



Willoughby Primary School

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'Learning For Life'

2020 November

Dear Parents/Carers

I'm sure you have all benefitted from a restful half term and I am equally sure the children are full of energy, raring to go for the remainder of the Autumn Term.

This issue contains:

- COVID 19 update
- Governor News
- Key dates for the rest of the term
- Thank you for support for Daisy
- Children in Need
- Bags2school
- Willoughby Award Winners
- Football
- Christmas Fair
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Finally ...

COVID 19 update

We all feel very fortunate to have managed a full half term's learning, avoiding any self-isolation for any of our bubbles. Thank you to all of you for your vigilance, keeping children away from school at any sign of illness.

As we all now head into another lockdown, and the virus is more and more prevalent, we must all continue to be on our guard and follow current government guidance for the safety of everyone. We are all very thankful that schools are remaining open and we can continue to make school life as normal as possible for the children.

However, in preparation for someone testing positive in school or at home, as a staff we have written a 'Home Learning Contingency Planning' information sheet (attached at the end of the newsletter). In quite a formal way following Government guidelines, this outlines the procedures for various quarantine/isolation scenarios that may occur and our response to it. Please read it through and if you have any questions please get in touch. We, obviously, are very hopeful that this will not happen but we need to be prepared for all eventualities.

In school we are continuing to implement measures to make our school as safe an environment possible. These include:

- 3 separate learning bubbles
- Enhanced hand washing and cleaning timetables
- Separate dinner arrangements
- Playground management to avoid mixing of bubbles
- Different start and finish times for groups

Staff will now also be wearing masks when around each other and when having discussions. Our Risk Assessment has been up-dated and we continue to keep up to date with daily correspondence from the County Council and DfE information bulletins.

Governor News

At our Autumn Term meeting Adrian Bath stepped down as Chair of Governors. Although Adrian will continue to be part of the Governing body, he has more than fulfilled his duty having been Chair for the past 6 years. On behalf of everyone at school I would like to thank Adrian whole-heartedly for the fantastic job he has done. He has quietly and efficiently steered the school through some difficult periods during his governorship, and has been a huge support to me, particularly throughout the last year. I know Adrian will continue to be a supportive and active part of the governing team.

At the same meeting, Sander Tiel was voted in as the new Chair of Governors. I look forward to working alongside Sander and his Vice Governor, Tom Bateson, and congratulate them both on their new posts.

Key Dates for the Rest of the Term

NOVEMBER

- Weds 11th - Remembrance Day 11am
- Fri 13th - Children in Need- Wigs & Onesies (Isla Knight's hair cut!)
- Mon 16th - Flu Vaccinations
- Thurs 19th - Christmas Club (1 of 4)
- Mon 23rd - KS1 Swimming (1 of 8) *
- Thurs 26th - Christmas Club (2 of 4)
- Fri 27th - Christmas Fair (provisional date- to be decided)
- Mon 30th - KS1 Swimming (2 of 8)*

DECEMBER

- Thurs 3rd - Christmas Club (3 of 4)
- Mon 7th - KS1 Swimming (3 of 8) *
- Thurs 10th - Christmas club (4 of 4)
- Fri 11th - Christmas Jumper Day
- Mon 14th - No KS1 swimming
- Tues 15th - Christmas Dinner
- Weds 16th - Party Day
- Thurs 17th - Whole school trip to Brackenhurst (letter to follow)
- Fri 18th - BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
- Mon 21st - Fri 1st - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

January

JANUARY 2021

- Mon 4th - INSET DAY - School Closed to pupils
- Tues 5th - First Day of Spring Term 1

*Please note that the swimming pool will be closed during the 4 week lockdown. The children will be having PE lessons in school on those dates and so should come into school in PE kit on the following days:

KS1- Monday & Friday KS2 - Monday, Tuesday & Friday

Thank you for support for Daisy

We raised an amazing £163.90

Our Harvest/Daisy Day was celebrated on Wednesday 14th October. Thank you all so much for your support in donating money for Daisy Akoth Adhola, the child we sponsor in Kisumu in Kenya. The sheets the children drew and coloured, showing what they were thankful for, were wonderful. Some of them have been put up on display in school by our Daisy Day display. I think we can all echo Cleo in Year 6s comments that she is thankful for 'school, garden, health, home, friends and family.'

Your generosity means we are able to cover Daisy's education for the year and send the small surplus to Plan International who work with the children and families in the area. Daisy is now 17 years old and our pledge is to see each child we sponsor through until they leave school at 18 years of age.

The children were all able to present various Harvest related performances out on the playground for us all to enjoy.

All of KS2 performed a body rap to 'What do we do at Harvest Time?' to start us all off.

The Reception class sang 'The Big Red Combine Harvester' beautifully-with actions as well.

Class 1 acted out 'The Enormous Turnip' so brilliantly we were all enthralled. The narration was clear and loud as was the singing of 'In My Little Garden' and 'One Potato, Two Potato'.

Years 3/4 read out some thoughtful Harvest poems

Years 5/6 used the letters H A R V E S T to spell out other things related to harvest such as 'starve', 'rest' and 'earth'. Very powerful.

Children in Need

Children in Need is back on Friday 13th November and this year it will be extra special. As mentioned in the last newsletter Isla, in Year 4, has been growing her hair in order to have it cut and donate it to the Little Princess Trust. The big 'cut' is going to happen on Children in Need day itself!

School Council have got together with Isla and decided that we will combine our Children in Need Charity Day with Isla's fundraising. They have chosen the theme of 'Wigs & Onesies' and would like children to come to school dressed in a wig, a onesie or both and send in a £2 donation (or more) on the day for this wonderful charity.

On that Friday there will also be a cake sale, a book sale and the opportunity to win some wonderful raffle prizes that Kerry Hart (Isla's mum) has organised.

All of the children will be invited to watch, either on the playground or up at the village hall in their bubbles, as Isla has her hair cut at 3pm on that day. Let's all get behind Isla for this wonderfully big-hearted and benevolent deed. What a superstar!

Bag2School

I am sure you all have very tidy wardrobes now, judging by the amount of bags we had donated for our recent Bag2School collection! A big thank you to Mrs Ledward who organised the event. We raised an impressive £69 which Mrs Ledward said was the biggest total we have ever had. Thank you to everyone that donated.

Willoughby Award Winners

Congratulations to our recent winners of the Willoughby Award, given for effort in work, behaviour and other aspects of school life:

1/10/20 Evelyn (Y2)
9/10/20 Louis (Y5)

16/10/20 Lillie G (Y4)

Football

Last half-term the whole school was involved in a 6 week football block on Fridays up at the Community Park. Sam Clements, from Clements Coaching, taught Reception and KS1 and then KS2 plenty of football skills whilst playing fun games and activities. Sam said he was particularly impressed with the quality and expertise displayed by both classes as well as the enthusiasm from everyone. The next Friday PE block will be fitness.

Christmas Fair

We are still trying to work out how to change some of our traditional Christmas activities in order to make them safe for everyone and stick to current guidelines. Unfortunately, we cannot have the same wonderful event we had last year.

I am working with FOWs on some ideas and we will let you know when plans are more formalised. In the meantime if you have any COVID secure ideas please let me, or any member of FOWs know!

Christmas Jumper Day

A final charity event to raise money, which was a popular choice when our School Council met, is to invite everyone to wear a Christmas jumper on Friday 11th December. Donations of £1 (or more) will go to the 'Save the Children' charity which is promoting, 'the silliest, woolliest, most generous day of the year'. Children could wear either a bought jumper or add decorations to a jumper or just wear something Christmassy!

Finally ...

- It was good to speak to the majority of parents/carers at our recent teacher phone calls. I know it is difficult not being able to just pop into school to see what the children have been up to, or to have a chat to the teacher. Our 'open door' policy is still there however, and we are more than happy to talk to you over the phone or at the school gate to discuss your child's emotional well-being or academic progress at any point during the term.
- Many thanks for your continued support for all that we do together to ensure all the children have a safe and happy environment in which to learn. In the weeks ahead it is going to be vital that we all support and look after each other through whatever is to come. If anyone is experiencing problems during lockdown, and we can help in any way, please let us know. We have a wonderfully, friendly and supportive staff who will help in any way possible.
- Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely



Beatrice Smith
Head Teacher

Home Learning- Contingency Planning

As we enter into another lockdown and a possible period of potential instability, Willoughby Primary School is committed to providing continuity of education to its learners. In times of disruption to a child's education, we will work with parents to support on-going academic progress and provide a sense of community.

We understand that a situation may occur in which the school, a class group, or an individual may need to be distanced from school for an extended period. Under current Covid-19 guidance, three circumstances may arise that would force a child to be absent but would mean that they are able to work at home with parental support. This would include:

- 1) a child being required to isolate for a period of 14 days due to a member of the household testing positive for coronavirus, or in accordance with the latest government advice upon returning from international travel. This presumes that the child remains fit and well
- 2) a school 'bubble' being required to isolate due to a confirmed case in school
- 3) the school being instructed to close due to a local or national lockdown or lack of staff.

(There is no obligation for the school to provide continuity of education to learners who absent themselves from school in contravention to school or government guidance. This may apply, for example, if parents choose to take learners on holiday during term time. Similarly, this would apply if parents made the decision, without prior agreement with the school, to absent their children from school 'as a precaution', against official covid-19 guidance.)

1) Remote learning for a period of individual absence

Assuming an absence has been agreed with the school, and the child in question is healthy enough to work from home, the school will provide work for them for as long as they are unable to attend in person.

This work will be created and shared with the parent/carer by the child's teacher. If the teacher is absent due to illness, another member of staff will take this role. This work will primarily reflect the English and Maths learning that has been planned for the class during that week. We will endeavour to send work that can be done with a degree of independence, but recognise that without the teacher's input, this is not always easy.

Where possible, class teachers will communicate with an absent member of their class on a twice-weekly basis. We use email to contact families virtually but recognise that a telephone conversation is equally effective.

2 & 3) Remote learning in the event of extended bubble/school closure

In the event of an extended school closure or a class bubble is required to isolate, the school will provide continuity of education in the following ways:

- a) An individual work pack will be sent out with each child which follows the normal timetable of the school week wherever possible
- b) Regular direct instruction from working teachers via email, telephone or Microsoft Teams where necessary
- c) Direction to relevant online resources to support work, where appropriate.

We will ask our families to:

- a) Encourage your child to complete the work set and engage with their learning, returning work at the end of the isolation period.
- b) At the same time, understand that early childhood education includes play, outdoor exploration, music, exercise, painting, strategy games, investigating simple science, cookery, listening and a huge amount of reading.

The extent to which different methods of instruction are employed is likely to be determined by the length of any school closure and the age and ability of both learners and teachers to participate in remote learning.

Expectations of learners and their parents/carers

Assuming that a learner is healthy and well enough to work, learners will be encouraged to participate as fully as possible in any remote learning. Parents and carers also have a responsibility to be proactive and engage with the school on a regular basis during this time.

Teachers will work on the assumption that learners will not necessarily have the full range of books and equipment that they would usually have in school. We will also be mindful of the fact that parents may have working commitments and will not overburden children with complex tasks.

Whilst additional online resources might accompany tasks, we understand that internet, devices, and printing may not always be available for a child's use in the home. We are also conscious of children working safely online with adult oversight, in accordance with our school policies.

Expectations of teachers

Presuming that a member of the teaching staff is fit and well, they will be responsible for delivering an agreed timetable of lessons to the children in their care. Learning will be communicated to pupils at regular intervals.

In the event of a teacher being unwell during a period of remote learning, it becomes the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure work is set to the class.

Teachers will be available to contact parents if needed, by email or phone.

Contact with families will be equitable, completed during working hours and fully in line with our Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding procedures.

Communication must always take place through official school channels (Willoughby emails and Microsoft Teams) and not through personal accounts or social media sites.

Pastoral care during a school closure

In event of a school closure, the primary responsibility for the pastoral care of a learner rests with their parents / carers. However, teachers should check in regularly to monitor both academic progress and their general wellbeing. Teachers will be expected to pass on feedback, particularly if there are concerns about a child's wellbeing.

A final word

With our shared vigilance and care, we sincerely hope that the Willoughby community will continue to be a healthy school environment.

The closure of school to individuals or groups of children is a last resort but may be a necessary step in the interests of our community's health.

Like all homework, we understand that the best home learning will not come as a one size fits all solution. We will do our best to tailor and adapt our provision and trust that you will take a positive and proactive approach to what will be a difficult situation.