

11th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to see all the children in school this week and to catch up with you all in the playground in the mornings. The week seems to have gone quite smoothly, so a big thank you for bearing with us and helping to make the changes that have been necessary. We will keep on tweaking things that are not working and try to make school as 'normal' as possible for all of the children.

Start and End of Day

The flexible start to the day seems to be going well. Just to confirm, teachers will open classroom doors so children can come in from 8.30-8.50. We have had a few children arriving on site at 8.10 and this is too early as this then leads to groups gathering and there is no one available to supervise. Please do not arrive on site until after 8.20, thank you.

At the end of the day we will let children go from 3.10 if we spot that you have arrived near the classroom.

The only tricky bit has been people coming in and out of the front gate at the same time. We seem to have improved this by coming IN through the front gate and going OUT via the driveway.

New Gate

We have installed a new magnetic lock on the gate at the rear entrance to the school. This will be open from 8.20 and will lock again at 9am. This gate will then be shut until 3.10 and then lock again at 3.45 while there are no clubs.

Car Park

We are going to open the driveway gates from Monday at drop off and pick up times so that children and parents from Mr Dawe's, Miss Walker's, Miss Zarlal's and Mrs Mellors' and Morgan's classes can leave via the car park. This does mean that no vehicles can enter the car park at this time which I appreciate makes it tricky for blue badge holders. If you have a blue badge please could you drop your children at 9am as the site should be clear by then. If this causes any problems for you, please can you let us know and we will look for a solution, thank you.

Lunches

Thank you if you have completed the google forms as this helps us predict numbers and avoid waste. If you have said you would like the lunches and then change your mind...this is fine! Just pop in and let us know, it is not a problem.

I am hoping that once we get the universal infant meals sorted, we will be back to offering paid lunches in about a week's time.

Foundation Stage

If you have a child in Nursery or Reception and have a question for the staff, you can email in on foundation@willowbrook.devon.sch.uk and someone will get back to you. All of the new children have got off to a great start and seem to be enjoying themselves.

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Twitter

Just a reminder that there is always something new to see on our twitter feed. You do not need to follow us...although it is nice if you do! The feed is on the front page of the school website for anyone to see.

Equipment

We have had a few questions about bags and school equipment. Children can bring a back pack for their lunch and drink bottle and book bag. They do not need a pencil case as we have provided the children with one from school.

Breakfast and After-School Club

A reminder that this needs to be booked on the school gateway. If you are booking a place in after-school club, please book by no later than midday on the day needed as we print the register off after that and circulate to staff. Thank you. In an emergency, just call the office and we will sort it out. After-School Club is now open until 6pm...at no extra cost!

School Gateway

There is a letter coming out to you via email regarding the school gateway. If you sign up you can pay for almost everything online. For example you can pay for a jumper and then just collect it from the school office.

We would love you to sign up to the App as well. This is because we can then text you using the App for free. Currently we have to pay for all the texts that we send and the cost really mounts up! We only have 37% of parents signed up to the App.

Instrumental Tuition

You will be receiving a letter by email offering tuition if your child wishes to learn an instrument. Please keep an eye out for it, thank you.