learning and have shown real commitment in achieving their very best. This week we have been looking at plants, focusing on what they need to survive and how we can care for them. We have also completed an observational drawing of some plants, labelling the key features. We have some fantastic artists across Year 1 and 2, we are very impressed. The children need to continue to read, please ensure your child has their book in school every day.



### Years 3 & 4

#### WOW - Dragons!

To start this half term off, the children enjoyed having a dragon WOW day - designing and creating their own dragons using watercolours or different materials. We have started to read a book called 'Dragons' which includes; short stories about dragon legends around the world; a non-chronological report giving detailed information about different types of dragons; and even a dragon poem which year 4 have been performing to each other. In Maths, we have been putting numbers into a variety of contexts using dragons, calendars and even measuring the playground using our bodies.



### Years 5 & 6 welcome back!

Year 5 and 6 are focusing this term on developing their scientific understanding of the world. Electricity is our first area that we are exploring. We will also be looking at light and sound over the half term. We are now in full swing for our performance rehearsals of Pirates and the Curry Bean- we would be grateful if you could help your child to learn any words or songs for the show. On Monday and Tuesday this week several Year 6 children in part in Bikeability and achieved their level 2- well done, we are incredibly proud of you!

## CASUAL CLEANER

Willowbank School is a popular, expanding school, with 289 pupils and 11 classes. We are looking for a casual cleaner to support our friendly team and provide cover for absences.

We are looking for a well organised, enthusiastic and reliable individual with a high standard of cleanliness and hygiene. We require cover for Monday to Friday, late pm to be discussed (7.5 hours per week) as needed.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. A DBS disclosure is required for this post.

An application form is available on the school website or from the school office.

### Diary Dates

June		
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Back to school</b>
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>		Summer Fayre
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm-3.10pm	School open afternoon
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	TBC	School Disco
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	All day	Outdoor classroom day
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Class Photographs
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am-3.00pm	Year 6 transition to CCC (Enterprise day)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Year 5 Pizza Co challenge at CCC
July		
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>		CCC Year 6 transition day
		Moving up into new classes day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>		Sports Day
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>		Reserve Sports day
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Years 5 & 6 Production
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Years 5 & 6 Production
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	All day	Year 6 trip to Wildside
W/B Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>		All classes move up to September classes
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	1.15pm	Year 6 Leavers assembly
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>		Last day of Term