

Willenhall Community Primary School

Newsletter

www.willenhallprimary.org

Ambitious young minds are the future leaders of our community



Dates for your diary

- Thursday 19th October**—children break up at 3:25pm
- Friday 20th October**—teacher training day—school is closed to pupils
- Monday 30th October**—Children return to school at 8:55am
- Tuesday 31st October**—Secondary School Application Deadline
- Monday 6th November**—Bonfire Lunch
- Tuesday 7th November**—School Photographs
- Friday 24th November**—Harvest Assembly
- Thursday 7th December**—Christmas Lunch
- Friday 8th December**—Christmas Fayre
- Thursday 14th December**—Reception Hand Washing Sessions
- Friday 15th December**—Early Years Performance
- Thursday 21st December**— Performance Assembly
- Thursday 21st December**—Last day of term
- Monday 8th January**—Staff Training Day (School Closed)
- Tuesday 9th January**— Children back to school

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a very exciting and productive start to the year. All the new children in Nursery and Reception have settled into school life really well.

We are always looking for new ways to improve the learning opportunities for children in school. To support our focus on maths we have launched a new initiative this term called "Maths No Problem". This is a teaching approach based on international research which has proved particularly successful in Singapore.

We are continuing our strong focus on reading in school and have introduced libraries into each classrooms to give children better access to a variety of different reading materials. We have employed lots of additional staff to support children with group reading. Parents are playing a big part too, we would like to thank all of the parents who have supported us this year by listening to their child reading at home, at least 4-times-a-week. In the first week of this term only 3 out of 13 classes met the 4-times-a-week challenge; by last week 10 out of 13 classes met this target. This is a fantastic improvement –well done parents and carers!

I hope you all have an enjoyable break from school next week. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 30th October.

C G Kiely (Head Teacher)

Mrs. Dalton's Attendance

At the start of September the attendance was very poor. However, over the last few weeks the attendance has improved greatly! In order to keep the trend going, we would like to remind parents that children should only be absent from school for genuine reasons such as illness. Appointments should be made outside of school hours and holidays should be booked outside of term-time.

Children in Need 2017



This November, we will once again be supporting Children In Need. Each and every year, as a school, we raise money for this amazing charity and we are aiming to do the same this year! Look out for further information to follow.

School Photographs



The school photographers will be in school on **Tuesday 7th November**. Individual photographs and siblings (in school) photographs will be taken of all children from Nursery through to Year 6. Please ensure your child is in the correct uniform on picture day!

Parents, welcome to:

Schoolgateway

The easy way to pay online for dinners and other items.

Download the app. Android and iPhone or visit: www.schoolgateway.com

Activate your account today!



Online Payments

46% of our parents are now registered on School Gateway and enjoying the benefits of being able to pay online for school items.

There is no charge to parents for this service.

If you haven't registered yet please visit www.schoolgateway.com



Remember to follow our Twitter account @WillenhallSch



School Uniform



You are now able to purchase sweatshirts, cardigans and book bags from the Andy Blair shop on Barker Butts Lane. Alternatively, you can still purchase uniform from the school office.

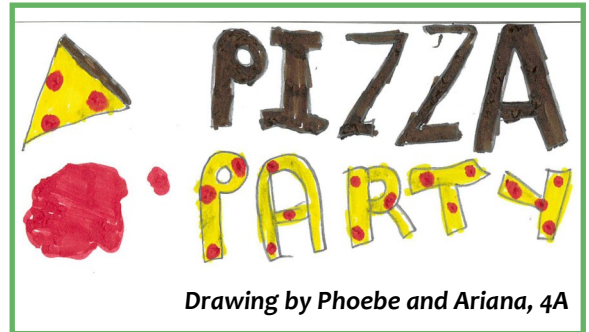
Please be advised that the price of uniform in the shop is slightly higher than purchasing from the school.

Pizza Party

In September several of our pupils attended a Pizza Party! This was a reward for the children who had 100% attendance last year. The children went to a local restaurant and were able to make and eat their very own pizzas!

“At the pizza party I enjoyed making the bread sticks! Also I loved putting all the toppings on the pizza.”

Phoebe, 4A



Drawing by Phoebe and Ariana, 4A



The Inspiration Wall

In Art we have 'The Inspiration Wall', this is a place where children can showcase any work that they have created at home. The Art teacher, Miss. Riatt, is amazed with all of the work that children have created. If your child has any art work that they would like displayed please encourage them to bring it into school. This is an opportunity for children to share their work with others and inspire peers to create art at home!

NHS

Boomerang Programme

During the last few weeks some of our pupils have taken part in a Boomerang programme. The aim of Boomerang is to give its members the tools to help them become more resilient and cope with anxiety and stress. It is a five-week programme which consists of an hour-session each week. Every week, a different topic is introduced, for example 'thoughts, feelings and behaviours' and 'building self-esteem'. Boomerang has been designed to help children learn different ways to cope with difficult feelings and to feel confident to manage difficult situations.

The sessions have been very successful, with pupils and staff commenting on how useful they have been. We are very fortunate to be one of the few schools in Coventry to be involved in this programme.

We also have our own Mental Health Nurse who is in school once a week. There will be parent sessions offered in the near future, keep a look out for further information.



Free School Meals

Did you know...

All children in Years **Reception, 1 and 2** are automatically entitled to **free school meals!** This is called Universal Infant Free School Meals (UiFSM). There is no charge for this meal as UiFSM is a government funded programme.

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are only entitled to Free School Meals if a parent applies for them. This can be done by going to the following website:

www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals

Don't worry if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch, having your child registered for free school meals means that if you need to swap them to school meals at short notice you can do so. It also means your child is able to take in special meal days such as **Christmas Dinner** and the **Bonfire Meal** free of charge!

It is really important that all parents apply for free school meals, regardless of your child's year group, as this could raise an **extra £1,300 per year for the school**. This funding is used to support additional teachers and support staff for targeted group work with pupils, the School Counsellor, the Speech and Language Therapist. Even if your child is in Years Reception 1 and 2, applying for free school meals means the school will still get funding.

If you would like to see the type of meals we have on offer please go to the following site:

www.willenhallprimary.org to see a copy of the menu.

We have a new menu coming starting in November—more information to following.

If your child would like to have a school meals please inform the school office who will be happy to help.



Reminders!



- ◆ **Contacting the school:** the School Office phones are on busy mode from 11:30am to 1:00pm every day. If you urgently need to speak to someone during those times, please call the school and listen carefully to the message for instructions on how to contact a member of staff.
- ◆ **Contact Details:** All contact details must be kept up to date. If anyone, who is a contact for your child, changes their number you must alert the school immediately. Please call to inform us or visit the school office for a form.
- ◆ **Change of Collection:** If someone different will be collecting your child from school, please ensure that you have notified the school office or class teacher. The school will not allow your child to leave school with a different person without prior permission from the parent.
- ◆ **Payments:** All payments that are sent into school must be in envelopes marked with your child's name, class and what payment is for. The school does not provide envelopes.
- ◆ All payments that are sent into school must be the correct money—the school does not provide change.
- ◆ If finding envelopes and the correct change is a nuisance—why not pay online via the Schoolgateway!
- ◆ **Lost Property:** Please ensure that your child's personal belongings have their name written in them. It is impossible for us to identify who identical types of clothing, such as cardigans and jumpers, belong to.

Separated Parents

When parents are separated the school cannot "take sides" and prevent one parent from collecting a child from school on the "say-so" of the other parent.

Both parents are legally entitled to collect their child from school unless a court order is provided to the school which states otherwise.

For further information please read our separated parents policy which is available in on the school website in the "Our School", "Policies and Procedures" section.

