



The Willows Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Barnett
Victoria Road, Kirkham, PR4 2BT
Telephone & Fax: 01772 684371
www.willows.lancs.sch.uk

07 September 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer; this is a long Newsletter with lots of important information in, please read it all. We extend a very special welcome to all the families new to our school. It has been a very busy summer as we have had the Reception Classroom redecorated, new lighting installed and new furniture purchased. It looks amazing!

What a lovely start to the new school year! The children have arrived back full of enthusiasm and are clearly excited about their new learning challenges and the new classrooms.

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Miss Ashworth to Reception and Miss Cross back to Year 1. We also welcome Connor to Year 5 and Katie to Year 3. We are delighted that they have joined our school.

Breakfast & After School Club

Thank you to all the parents who have sent back completed booking forms for Breakfast and After School Club. Please note that **all** children must be booked in prior to the session so that the appropriate number of staff can be employed and the appropriate amount of food provided. Voicemails can be left as we now have a telephone system, which records all calls and sends staff an email alert, or an email can be sent to Miss Stedman (bstedman@willows.lancs.sch.uk) before 3:15pm.

Governors have asked me to remind you all that should a child be booked into Breakfast Club, Drop Off or After School Club and not attend, the family will be charged the full price for that session - assuming the booking has not been cancelled prior to 3:15pm. Contact details are as above for emails and voicemails.

The following price structure now applies:

Breakfast Club: £5.00 & £4.50 per sibling

Drop Off: £2.00

After School Club: £7.00 & £5.50 per sibling

Should a child **not** be booked into either Breakfast, Drop Off or After School Club (at the time of completing the register i.e. 3:15pm), the following price structure will apply:

Breakfast Club: £5.50 & £5.00 per sibling

Drop Off: £2.50

After School Club: £7.50 & £6.00 per sibling





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After School Sports Clubs

Registration forms will be issued via the app next week. Please note that all clubs will be £5.00 per half term. Any children who are attending After School Club as well, will not be charged for the sports club, ONLY for After School Club. Any child who is in receipt of free school meal funding will not be charged for Sports Clubs.

Book Bags

Whilst your child is in the infants, we ask that they bring a book bag rather than a rucksack. There simply is not enough space in our infant classrooms for each child to bring a rucksack. If your child is currently bringing a rucksack, please see Mrs. Barnes or Miss Stedman in the office to purchase a school book bag.

Uniform

A plea from our class teachers... Please could you make sure that all of your child's school uniform has their name in it! As you can imagine, with nearly 200 children in school, all with the same jumpers and ties, unnamed uniform presents a significant problem. Please be aware, your child is responsible for taking care of their uniform; if they lose an item of uniform staff will help them find it however we cannot be held responsible for your child losing anything.

As ever, please could I draw your attention to our Uniform Policy, in the school diary, which indicates what can and cannot be worn. Thank you.

Meet the Teacher

As in previous years each teacher will be hosting a Meet the Teacher session. These sessions are designed to give you all the information you need to know about your child's new class: when PE is, expectations regarding homework etc.

They will be hosted at **3:40pm and 4:10pm on Thursday 13th September** so you don't need to go home and come back later.

At the end of the school day, please go to your child's classroom - if you have more than one child just go to any of their classrooms. Once the first session has finished, you will then be able to move on to the next session.

If you have more than two children in school, please speak to the remaining class teacher and they will be more than happy to arrange an additional appointment with you in this circumstance.





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Head Boy & Head Girl Speeches

During the next week our Year 6 children will be presenting their speeches for the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl. Having spoken to some of the children, they have been working on their speeches throughout the holiday. Each year we ask all of Year 6 to apply for either position as we strongly believe each child has the capability to represent our school. Following their speeches, every child and every member of staff will vote for who they would like to fill these positions.

This year, we will be changing our usual closed ballot to reflect the routines of a general election. Various voting booths will be set up in the school hall and everyone will vote as if they were voting for a new Prime Minister.

Music Lessons

Our music lessons will all restart in the week beginning 10th September. Violin and Brass lessons will take place on Tuesdays with Mr. Squires-Evans and Woodwind on Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Shipway. Year 4 will continue to learn Brass instruments with Mr. Dawson on Wednesday afternoon as part of Wider Opportunities Brass.

Should your child wish to start playing a musical instrument and they have not yet informed school please see Mrs. Barnes in the office as soon as possible. The cost for each lesson is £5 per week, payable before each half term starts.

Orchestra

Mr. Squires-Evans will be leading the orchestra again this year with Mrs Green. Orchestra will take place in Year 6 classroom after school on Tuesdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Orchestra is by invitation only as the children need to be able to play to a certain standard before they can really enjoy and benefit from the experience.

Tower Wood

On Monday 17th September at 6:30pm, Mr. Wylde, Mr. Sharrock and Mrs. Spacey will be hosting the information evening for our Tower Wood Residential. Please complete the form on the app to confirm your attendance. If you are unable to come, please see Mr. Wylde as soon as possible as there are a number of forms to complete.





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School App

Please make sure you have logged back into the school app:

Username: willowsparents

Password: Willows2018

You will also need to change the settings so you receive appropriate messages. To do this, open the app > tap messages > tap the settings wheel in the top right > change the switches to appropriate year groups > scroll to the bottom of the list > press save.

Personal Details

Please could I ask that anyone who may have changed their phone number, address etc. over the holidays to complete the "Parent's Contact Details" form on the app. You will find this by pressing the "More" button in the bottom right corner.

Deanery Procession for First Communicants

This weekend the bishops of England and Wales are holding a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool. Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, religious and laity that promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. This is the beginning of a year-long series of events in which we have all been invited to take part by Bishop Paul.

Throughout the next year, we will be taking part in a number of Diocesan events to help the children to consider the place of the Eucharist in the life of the school. Some of these events will be in school, some will be as part of our local family of Catholic Churches (Deanery) and some will be as part of the Diocese of Lancaster. The first of the events is this Sunday (Sunday 9th September) at 2:00pm The children who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this year, from the Catholic schools in Lytham, St Anne's, Freckleton, Warton, Kirkham and Wesham have been invited to take part with their families in a Eucharistic procession, devotion and Benediction at St Joseph's Church, Ansdell. We hope to see you there.

Welcome Assembly

Our Assembly will take place on Thursday 27th September at 9:00am. If your child has joined our school since last September they will receive an invite. Families are welcome to join us for this assembly however please ensure you return the reply slip.

Masses

We are due to meet with Fr Andrew next week to arrange the various Masses over the coming year, please check for any dates highlighted in **RED** on the last page of each newsletter for new dates.





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Finally

This week has been a time of welcoming our new and existing families into Reception. Miss Ashworth, Miss Forshaw and Miss Duffy have thoroughly enjoyed meeting parents and would like to say thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and knowledge of the children.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and are looking forward to the next year as much as we are.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. S. A. Barnett
Headteacher

Please don't forget to register with 'Easyfundraising'.
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thewillowsschoolpta





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Thurs 13th Sept

4:00pm Meet the Teacher

Mon 17th Sept

6:30pm Tower Wood Parents' Meeting

Tues 25th Sept

12:30pm Y5/6 Football Comp

Thurs 27th Sept

9:00am Welcome Assembly

Mon 1st Oct to Fri 5th Oct

Year 6 Residential

Mon 1st Oct

4:00pm Y5 Football Comp

Mon 8th Oct

4:00pm Y6 Football Comp

5:00pm BHS Governors Meeting

6:15pm SEC Governors Meeting

Tues 9th Oct

12:30pm Y5/6 Girls Football Comp

Mon 15th Oct

4:00pm Y6 Football Comp

Tues 16th Oct

12:30pm Y5/6 Tag Rugby Comp

Fri 19th Oct

3:30pm School Closes

Wed 31st Oct

8:50am School Opens

