



WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

Newsletter

Diary Dates



October

21 st	Potential Harvest Assembly
23 rd	INSET
26 th – 30 th	October Half Term Holiday

From the Headteacher

2nd October 2020



What miserable weather we have at the moment- hopefully we are in for better weather this weekend.

I would like to start this week's newsletter with a list of things to say 'thank you' for. Firstly, **thank you to all the parents who were so patient with the teething troubles we had with our virtual parents' evening** this week. I know the format and organisation were different from usual, but the majority of sessions went ahead without a hitch. Hopefully as it seemed to get easier with each day's sessions, we shouldn't have any trouble with the parents' evenings we will hold in November. **Thank you also to every parent who sent their child into school to have a school dinner yesterday.** We had 152 meals served, which is the highest amount we have had this year so far. It will really make a difference to the amount of money we have to take from our budget to pay for the school meals this year! **Thank you also to all the wonderful parents who are wearing a mask** when dropping off or collecting their children from school. And, **thank you also to all those parents who are exiting the playground swiftly** once they have dropped off or collected their children. We all really appreciate the effort you're making to keep us healthy, safe and open.

You may have noticed that we have been **opening the classroom doors a little earlier in the mornings**, this is in an effort to reduce the number of children and parents on the playgrounds and also to make it less congested on the playground and around the classroom doors. Hopefully having a 15 minute window in which to drop off your child in the morning will make it a little easier to keep socially distanced.

If you have a message to pass to your child's teacher, please can you write a little note which you hand over when your child goes into class, rather than chat with the teacher. Ordinarily, we encourage you to chat to your child's teacher, but at the moment, we are trying to reduce the contact between adults in school. You can also email or call the school to arrange a telephone call with your child's teacher if needed.

As part of the safety measures we have had to take in school, **we are required to keep our windows open for ventilation in the classrooms, which means that some of the classes can be quite cold** (particularly in Year 1 and EYFS). Please ensure that you send your child into school with a jumper (it doesn't have to be a school jumper) so that they can stay warm in class.

A few reminders, **firstly, parents need to fill in and submit their e-consent forms for their children's flu vaccinations as soon as possible**, and by Monday at the latest. We all know that preventing other winter flu viruses is especially important this year! Secondly, we will be having our **school photographs on 21st October**. Regrettably, we will not be able to arrange sibling photographs this year, unless both children are in the Infant School, as we cannot allow cross-bubble contamination.

A number of children are coming into school with **very large keyrings** (soft toys etc) attached to their bookbags. Aside from being so large that the children's trays can't close, they are also potential infection carriers. Keyrings are a good idea to help children quickly find their own bookbags, but please limit it to one small keyring (the Fab Brick keyrings that help fundraise for the PTA are just the right size) that is easily wipeable with a disinfectant wipe.

The **Year group weekly bulletins will be on the school website** as they were last week (find them at <https://www.willowbankinfant.com/web>). Please do let us know if you are struggling to access the bulletins, as we will be relying on the website access in the case of a year group or school wide closure.

Have a lovely weekend!

Michelle Masters



Please
Wear a Mask or
Face Covering

Thank you!



Please wash
your hands





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Happy Birthday and Congratulations to these children!



Book Festival Information

Wokingham Libraries Virtual Book Festival

Wokingham Libraries in partnership with Wokingham Town Council have been working hard during this unconventional year to still bring you the joy of the book festival virtually!

That's right, we've transferred all the talks with authors online this year so you can watch from home. Places will still have to be booked, but you won't have to pay as there are limited places on the system we've chosen to bring you the festival on.

The festival will be run over Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th of October 2020, and You can download the schedule for the 17th and 18th October [here](#).

Tickets and more information can be found here: www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/bookfest.

Join us for talks with Chitra Soundar, Steve Antony, Peter Bunzl, Onjali Q Raúf, Inbal Leitner, Roopa Farooki, Smriti Halls and Ken Wilson-Max. Debut novelists Elle McNicoll and Iszi Lawrence complete the amazing line up for this year's Wokingham Children's Book Festival!

We look forward to you joining us for this very special occasion this year.