



1st May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Another week has flown by! With the weather turning it has allowed me to reflect on how fortunate we have been to have had 5 weeks of glorious sunshine. I do hope you have managed to cope with the cooler, duller and wetter conditions. I wonder how your 'wet playtimes' and 'wet dinner times' have gone!!

Please know that we are here for you at any time, if you need support or have concerns and questions just email the office on willows.admin@trafford.gov.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can. I have had a number of conversations this week with parents who are finding it a challenge to support their children with home learning. Be rest assured that every parent will find this hard at times, even our teachers who are parents, have expressed how difficult this can be with their own children. Remember be kind to yourselves and your children. Learning will only take place when motivation and willingness is there. If you are 'battling' with your child/ren, walk away, leave the work and come back to it another time. We will do all we can when we are back in school to fill any gaps and help the children back into learning routines.

On a positive note, we can see what a fabulous job you are actually doing as posts on Tapestry and Seesaw come in thick and fast. We love viewing the children's work as well as the other activities you are undertaking. Any photos / videos fill us with delight, we just love seeing you and knowing that you are well and happy. I think pictures from walks around King George's Pool get the highest count, although this is one of my favoured routes I have only seen one Willows family there. Maybe I will see more of you to wave at and chat at a distance next week.

As I listen to the news on a daily basis, I have become concerned that some of you may have had changes in your financial situation due to Covid-19. If you are experiencing financial difficulties then it might be worth you exploring whether your child/ren would be eligible for free school meals. This means that the school would be able to issue you with supermarket vouchers to the value of £15 per week, per child while school is closed. Furthermore, the school would be able to support you financially with many other expenses in the future for example; the purchase of uniform, paying for school trips and music lessons etc... Please read the information in the document attached and feel free to contact the office (0161 980 7685) on Tuesdays or Thursdays between the hours of 9.00am and 2.00pm for support from Mrs Heathcote or Mrs Kelly. Alternatively, you could email at any time to willows.admin@trafford.gov.uk These documents are also on the website under the 'Parents Tab - Covid-19' <https://willowsprimaryaltrincham.secure-primariesite.net/covid-19/> and the 'Key Information Tab – Pupil Premium' <https://willowsprimaryaltrincham.secure-primariesite.net/pupil-premium/>

There has also been much speculation in the news about when schools are going to re-open and what this will look like. I promise you, at this point, I do not know any more than you. However, the government has assured headteachers that we will be given time to prepare. I am led to believe that the authority will be setting up task groups to consider all elements concerned with re-opening schools, so that they can create an action plan and provide headteachers and governors with some directives and a generic risk assessment for support. The task groups will be made up of individuals from different areas; education, (including headteachers), health and safety, health, social care etc... In the meantime, I have begun to think through scenarios from what I have learnt



from the news and start some sort of planning process, so please know that we will do all we can to re-open school as safely and as quickly as we can when the time is right. Until then we all need to be patient and do our bit to support the NHS and fight this awful virus by staying at home.

Every week I am more and more in awe of the wonderful job you are doing with your children. They are extremely lucky to have you as their loving, dedicated and creative parents. I am so impressed with the stimulating tasks our teachers are setting for home learning but the way you take these on board and adapt them for your children is incredible. Keep up the amazing work! As Mr Jennings said in his daily message to Year 3 & 4 yesterday, Thursday, every day down is a day closer to when we will all be together again. Keeping that positive thought in mind I will sign off.

As always take care of yourselves and each other. You are all in my thoughts every day.

Stay safe.

Mrs Warren