



INSPIRE BELIEVE CHALLENGE ACHIEVE



Willow Fields Primary School

Friday 19th January

www.willowfieldscommunityprimary.org.uk

Hello everyone!

The Christmas season may have been and gone but I want to thank you for supporting school with the many events we held over the festive season. The Christmas fayre was very well attended and has provided school with funds to purchase some much needed resources. The carol service was well

attended and the performances by Nursery, reception and years 1 and 2 were absolutely lovely. Your children were amazing and were so confident in their performances. I was incredibly proud of each and every one of them and their teachers. They worked very hard and their singing was beautiful. I also want to thank you all for not taking photos and helping us to protect our children—it was much appreciated.

Special mention must go to the Key Stage 2 pantomime! I was absolutely blown away by the sheer confidence and assured performances of the children in the cast. The panto was hilarious and lines were delivered clearly and acted to perfection (Mrs Claus could teach us all a thing or two!) However it was the quality of the singing that really stole the show—it was amazing! It was a very special night. Many thanks need to go to the children for dedicating their time after school to rehearse and learn their lines, as well as to Miss Conner, Mr Tait, Miss Baxter and Miss Hill for their many hours organising, making props and worrying about it all being right on the night. I am hoping to persuade them to do an end of year play... watch this space!

The choir and Mrs Mason were also off around the community doing us proud. They visited local care homes and sang for the residents. Their efforts were very much appreciated by the community around school and they were praised for their beautiful singing and also their excellent behaviour. I am proud that the children of Willow Fields can represent the school and themselves so beautifully. Thank you to Mrs Mason and the children in the choir!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you all for attending our Friday morning celebration assemblies. It is always a delight to be in school and I am privileged to be able to see the excellent work the children complete each and every day. I love nothing more than visiting them in their classes to watch them as they learn. They are so proud of their achievements and take great pride in bringing their books to show me and to get a treat from the 'dippy box'. But it is your support that means the most to them and they love it when their grown-ups can attend the assemblies and celebrate their achievements with them. The children and staff appreciate you being there and I am enjoying getting to know you all—thank you!

As you are aware Miss Wilson is almost ready to have her baby and will start her maternity leave at February half term. I have started the recruitment process to find a teacher to take over her role while she is away enjoying time with her little girl and I will keep you updated as we progress through the process. Please be assured that although it will be a difficult task to find someone as special as Miss Wilson, we are committed to finding the right person to take over her class and continue the excellent work started by her with your children. We will miss Miss Wilson while she is away and look forward to meeting baby when she arrives! We wish Miss Wilson and her partner the very best as they move into this exciting chapter of their lives!

Reading books—We are delighted to let you know that we have now received our new reading books and are in the process of cataloguing them and allocating them to classes. Once this is completed, reading books will be sent home as part of the daily homework routine and all children will bring books home to read with you, as well as a book for you to comment in. We hope that you enjoy sharing these books with your children and watching them develop into fluent readers. We intend to send lists of questions that you can ask your child about the books you read as this will help them to understand the text. We ask that while books are at home that you encourage the children to look after them and return them in a good condition so that other children can also enjoy and benefit from them. We have spent a lot of time trying to get funding from the books and we can't afford to replace them if they get damaged.

I would like to remind you that our next parents evenings are on Wednesday 28th February and Thursday 1st March. This is an opportunity for you to speak to the teachers and look at your child's work books. I am very proud of the books and what they contain as they indicate that standards in school are rising. I can't wait to hear your views of school and the changes that we have made as we reach the mid-point in the year. I will be available to you should you want to discuss anything or give us any feedback. At this event, can I ask that if you have changed your contact details that you share them with Miss Hill on entry to the meeting. Letters will be sent out by the teachers after the half-term holiday to arrange appointment times.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a real strength of the school and that is in the children's excellent behaviour in and around the building. The children are responding well to the behaviour strategies in place and school is a calm and focused learning environment. Again I would like to thank you as parents and carers for supporting us with this. It has been a very positive change and it is allowing the children to produce some excellent work and their learning is a positive experience. We are also trying to take learning outside of the classroom and children are now taking part in some excellent and exciting visits beyond the classroom. Visits include Edinburgh, York, Whitehouse Farm, Eden Camp etc and the children have loved these experiences and have represented themselves and the school well. I am looking to arrange a weekend visit to an outdoor adventure centre and will be sending information to you soon to gauge interest as I feel that the children would really enjoy a weekend of team building activities with the staff! Watch this space!

We have recently started to work alongside the Foundation of Light. Mrs Suzie Mason is our family link within school and she is working hard to engage as many families as we can. There are many benefits to signing up to work with the Foundation as they can support with family learning experiences, extra-curricular activities and also days out for the family. Initially they are supporting school by providing an on-site counsellor one day per week to support children's emotional well-being and are open to working with as many children and families as possible. If you are interested in working with the Foundation of Light—please contact Mrs Mason in school for further information!

ATTENDANCE *-It is very important that the children attend school for as many sessions as they can and also that they arrive on time.* If your child is unable to at-

tend for any reason, please make sure that you telephone the office before 8.50am to inform us of the reason for the absence and when you think your child will return. By sharing this information, you really support school!

Remember—5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost

10 minutes late each day = 6 days lost

30 minutes late each day = 19 days lost

ATTENDANCE

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| Year 1 | 95.9% |
| Year 2 | 94.0% |
| Year 3 | 96.2% |
| Year 4 | 93.0% |
| Year 5 | 96.2% |
| Year 6 | 95.8% |