



WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

Newsletter

Diary Dates



November

25th Prospective Parent Open Day

26th – 28th Parents' Evening-appointments are available via Parentmail.

29th Year 2 Family Time

December

2nd, 3rd & 4th Prospective Parent Open Day

5th PTA Non-uniform day (Bring a Bottle) more information to follow

6th Dress Rehearsals for EYFS and KS1 Christmas Plays

9th Pantomime at school- Aladdin

10th Family Christmas Plays- 9:30am for parents with children in both EYFS and KS1.

11th EYFS Christmas Nativity Play- 9:30am

12th KS1 Christmas Play for Year 1 Parents- 9:30am

12th KS1 Christmas Play for Year 2 Parents- 2:15pm

From the Headteacher

22nd November 2019



I am extremely pleased to be able to announce that through working with the Rotary Club to fundraise for Children in Need day, 6 schools in our area managed to raise a wonderful £3895! With a further £4020 from the additional Rotary activities, we have contributed towards just over £8000 going to support local and national work to support disadvantaged children. Thank you so much for your contributions to this amazing charity!

Please remember to book your appointments for our Academic Parents' Evenings which run from Tuesday to Thursday, 26th to 28th November. Appointments need to be booked through the Parentmail app, so please ensure that you have signed up for your Parentmail account and that you download the app onto your phone to keep up to date with the forms, letters and appointments that we have.

As part of our renewal of the reading scheme (and rearranging of books and levels) in order to meet the Phonic and Reading needs of our children, we will be collecting in all reading books on Monday 2nd December, and will then only be able to send reading books out again in the New Year. Please supplement your child's reading with books from home or borrowed from the library. I will be sending out more information about the changes we are making in the next few days.

We will shortly begin organising and arranging the tickets for our Christmas Plays. This year, we will have our family performance, which is both the EYFS Nativity and the KS1 play performed one after the other, for parents with children in both plays and for those of you with younger children. The EYFS Nativity play will be on 11th December at 9:30am, and the KS1 Play for Year 1 parents will be at 9:30am on 12th December, with a repeat performance for our Year 2 parents at 2:15pm. I will be sending out a parentmail with more information shortly.

May I also point you to the letter from our Chair of Governors on Page 3 of this newsletter? We have made some important changes to the structure of the Governing Body!

I hope you have a lovely weekend!

Michelle Masters



**Parents...
please drive
safely when
dropping off
or picking up
your children.**

From the PTA



Elfridges

Only two weeks to go now until our Festive Family Fun Evening! One thing that has always been a popular feature at previous Christmas events is 'Elfridges' and we are anticipating that this year will be no exception. Elfridges is an opportunity for the children to go into our 'secret shop' (no grown-ups allowed) where they can buy a special gift for all of their loved ones. These will be then wrapped by our team of volunteers ready to go home under the tree! The children always love it! For this event to be successful, we rely heavily on donations- things like unwanted gift sets, toiletries, notebooks, candles, mugs, socks, ties, novelties, jewellery and chocolates. Please help us make this event a success. Please can we have all donations by Friday 29th November.

Volunteers at the Festive Family Fun Evening

To make the Christmas event run smoothly, we need a team of volunteers to help run some of the stalls. Please consider giving up just 30 minutes of your time on the evening of Friday 6th December. Keep your eye on our facebook page to sign up for a slot. Don't have Facebook? Not a problem. Just drop us an email at wbiis.pta@hotmail.com and let us know your preferred slot (6:00-6:30, 6:30-7:00, 7:00-7:30 or 7:30-8:00).



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Happy Birthday to you!



Congratulations to these children!



Autumn Term Checklist

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From the Willow Bank Governors

The Governing Body are generally an 'invisible force' that sits alongside the school leadership team to provide strategic guidance and scrutiny to ensure the school is running as it should.

Our Governing Body has previously been structured in a fairly typical format, which is to have a Full Governing Body, a finance and resources committee and a committee which focuses predominantly on school development and pupil progress. Most recently we have been reviewing our whole school vision and strategy (more to come on this in the New Year!) and it has given us the opportunity to look at the way we operated and supported the school.

Through this review we found that we were asking Mrs Masters in particular, but also some staff and Governors to duplicate work several times over which as a small school and one where we are committed to reducing staff workload, felt counter-intuitive. Therefore with immediate effect, we have now agreed to operate one single Governing Body structure which will meet 6 times per year but create a structured agenda for each meeting which will focus on either finance or school development depending on where we are in the school term.

We also have a responsibility to check the school in its true environment i.e. during the school day or at events etc. This previously took the form of us walking round every single class with a series of things to check in a report, once or twice a year each. This isn't working with the culture of our school and therefore we've switched ourselves to track a school class through so that we can truly understand progress and attainment at Willow Bank Infant School. We have organised ourselves as follows:

Badgers - Graham Rayner

Rabbits - Robin Drummond

Foundation - additional supporting Governor - Sarita Wilkes

Squirrels - Becky Stewardson

Foxes - Claire Frohnwieser

Hedgehogs - Ian Tyreman & Shashi Rana

Owls - Nicola Penny & Sonja Napier

We will support the staff in our allocated class by listening to reading, looking at book progress across the cohorts, and by asking questions of both staff and children- we hope to get to know all of your children better too! We also have specific governors for Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Access & Inclusion, along with a lead for Teaching and Learning, and for Finance. These will all be updated on the website in due course.

If you have any questions about our Governing Body, or feel you need to raise any issues, you can do so via the School Office or you can contact me via chair@willowbank-inf.wokingham.sch.uk

With best wishes,

Becky Stewardson

Chair of Governors, Willow Bank Infant School