

The Willows Primary School Weekly Update – Week Ending 26th February 2021

GOOD NEWS AT LAST!!

I think I could hear the collective sigh of relief from the whole nation on Monday when the Prime Minister outlined the road map out of lockdown. I was delighted, as I am sure you were too, to learn that schools would be fully open again on 8th March 2021. We cannot wait to have ALL the children back in school and start our journey back to normality.

I hope you all had a good break at half term and managed to find time and activities to spend doing as families. Thankfully the weather was reasonably kind so that outdoor pursuits were accessible. My garden certainly benefitted from my attention and after three lockdowns have finally joined the throngs of cyclists with a new bike!!

In preparation for the full re-opening of school, the Willows' Risk Assessment has been updated (this has been posted on the school's website under the Parents Tab and Covid 19) and I attach an outline of arrangements which will be very similar to the return in September 2020.

ALL children will return to their original September Bubbles, please see a reminder of timings below:

Gate	8.30am 3.00pm	8.40am 3.05pm	8.50am 3.20pm	9.00am 3.30pm	9.05am 3.35pm
Field			Spruce	Cabin	Maple
EYFS	Nursery	Ash	Oak (3.15pm)	Elm (3.25pm)	
KS1 / Main		Beech	Pine	Larch	
Children's		Chestnut	Fir	Hawthorn	

All staff are very mindful that each child may return with different experiences of 'Lockdown 3'; physically, mentally, socially and educationally. We would value input from both pupils and parents in supporting our understanding of these and attach questionnaires to enable you to inform us of your experiences and voice your needs (if you wish to do so). We aim to cater for each child through the principles of 'The Recovery Curriculum' (A full version of this document is on the school's website under the Parents' Tab and Covid 19)

- Creating a safe environment for ALL
- Awareness of mental health and wellbeing
- Re-engaging with learners and their parents
- Supporting children with re-learning to learn skills
- Identifying gaps and setting goals
- Prioritisation of curriculum provision

We will also be implementing Hopfall et al's (2007) '5 Principles' of Recovery', (A full version of this document is on the school's website under the Parents' Tab and Covid 19)

These are:



- Safety
- Calm
- Connection
- Self and Collective Efficacy
- Hope

In the meantime we continue to care for critical workers' children in school and provide home learning and support for those unable to attend on site. We were delighted to see and have contact with everyone after their half term holiday and impressed with the way that all children refocussed on their work after the break. Once again children enjoyed seeing each other on Zoom calls with the special treat of whole year calls on Friday. Not long now until we are all together in person in school.

A decision has been made to delay Parents' Evenings (these should have taken place next week on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th March 2021) We will inform you of the new dates as soon as possible.

As you may know, at school we often use a 'Daily Mile,' as a way of helping our children to achieve their 60 daily active minutes. I think many of the children learning from home have been keeping up with this too. (I sometimes see some of you running through our local area!!) 'The Daily Mile' is a short ten minute burst of walking or running, to help energise, re-focus and inspire children to lead healthy active lifestyles. To help 'The Daily Mile' to celebrate 500 Greater Manchester schools joining the daily exercise and movement initiative, lots of Willows' children took up the challenge to design a running vest. The mission was to design an item that celebrated Greater Manchester and the fantastic milestone of 500 schools joining the initiative. We were delighted that Freya in Year 5 was the eventual winner of the competition, beating hundreds of other entries to win her prize; her design was made into an actual running vest! This has been beautifully framed and is on display in school. Huge congratulations, too, to both Charlie J and Martha in Year 5 for coming in 3rd and 5th place respectively, and well done to all children that submitted an entry.

The link attached is a short celebration video, where you can find out a little more about the Daily Mile initiative, as well as see our top 5 placed designs.

Daily Mile page - <https://mailchi.mp/greatersport/the-daily-mile-in-greater-manchester-476142?e=bdbbef22b6> Then you need to click a link half way down the page...

Today has been Miss Jones' last working day before she starts her maternity leave on Monday 1st March 2021. I am sure you would have loved to have been able to see her to wish her all the best (as we too would have done) However when I spoke to her via Zoom today she was very excited about the imminent arrival of her little one and promised she would keep in touch with us all. Mrs Mason will continue to teach reception Elm until the end of the academic year. Mrs Mason has been a wonderful addition to our Willows team. The children in school (and the staff) have warmed to her very quickly and I know home learners have enjoyed her online lessons. She is looking forward to getting to know the rest of Elm class in person.

Only one more week to go and we will all be able to meet again. I look forward to seeing you all as the children return on Monday 8th March 2021. Thank you for all your support, understanding and patience over the last few weeks.

Take care,
Mrs Warren