



3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a good week. It has been a busy five days as far as our Willows community is concerned. I can't believe we have moved into the month of July, the last month of this school academic year. What a year it has been!!

Our week started with teachers facilitating Zoom calls to pupils still learning at home. I know the adults loved seeing all the children and hearing all of their news. I even managed to 'photo bomb' a few, which was fun! It has been wonderful to hear about children sharing pictures, things they have made, their toys and even jokes and songs!! We hope this was a boost for everyone who is waiting to come back to school. Thank you to those who used the feedback forms sent out last week, this is certainly helping plan for everyone's future return.

Wednesday was our 'Virtual Sports Day'. Unfortunately the weather wasn't as kind to us as we had hoped, but hopefully everyone managed to complete some activities during the week. The children in school really enjoyed their events and it has been brilliant to see some many children joining in at home too. Thank you for all your scores and posts on SeeSaw. Mr Codd will inform us of our results in comparison with other Trafford schools, once all the data has been received.

We are very mindful that most of our Year 2 to Year 5 children will have been absent from school for nearly 6 months as they are unable to return before September. We are therefore offering non-keyworker children in these year groups a number of face to face opportunities to touch base with us here at the Willows. We are planning to run three outdoor sessions for each year group (we will use the canopies on the playground if it rains), enabling us to meet all social distancing and other Covid-19 restrictions. We are inviting the children to attend school in two groups of 15 or less per year cohort, with staggered starts and finishes. They will have some circle time with their teachers and a play time with friends in their group. We are very excited about seeing the children again and hope they have a great time with their teachers and friends.

The government has confirmed that schools will not be required to stay open to care for key worker and vulnerable children during the summer holidays, therefore the Willows will be closed. Those of you who have contracts with RSP will already have received an email from Mrs Fahy explaining that due to a number of factors they too will be closed for the summer holidays. It is my understanding that Trafford Council are planning to provide some holiday child care provision, so I will let you know any details of these as soon as I receive them. I believe there are also some other external child care providers who will be running holiday clubs either at schools or other venues so it is worth keeping an eye on local news for adverts and information.

The long awaited news from the government about the opening of schools in September was published yesterday (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July). We greeted the confirmation that **ALL** children will be joining us in September with delight. There is a lot of detail in the guidance documents, so please be patient and bear with us as we use it to plan for the re-opening of school in September. We will let you know of our intentions as soon as they are finalised and approved by the governing body. We will also let you know which class your child is in as soon as our plans are complete. In the



meantime Alice Oultram, a former parent, who provides our school uniform through 'My Embroidery Supplies' has asked that parents place uniform orders as soon as possible so that she can guarantee delivery for the beginning of term. Orders can be placed through the school website at <https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/school-uniform/> or <https://www.myembroiderysupplies.co.uk/>

I feel encouraged that every week more restrictions are being lifted and we are allowed to do more. I believe we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and begin to hope for a brighter and more 'normal' future. Thank you to you all for working hard in your families to follow the rules, keeping yourselves and each other safe. I am confident that our wonderful Willows family will keep this up so that 'real life' returns sooner rather than later.

Take care,

Mrs Warren