



24th July 2020

Dear Parents,

Well we have all made it!! We have finally reached the end of this very challenging academic year. Congratulations to all of you and well done on your courageous efforts with home learning. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all the staff for their contributions and support of all our children both at home and at school. In fact I know so many of you have shown your appreciation by the giving of very generous presents to staff. Our quarantine shelf has been overflowing all week!! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to my incredible set of gifts or has sent something in for me, I am over whelmed by your kindness and generosity.

Mrs Mitchell announced the winner of the Eco-council's Biodiversity Photo Competition. It has made her feel very proud to see the inspiring work our Willows community does at home to help and appreciate our amazing environment. The photos were judged not only for the quality of the photo, but also for the impact that person has had on helping to support biodiversity and the environment. Unfortunately we didn't get entries from every year group, so the children's entries were judged as a whole. Congratulations to the overall winner James (Year 5)! Congratulations also to the runners up, Emma (Year 4), Ted (Year 1), Nell (Reception), Jack (Year 2), Lorelai and Elijah (Years 1 and 4) The Snape family (for various amazing entries) and Penelope (Year 1). Finally, the parent/staff/prize goes to Helen (Moli's in Year 5's mum). A slideshow of all the photos will be shown in a virtual assembly in September. The photos are so beautiful that Mrs Mitchell is also going to make a photo book that we will proudly display on the Eco table in the corridor of main school. Thank you to Mrs Mitchell for all her enthusiasm and hard work she has put into raising our awareness of environmental issues and helping the school become more eco-friendly.

The last week has been very full; children in school have had 'distanced' interaction with their new teachers for September, children learning at home have had visits from their new teachers during their after school sessions, some of those who haven't made it into school have had zoom calls from their new teachers. Many other transition discussions and activities have taken place within learning bubbles and activities posted on class pages for children at home.

The Year 6 have enjoyed a range of special leavers' activities ranging from; tie tutorials, an afternoon's 'music festival' to a leavers' assembly. This was attended on Zoom by the rest of the school and parents; we were treated to another brilliant 'Byrne Production' (the staff contribution will be posted on the school website <https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/class-pages/>) and I trust the children took on board the messages behind my 'Chocolate talk' (See Thought for the Day – 24th July 2020 <https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/mrs-warrens-page/>) We were able to say thank you to Meggy and Stephanos, our head girl and head boy for their contributions to the leadership within our school, presenting them with a framed certificate and small gift, each Year 6 child also received a leavers' certificate. The children and teachers had worked hard on the Leaver's books, which they also collected in the assembly, finally the afternoon was completed by a 'guard of honour' send off.



Please find attached a letter from Jill McGregor, the Corporate Director of Children's Services. In it she informs parents that Trafford have offered schools an additional INSET day in September to prepare for the full opening of schools. Having discussed this with the governors and the senior management team we feel that this would not be in the best interests of our children. We had already planned for two INSET days on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September (Monday is a bank holiday), if we took an extra day it would mean that the children would only attend school one day that week, which we feel would be unsettling for them. Two days of getting used to new learning groups and new routines would be very useful and then we can 'hit the ground running' in terms of learning on Monday 7th September 2020.

It is our hope that the children come back to school in September buzzing with excitement for meeting up with their new teachers, rekindling friendships, as well as making new friends and starting a new year of learning. September will be a month of re-adjustment, we will be observing the children carefully, conducting informal as well as some formal assessments to judge each child's wellbeing and educational needs. Please rest assured that we will take good care of your children; helping them to settle to new routines and ways of doing things in school, as well as supporting them emotionally, socially and to catch up with any learning they may have missed and ensuring that they all make progress and achieve.

It is a real privilege to serve each and every family of our community. This year has had its challenges but I have felt blessed to receive so much support from you all. I am so fortunate to be part of such a wonderful team and school. Thank you for entrusting your children into our care. All that remains for me to say is that I wish you a happy and safe summer holiday. I hope that you all stay well and are able to enjoy some relaxing times together, whether that be at home, somewhere in England or the UK or maybe even abroad! I look forward to seeing most of you again in September and meeting some new members of our school family properly for the first time.

Take care,

Mrs Warren

