



Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is lovely to see the children back after half term and although this coming half term is only short...there is a lot to pack in! Below you will find some reminders about up and coming events.

### **Changes to Footpath Closure**

We have just had this update from the contractors about the footpath. It was originally planned that access along Summer Lane would be restricted over the next three weeks (starting w/c. 24/02/2020). However, due to unforeseen issues regarding the diversion of the some cables, the works proposed for the next three weeks has had to be postponed.

It is currently foreseen that the footway will remain open (24 hours a day) until Friday next week (06/03/2020). We will inform you if there are any updates.

### **World Book Day**

This takes place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March when we all dress up as characters from books. This day is always fun with lots of events planned for the day around reading. Reading is the single most important thing, which helps a child to access the rest of the curriculum. A great reader is always someone who does well in life!

We also have an author coming in to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to talk to the children and we are holding a 'Book in a Jar' competition. Children are invited to think about how a favourite book could be represented in a jar – see attached sheet for more information. Entries need to be in school for judging on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Staff Changes**

We are very sad to be losing Mrs Simpson, our Business Manager, this week. She has been with the school for a long time and seen many changes. We will miss her, but wish her good luck in her new ventures! Thank you for your hard work.

Sadly, the person we had appointed as her replacement, has this week, informed us that she will no longer be coming to take up post. Obviously, this leaves us short in the school office, so please bear with us if we are a bit stretched and take a bit longer to respond. Thank you.

### **Reading Volunteers**

If you have some spare time on a regular basis, we are always looking for adults to come in and read with children. It could just be an hour or two one afternoon a week; we will provide training and support and make sure you have a space to read. We try to give volunteers the same children to read with each week so that they can see how much their support and time is helping the children to improve. If you are interested, please leave your name and contact details in the school office and we will get back to you. Thank you.

### **Ding a Ling**

This group for the under-fives is still running every Friday morning in the community room. We have a wonderful bunch of Mums who are keeping it going! Come along from 9.15 and meet some other parents or grandparents and your children can play and make new friends.

### **Attendance**

We are doing better with lateness and this has really improved, thank you! We still have an issue with attendance being too low, particularly in Reception and Year Six. A reminder though, that we cannot authorise holidays in term time. We can only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances and these are quite limited. It is very disruptive for children to be off school for prolonged periods and it disrupts not only that child, but the other children in the class

### Friends of Willowbrook Events

Mothers Day gifts – The forms for this will go out today and will need to be returned by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Mothers Day Cream Tea – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. There will be two sittings for this event, 2pm and 3.30pm. Tickets will cost £4.

### Kids Matter

Kids Matter is a free friendly group for anyone with children age 0 – 10. They discuss how to build strong families and help kids do their best in life. Parents get together at The Beacon Centre over a 6 week period starting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 9.30 – 11.30am

### Dates for the Diary

#### Spring Term

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Yr 5 visit by SpaceDome
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Height & Weight programme
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Height & Weight programme
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Sport Relief day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Exe Factor
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Mother's Day presents & Cream Tea
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Foundation Stage Disco
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Yr4, Yr5 & Yr6 Disco
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Yr1, Yr2 & Yr3 Disco
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term

#### Summer Term

Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of Summer term
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Theatre Alibi performance
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Parents Evening</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Parents Evening</b>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Father's Day presents
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Non pupil day
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Yr 3 residential – Magdalen Farm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last day of term

**Change of date: Please note Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May is no longer a Bank Holiday and school will be open as usual. The Bank Holiday has been moved to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May.**