



# WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

## Newsletter

### Diary Dates



#### November

24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Decorations go up
------------------	-----------------------------

#### December

6 <sup>th</sup>	Pantomime Trip
-----------------	----------------

8 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Film Night
-----------------	----------------------

8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Family time and Coffee Morning
-----------------	---------------------------------------

11 <sup>th</sup>	Dress Rehearsal for Christmas plays
------------------	-------------------------------------

12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Plays for parents of EYFS and KS1 children or KS1 with younger siblings.
------------------	--

13 <sup>th</sup>	KS 1 Christmas Play
------------------	---------------------

14 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS Christmas Play
------------------	---------------------



### Parking

#### Please:

**Dance Parents:** Please do not park in the staff carpark in the mornings! We need those spaces and have to park in a particular way to fit all our cars in! Please be considerate and park thoughtfully!

### Donations

#### Please:

Please keep donating drawing paper, colouring-in books and any spare Lego or Duplo that you might have, and thank you to everyone who has already donated!

### From the Headteacher

17<sup>th</sup> November 2017



The end of another busy week! Thank you to everyone who helped us support Children in Need day- it is very kind of you to support this charity. The children also enjoyed dressing up in their spotty outfits!

We will be practicing our **Christmas plays** in preparation for the performances starting 12<sup>th</sup> December (please see the box below for precise dates). Please remember that in order to keep everyone safe and comfortable, places for each performance will be limited through a ticket system. More information about this will be shared next week.

A number of parents have asked me about **absences at school**. If your child is unwell, they need to stay home from school, and possibly for a set time afterwards (for example, if they have a tummy bug or have been vomiting they need to stay off for at least 48 hours). If a child is not at school for any reason not related to ill health or a medical appointment, then you need to request authorisation from the school. I am only allowed to authorise absence in very strict circumstances, which can be classified as 'exceptional'- so which are 'rare, significant and unavoidable'. If an absence is unauthorised the school still needs to be informed of what is happening as there are different codes used to distinguish between unauthorised acknowledged absences and unauthorised unacknowledged absences.

Finally, a gentle reminder to have a look through the **lost property box**, as it will all be donated to charity at the end of term!

**Have a lovely weekend!**

*Michelle Masters*

### From the PTA



Thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas card project and to all the budding young artists. This raised just under £100. The gardening items the PTA purchased arrived last week and we look forward to hearing what the children will be planting.

#### **Christmas family film night - Friday 8th December 5.45pm**

We will be showing The Muppets Christmas Carol. Tickets are £3 per child which includes a drink and snack. 50p per accompanying adult. These can be purchased from our website [www.pta-events.co.uk/willow-bank](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/willow-bank) There will also be a few stalls on the night for the parents to browse and do some Christmas shopping whilst the children are enjoying the film. These include Younique make up, Tropics cosmetics and Liv's hair bows.

#### **Christmas Cake decorating competition - Monday 11th December.**

Children are asked to decorate a cake with a Christmas theme and bring it into the ICT suite from 8.40am on the morning of the competition. Mrs Masters will be judging the competition and awarding a prize based on the children's efforts. There will be a prize for the winner and runner up from each year group. All cakes will then be sold at our cake sale that will be in the hall from 3pm. We will also be selling drinks and 2nd hand uniform after school.

#### **Easyfundraising**

Join up to easy fundraising and raise money for the school every time you shop online.

Sign up at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/willowbanksa](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/willowbanksa)

### Family Time



**EYFS** Family time will not run this term as the children need settling time.

**Year 1** 8<sup>th</sup> December followed by coffee in the hall.

**Year 2** 24<sup>th</sup> November & 15<sup>th</sup> December followed by coffee in the hall.

Sessions will begin at 8:40 when parents and children can look through work or do an activity together in the classroom, and finish at 9:00am when registers are taken and the school day begins.

For the final session of the term, parents are invited to have coffee or tea with the teachers and Headteacher from 9:00am until 9:30am.



# WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

## Newsletter

*Congratulations for your certificate!*



*Well done Squirrels Class!*



*Happy Birthday to these children!*



*Congratulations to these children for their Headteacher's Awards!*







# WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

## Newsletter

### Christmas Information !

#### Christmas Plays: Dates and Times

##### EYFS

Family Performance (EYFS followed by KS1) on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am

Nativity Performance on 14<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am and 2:20pm

The EYFS performance will be approximately 20 minutes long.

##### Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

Family Performance (EYFS followed by KS1) on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am

Christmas Performance on 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am and 2:00pm

The KS1 performance will be approximately 40 minutes long.

### Pudsey Day!





# WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

## Newsletter

### Staffing News



#### Staffing News

As you are all aware, both Mrs Killick and Mrs Merritt have been poorly this term.

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Merritt is feeling much better, and has begun a phased return to work, which means she will be in class each day, but not necessarily for the whole day. Mrs Merritt will be back in class full time from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Mrs Killick is still suffering from her back injury, and so will not be in school next week. Her return date is still unclear, and I will hopefully be able to share more news and information with you by the middle of next week.

### From the Governors



School governors are the 'critical friend' of the school. Two words, both very important. We need to be "critical", so we will challenge the school on policy, finance, pay, staffing, outcomes and a number of other activities. But also, "friend" is significant. We're there to support the school in the best way we can, and very importantly, to make sure all children are kept safe and well in our school.

This term has been really busy for us as we have reviewed the staffing to ensure we have enough people to support all of our children, along with reviewing policies and budgets. The issue of the national funding formula keeps many headteachers awake at nights, along with Bursars, School Business Managers and Governors. But it shouldn't keep you awake worrying about whether your school has enough money to cope! There's been some additional media interest this week due to schools in this area starting to charge parents for basics e.g. paper, pens, support staff etc. Some have done this for a few years already. At Willow Bank Infants, the new funding will of course have a longer term impact on our budgets, but we are in a solid position, and this is why we feel that what is most important is ensuring that the children have everything they need to do the very best they can at our school. We are blessed with a fabulous School Association who also raise a fantastic amount of money for the additional activities and equipment for the school, along with getting great parent support to help bring in some of the initiatives e.g. putting up and painting fences. We can never say never on any of this, as government policy can change at any point, but we will always have your children's best interests at heart.

We also follow up on your feedback that we hear from Mrs Masters, other staff and parents, but also formally. We have had lots of feedback about communication and we are just testing a new parent smartphone app for you so watch this space in the coming few weeks for the launch details. We will also shortly be putting out a formal questionnaire for you to give your views about how you and your children feel about the school.

Over the last half term and also shortly before, our governing body has also changed a lot. We were unfortunate to lose our Clerk at the very end of last term and still have not replaced this role. However we also had a few Governors move on for various reasons and I would like to express my sincere thanks to Rob Nicholls, Vicky Hall, Lucy Rayner and Rebekah Brumby for all of their support. Rebekah in particular has had many years of service as Governor and past Chair, and we will miss her very much. With the out, comes the in too though, and we're delighted to have welcomed Sonja Napier, Ian Tyreman and Graham Rayner into their first FGB meeting this week since their appointments last month. They are already getting stuck in!

One of our aims this year is to become more visible within school as all our Governors (bar two) are current parents, so we'll get some photos up, and wear some badges when we're attending events, and do please feel free to come and speak to us about anything you wish! You can also contact me directly via [chair@willowbank-inf.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:chair@willowbank-inf.wokingham.sch.uk). We're also on Twitter!

Thank you for your continued support of the school.