



Willoughby Primary School
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Head Teacher: Miss Beatrice Smith

'Learning For Life'

2020 September

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome back to all the children after the Summer holidays. It is lovely to see everyone so refreshed and ready to start a new school year after such an unsettling time for us all. A particularly big welcome to our new starters in Reception. I hope they will all quickly settle in and enjoy their learning and all that Willoughby Primary School offers.

This issue contains:

- COVID 19 up date
- Class Organisation
- Staffing
- PE kit/Swimming
- Voluntary Contributions (French & swimming)
- Parent Evening Information
- Emergency Closure & Text Messaging Service
- Willoughby Award
- Holidays
- Key Dates for the term
- Looking After Ourselves and Others
- Finally ...

COVID 19 up date

Understandably, it has been a very disruptive and worrying time for all schools and school children across the country due to the interruption to learning caused by the lockdown. The staff and I feel fortunate, however, to have maintained contact and some teaching time with all of our children throughout the second half of the summer term. We now feel invigorated to have all the children back together, joining in 'Safe, Happy, Learning' whilst still adhering to strict Covid-19 government guidance.

The school risk assessment has been updated and measures have been put into place 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

Our planning has also included contingency planning in case any bubble has to go into quarantine due to a positive test in the bubble. We, obviously, are very hopeful that this will not happen but we need to be prepared for all eventualities. There will be more information on this to follow shortly.

We must all continue to remain vigilant and I must ask you, as parents, to play your part too. Please do not send your child into school if they are feeling at all unwell. With the winter months approaching it is best to veer on the side of caution and be sensible, as you usually all are.

Class Organisation

The structure of the classes this year is:-

- Class 1 - Reception/Year 1 & 2 (KS1)
- Class 2 - Years 3-6 inclusive (KS2)

Within this structure the Reception group (8 pupils) have Mrs Dornan as their key worker, overseen by Mrs Marshall.

Year 1 (8 pupils) and Year 2 (6 pupils) are taught by Mrs Marshall on Monday - Wednesday inclusive and Mrs Smith on Thursdays and Fridays.

Mrs Brooks continues to work with the Reception group all day Thursday and on a Friday morning along with her role of providing additional support across the Key Stages.

Within the Key Stage 2 setting, the Upper and Lower key stages are taught separately on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. When together the class size is 27 pupils in total, with Mrs Ridgway taking responsibility for learning in Years 3 & 4 (14 pupils) and Miss Smith Years 5 & 6 (13 pupils). In addition to Mrs Brooks, Mrs Dornan and Mrs Griffin provide extra support across the school.

In summary the class structure is:

Year	Class	Key Stage Group	No. of pupils
Reception (Foundation 2)	Class 1	F2 (Foundation 2)	8
Year 1	Class 1	KS1	8
Year 2	Class 1	KS1	6
Year 3	Class 2	KS2 (lower KS2)	7
Year 4	Class 2	KS2 (lower KS2)	7
Year 5	Class 2	KS2 (upper KS2)	8
Year 6	Class 2	KS2 (upper KS2)	5

Staffing

Our staffing remains consistent with last year, with some added Teaching Assistant hours.

I am also pleased to report that 'Rattle & Roll' will once again be running our music lessons starting on Tuesday 8th September and Sam Clements will be delivering a 6 week football programme before half term on Fridays. Sam will also be offering an after school club on Thursdays (a letter went out this week). In addition to this, our Drumming teacher Jake Clark will continue to offer drumming lessons on a Friday morning. Please contact Jake if you would like your child to start. Details are on the flier at the end of this newsletter and on the school noticeboard.

PE kit/Swimming

Following Government guidelines we would like all children to come to school in their PE kits on the following days:

- KS2 - Tuesday & Friday
- Reception & KS1 - Friday

PE kit should be: track suit bottoms and trainers with a normal school polo and fleece on top. Please could you also send in your child's school shoes in a plastic bag to wear in school after being up at the field.

As far as swimming is concerned, we are following the guidelines sent to us by School Swimming.

Voluntary Contributions

As many of you are aware our school budget is constantly under review with the unit cost of educating a child in a village setting considerably higher than in an urban setting. We are therefore dependent on 'voluntary' contributions for some of the activities we run as a school. Governors have looked at areas where we can ask parents for contributions and it was felt that swimming and French were areas where parents could help with the cost.

If there is genuine hardship and you are unable to contribute or would like to pay in instalments please let us know. I appreciate that there is a lot to pay out for at the beginning of the school year.

French - Please note children in Class 1 do not participate in French, so no contribution is expected.

The learning of a language is not statutory for KS1 and with a 'busy' timetable we made the decision to begin the teaching of French from KS2.

For parents of Year 3 children this means asking for a voluntary contribution of £30.00 per child, for a whole year of French. Parents in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be offered a discount to make up for the French which was not taught during the summer term (which had been paid for). The discounted amount is £20 per child in years 4, 5 and 6.

Swimming (All Year Groups)

As a school we spend approximately £3,830 on swimming which costs school approximately £78 per child including transport. The school budget will pay for just over half of this cost.

Children in KS2 will have 9 swimming sessions (from 7th September to 16th November) and in KS1/Reception they will have 8 sessions (from 23rd November to 8th February).

Based on a voluntary contribution of £4.50 per child, per session towards swimming (which includes transport) we will be asking for a voluntary contribution for a KS2 child of £40.50 or £36 for a KS1/Reception child (as they have one less session).

Please fill in the return slips sent home with your child and send them back into the office.

FOWs

We are incredibly lucky to have such a supportive, friendly and generous group of parents in FOWs and I would like to thank them for all that they do for the school. I would thoroughly recommend any new parents to the school to get involved with them! (They were responsible for the lovely welcome packs for Reception pupils on the first day of term). Their message to everyone is:

'Every parent is automatically a member of Friends of Willoughby School (FOWS), the function of which is to develop closer links between the parents, teachers and local community and to provide financial support towards educational resources and equipment.

Do you want to join the Friends of Willoughby School committee?

We welcome any ideas for fundraising from parents and carers and offers of support at events are always appreciated. Information about meetings can be found on the school website. All parents and carers are invited to attend. Please come and share your talents with our school!

Parents Evening Information

We would like to invite parents to a Parent/Teacher meeting on Wednesday 16th October. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold face to face meetings yet, but we will be offering telephone or remote meetings instead. The purpose of these early meetings is to discuss how your child has settled into the new term. We would like this arrangement to be **optional**, as you may feel quite happy with how things are going, especially if your child has been attending Willoughby for a number of years, or is in the same class as last year. Further details about appointment times and arrangements on how this will work will be sent later. As always, if there is anything of an urgent concern, please do not wait until parents evening to raise it, but call the school and arrange to talk to me or the class teacher.

Emergency Closure & text messaging service

The procedures we have in place if we have to close the school at short notice (e.g. heating/electrics failure, severe weather) is via the text messaging service. A notice will be posted on the school gate by Debbie Brooks to inform all parents that school is closed. We will have an announcement on local radio station, Trent FM.

We do not operate a phone chain, although if you have problems with your mobile signal you might like to make a private arrangement for a parent friend to phone you.

The text messaging service continues to be very popular with parent/carers, so we will be continuing to subscribe to the service again this year. In order to help pay for this, could you please return the slip at the bottom of the letter enclosing a voluntary contribution.

Willoughby Award

The Willoughby Award is returning this term! We will continue to have a celebration assembly and a Willoughby Award winner on Fridays (hopefully with a KS1/KS2 remote link up). In general, children will start to attain the award from Year 2 onwards. (The Reception/Year 1 children are generally too young to appreciate the significance of the award, which is why we delay awarding it until they have been at school for two years). The winner can take it home for the week and return it the following week.

Holidays

At Willoughby School we aim to achieve an attendance rate of over 96%. Days off school add up to lost learning- every school day counts! Please note that holidays should NOT be taken during term time. Under guidance from the DFE, holidays in term time can only be authorised for extenuating circumstances.

Please note our October half term holiday is now a **2 week** holiday from Monday 19th- Friday 30th October 2020.

Key Dates for the Term

Below you will find our first draft of dates for this term, which include dates for Movie Club which proved so popular last year. The club from 3.30pm to 5.00pm and is open to school years 1 - 6 in two separate classrooms for KS1 and KS2. Additional diary dates are often added at shorter notice, so look out for letters to update you.

DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2020

SEPTEMBER

- Tues 1st - Admin Day - School Closed to pupils
- Wed 2nd - First day of Autumn 1 Term
- Mon 7th - Swimming starts KS2 (1 of 9)
- Tues 8th - Music starts : 1-1.40pm KS2 1.40 -2pm Reception 2 -2.30 pm KS1
- Weds 9th - Movie Club (1 of 5) KS2 & KS1
- Thurs 10th - Sam Clements after school club
- Fri 11th - Sam Clements football (1 of 6) KS1 1.15 - 2.15pm and KS2 2.15 to 3.15pm

- Mon 14th - KS2 Swimming (2 of 9)
- Wed 16th - Movie Club (2 of 5)
- Thurs 17th - Sam Clements after school club
- Fri 18th - Sam Clements football (2 of 6) KS1 1.15 - 2.15pm and KS2 2.15 to 3.15pm

- Weds 23rd - Movie Club (3 of 5)
- Thurs 24th - Sam Clements after school club
- Fri 25th - Sam Clements football (3 of 6) KS1 1.15 - 2.15pm and KS2 2.15 to 3.15pm

- Mon 28th - KS2 Swimming (4 of 9)
- Tues 29th - School Photos (individual & siblings) 8.30 am start
- Wed 30th - Movie Club (4 of 5)

OCTOBER

- Thurs 1st - Sam Clements after school club
- Fri 2nd - Sam Clements football (4 of 6)
- Mon 5th - KS2 Swimming (5 of 9)
- Weds 7th - Movie Club (5 of 5)
- Thurs 8th - Sam Clements after school club
- Fri 9th - Sam Clements football (5 of 6)
- Mon 12th - KS2 Swimming (6 of 9)
- Weds 14th - Harvest/ Daisy day celebration
- Parents Evening/telephone/remote meeting

- Thurs 15th - Sam Clements after school club
- Fri 16th - Sam Clements football (6 of 6)
- Mon 19th - Fri 30th - HALF TERM (NB: 2 weeks)

NOVEMBER

- Mon 2nd - First day of Autumn 2 Term
- KS2 Swimming (7 of 9)

- Mon 9th - KS2 Swimming (8 of 9)
- Wed 11th - Armistice Day 11am
- Fri 13th - Children in Need dressing up day
- Mon 16th - KS2 Swimming (9 of 9)
- Thurs 19th - Christmas Club (1 of 4)
- Mon 23rd - KS1 Swimming (1 of 8)
- Thurs 26th - Christmas Club (2 of 4)
- Mon 30th - KS1 Swimming (2 of 8)

DECEMBER

- Thurs 3rd - Christmas Club (3 of 4)

Mon 7 th	-	KS1 Swimming (3 of 8)
Thurs 10 th	-	Christmas club (4 of 4)
Fri 11 th	-	Christmas Jumper Day
Weds 16 th		Christmas dinner - provisional
Thurs 17 th	-	Party Day
Fri 18 th	-	Break up
Mon 21 st - Fri 1 st	-	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
January		

JANUARY 2020

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

Looking After Ourselves and Others

Our school theme for this term is: Looking After Ourselves and Others

Everyone joined in so well with the Recycle, Reuse, Reduce theme and I am hoping for the same level of enthusiasm this term! I will be sending out a special booklet with a weekly activity to promote well-being and connection with others. If anyone has any suggestions of things we can all do or promote please get in touch - you are all a very creative bunch!

Finally ...

- Thank you all for your messages of support and well wishes coming back into school. We all really appreciate it. It is so good to see everyone back in school again.
- Please remember to name all items of clothing, book bags, shoes etc. and especially new P.E kit. Just a quick name in biro makes all the difference!
- Our 'open door' policy still stands. If you have any concerns, suggestions etc. please have a word at the gate or phone the school. We are all more than happy to talk things through.

Here's looking forward to a happy, healthy term.

Yours sincerely

Beatrice Smith
Head Teacher

Swimming Contribution

Payment of voluntary contributions can be made by cash, cheque (payable to Willoughby Primary School) or via bank transfer, details of which are below:

Bank: Santander
Account Name: Willoughby School Fund
Sort Code: 09-01-54
Account Number: 31744009

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KS2 Swimming (Y3-6)

Family name

I enclose/have transferred by interbank transfer (please delete as appropriate)

a voluntary contribution of
£40.50 (per child)

KS1 Swimming (YR-2)

Family name

I enclose/have transferred by interbank transfer (please delete as appropriate)

a voluntary contribution of
£36 (per child)

DRUMMING LESSONS AT WILLOUGHBY PRIMARY. REGISTER ONLINE NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2020!



Lessons are run on a weekly basis (Friday Mornings) between 9:00am and 12:00pm for a duration of 20 - 25 minutes in small groups during school time. The aim with these lessons is to create regular weekly education, in order for our pupils to develop competency on the instrument. Children can start playing the drums from year 1 upwards. Feedback is available to parents on demand, (contact us above or via our website). Drummers have the opportunity to perform at least once per year at a music showcase evening or a dedicated drumming concert arranged by the school and ourselves.

All equipment is provided. We offer a variety of resources from full acoustic drum sets, electric volume controlled drum sets, practise pad silent drums, head phones, PA and percussive instruments. All charts, sheet music, backing tracks and homework set for practise outside of our lessons are available online. All pupils play and practise together throughout the lesson and rotate from one station to the next. Initially it is not essential to have drums at home to get started, we can however provide information and advise on purchasing equipment as and when required.

The price per half term is £48.00 Inc VAT. Most half terms are 6 weeks but every so often shorter or longer half term may arise. Rockley Music Ltd carry out a minimum of 36 lessons per academic year. All bookings are made directly with Rockley Music Ltd. Student applications and time tables are then communicated with the school.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions, or if you wish to enrol please visit:

WWW.ROCKLEYMUSIC.CO.UK