



22nd May 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

Congratulations! You have managed to get through a whole half term of home learning!! I appreciate that for most of you this has been a bitter sweet experience, with some fantastic family times and some trickier working moments! We would have broken up for the half term Whit holiday today, so please step back over the next two weeks and have some down time and relax.

Teachers will NOT be posting any learning tasks on the website until Tuesday 9th June 2020. However, I will still be publishing my 'Thought for the Day' posts so do have a look at them (Monday to Friday) <https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/class-pages/> Although it is the half term holiday, school will still be open for key workers' children after the Bank Holiday Monday on Tuesday 26th May 2020. Teachers and teaching assistants will still be working providing child care for these pupils and preparing for a possible reopening of school.

Thank you to all of you who provided information about your intentions for your children regarding the possible opening of school in June 2020. This will now allow us to continue working on our action plan for the potential return of key worker children and those children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. This plan will need to be agreed by the school governors, with a meeting scheduled for Thursday 28th May 2020. We should hopefully hear from the Prime Minister on that day as well as to whether schools will definitely reopen from 1st June 2020.

If that is the case the Willows will reopen to staff for an INSET day on Monday 8th June but will be closed to **ALL** children, including key workers' children. This is to allow for staff training and preparation. We will then operate a phased return to school starting with confirmed key workers' children on Tuesday 9th June, followed by some additional Nursery and Reception on Thursday 11th June and others on Monday 15th June 2020 (non-key worker children who have indicated they want a school place in Nursery and Reception will attend on alternate weeks to allow us to keep learning bubbles at the maximum of 15 children). All non-key worker Year 1 children will start on Monday 15th June 2020 followed by all non-key worker Year 6 children on Wednesday 17th June 2020.

We will communicate with you on Monday 1st June with regards to our plans for your children. Please note that we will be operating staggered start (8.40am -9.40am) and finish (2.40pm – 3.35pm) times. This will to allow children to arrive and leave in their 'learning bubbles' and ensure that social distancing can be observed. The school will close one hour earlier on Fridays (between 1.50pm and 2.35pm) to allow for staff to plan and prepare for the following week and for additional cleaning to take place.

If your child will not be attending school after the half term break home learning will continue to be provided via the school website and feedback given via SeeSaw. This learning will reflect what the children in school will be covering in their lessons as well.

I will end with something to keep you busy over the half term holiday. On behalf of Mrs Mitchell and the Eco Council I am proud to announce the launch of The Willows Biodiversity Photo Competition. Mrs Mitchell would like to invite all Willows eco warriors and members of the Willows community to think about biodiversity, the 'variety of life' around us. It is an opportunity to share how you connect with nature. For more information visit the Eco-council page on the school website. <https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/eco-council/>

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' for all the wonderful positive feedback you have given us over the past 9 weeks. This past week has been one of the most challenging for the Willows leadership team. As you can imagine much advice has been sought, research conducted, thinking, talking and planning has taken place in preparation for the potential opening of the school in June. We have worked very closely from government guideline documents and are confident that our action plan will be the best and safest it can be for our setting and community. I would like to thank you in anticipation for your continued support.

Have a lovely break and stay safe.

Thinking of you all,

Mrs Warren

Key dates

Monday 1 st June	Communication from school about return arrangements
Monday 8 th June	School closed – INSET day
Tuesday 9 th June	All confirmed key worker children return
Thursday 11 th June	Some additional Nursery and Reception children will return (non-key worker children group 1)
Monday 15 th June	Some additional Nursery and Reception children will return (non-key worker children group 2)
Monday 15 th June	Non-keyworker Year 1 children return
Wednesday 17 th June	Non-keyworker Year 6 children return