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Willow Fields Primary School

Thursday 5th September 2019

www.willowfieldscommunityprimary.org.uk

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly I want to welcome you back to school after a lovely 6 week break! I would also like to say a lovely welcome to the new children who have joined us this year and I hope that they are enjoying being part of the Willow Fields family. The children have settled back into school routines and are already working hard with their new teachers and we look forward to sharing the work that they are doing with you in the future. It was lovely to see all of the children looking so smart in their new uniforms and I am sure that we will have an amazing year!

It has been a very busy summer with lots of changes in and around school. It has been lovely to welcome some new staff to our school. Miss Hoyle is the new Year 4 teacher and Miss Bexley is now a teacher and will teach the children in year 3. We have 3 new HLTA staff supporting teachers in classes and who will be working with groups of children in the afternoon to support them with different aspects of their learning. We welcome Miss Pattison, Mr Smith and Miss Curtis. We also welcome Miss Shannon Low who will be working with us for a year as a sports apprentice. She has a history of coaching football and she has played for Sunderland ladies so we look forward to her supporting the children in all aspects of their physical education and play (and maybe some of the adults too.... Watch this space!)

I have been really impressed with how hard the staff have worked over the summer as the classrooms look amazing and are a really exciting place for your children to play and learn. Our staff are brilliant and they really work hard for the children and they have given up so much of their time to make the environment in school so much nicer for the children. Vinnie has also been very busy in the summer (as always) and this year has supervised painters, decorators and carpet fitters who have made some improvements to our school. I am sure that you will like the changes that we have made to make school a little bit nicer while we wait for our new school to be built! Exciting times are ahead and soon we will be able to share the plans for the new school and will be able to share more information with you.



Remember that Willow Fields has their own Facebook page and every staff member will post pictures of the learning in their class each week. Remember that to be accepted as a friend you **MUST** complete a Facebook friend request form which outlines the conditions of the page and then request us as a friend. As the requests are received, they will be cross-checked with the form to make sure that they match and the request accepted.

Remember—no form, no accepted friend request!



Safeguarding— As always, staff and governors want to work with you to keep all children in our school safe. Recently, we have struggled to contact parents and get important information and messages to some of you. This makes things difficult for staff as they need to be able to contact parents as soon as is necessary. Updated guidance for schools called 'Keeping Children Safe In Education' was launched at the beginning of September. Within this guidance it states that all schools in England **MUST** have at least 2 contact numbers for each child so that staff can contact parents or a nominated person at all times. We understand that people change phones or may run out of credit but there needs to be communication between school and yourselves at all times. Please make sure that we have **at least 2 working contact numbers** at all times. Should your number change, please inform school as soon as possible so that we can work with you to keep your children safe.

Homework and reading— Staff will give each child homework each week in the form of spellings, times tables, reading, English and Maths tasks. The English and Maths tasks will focus on practicing the skills taught in lessons that week and will not be new to your child. Reading is a priority for school and we really need your support to help your child to develop into a confident and fluent reader. Please could you support your child with their homework tasks each week and return them to school on time each Thursday. We really need your support in listening to your child reading at home for 5-10 minutes each night.

Any incomplete homework will need to be completed during break times in school.

Dates for Your Diary

I will be working with Miss Phillips soon to work out the dates for important events in school throughout the year and will be sending them to you as soon as we can. Keep checking book bags and Facebook so you have plenty of notice for key events!

Please be aware that no holiday requests in term time will be supported by the governors. Attendance is important to us and your children and once again we will be working with Attendance 100 in making sure that children are in school as much as they can be! Unfortunately last year we referred a case of poor attendance to the council welfare team and this may result in a fine. Please work with us by making sure that all children are in school every day!

Quick reminder from staff—please make sure that your child has their reading folder and reading record in school every day so staff can listen to the children read and make a comment in their reading record so you can see how well they are doing.



Staff also ask that all children have their PE kits in school every day too as these are needed for all PE lessons. (red or white PE top, black shorts and trainers) PE kits can remain in school and will be sent home each half term to be washed. It is really important for children to have PE kits so that they can attend competitions and practice their PE skills each week!

Best wishes to you all and as always, thank you for your support—Mrs Robertson & staff