



10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

I can't believe this is the 16<sup>th</sup> weekly update that I have sent you. I have to say I enjoy writing them as it helps me feel a connection with you all, I do hope that you find them useful and informative. The theme of this week's information seems to be forward planning, which is positive and brings hope.

Once again, this week has allowed us to offer the children of the Willows new experiences. We absolutely loved welcoming back children from Year 2 to Year 5 as they visited us after school. It was a joy to see their faces as they saw some of their friends and teachers for the first time in months. In fact, we struggled to get a word in edge ways as they were so keen to talk to each other and share their news with staff. It was brilliant to see them playing together in the school grounds and we were so impressed with how they coped with our additional rules and managed to stay a stretch apart from each other. Even the rain and cold temperatures couldn't dampen their spirits. We look forward to doing it all again next week.

We also received the results from the 'Virtual Sports Day'. I am so proud of all our children, staff and parents who entered into this with enthusiasm and dedication. We are delighted to announce that we did really well and achieved 3 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze medals. Please find a document of results attached (which I will post on the school website as well) I am so delighted that this was another way to bring our community together even though we may be separated physically.

Our thoughts are now turning towards the end of term. We are very aware that things will have to be different, especially for the Year 6 children who will be leaving us to move onto different secondary schools in September. Mr Byrne and the Year 6 staff are planning some special events for the last week of term, these will include some of the traditional favourites like a leavers' assembly with leavers' year books and certificates. However, we are so sorry to say that the assembly will have to take place without parents in a different format due to Covid restrictions. The children have already asked me to do 'my chocolate talk' so that is being planned in too! We hope to have a leavers' event outside during the school day (we are watching the weather forecast closely) and of course a leavers' clap as the children leave (although again this will have to be a bit different due to Covid restrictions). Mr Byrne will write out to Year 6 parents with specific details once all arrangements have been confirmed.

Not only are we planning for the end of term we are also thinking about next academic year and the return of all our children in September. Following the publication of government guidance we have been formulating a plan for the re-opening of school. Our action plan and an updated risk assessment will be discussed and approved by governors next Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. I will be emailing out to all parents / families next Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 with information about your children's learning bubbles, teachers, new procedures as well as drop off and collection details (these will be staggered from 8.40 – 9.05am and 3.05 – 3.40pm). I appreciate you normally receive this information before the middle of July, so I thank you for your patience and



understanding in having to wait. We believe it is important to get this right (which takes time) so that we can ensure your children's safety and continued high quality education. The government have issued information for parents to read which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

I am sure lots of you are thinking ahead to your summer holidays, I hope that will be able to organise some fun days and even a break away. I know I am desperate to get back to Wales, which I believe is 'open' this weekend! Happy planning and I will catch up with you all again next week.

Take care,

Mrs Warren

