



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We had a fantastic start to the week with Skip2beFit spending two days in school working with every class. The children and staff were timed as to how many skips they could do in 2 minutes and we ended up with Jack in Year Five as our champion, beating Mr Dawe; Well done Jack! The evidence is there in a clip on the school's twitter feed.

### **Christmas Card Reminder**

Just a quick reminder that all orders for Christmas cards designed by your children need to be returned to the office by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November. We cannot accept orders after this deadline, so please make sure you bring them by the end of the school day, thank you.

### **Absence**

Several parents have been in touch recently about letters they have received regarding their children's attendance at school. When you receive a letter it is because our monitoring has shown that there is a higher than usual rate of absence. We are not saying that children have not been ill or that the absence is not genuine; we are drawing your attention to the fact that it is a significantly higher rate of absence than normal.

Absence can be authorised or unauthorised but both mean that the child is not in school. Absence for illness is authorised, but where it appears unusually high, we may request medical evidence before authorising. We cannot authorise other absence unless it is for exceptional circumstances and this does not include holidays, starting the term late or finishing the term early.

Our current attendance target is 96%, which is in line with averages for primary schools nationally.

### **Well Done!**

Well done to all the runners who came to the running track on Monday afternoon. Miss Stanbury was really impressed with the motivation and enthusiasm of the parents and the children...back to Tuesdays from next week.

### **New Age Curling**

On Thursday 8 children attended a Curling event at St Lukes school. They had a great time learning a new sport and were a credit to the school.

### **Parking**

Please can you be considerate if you are parking to come in via the back of the school. We have had complaints about parents' parking, with someone even parking on a private driveway. This does not make us good neighbours. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Collecting and Dropping Off**

Please could I remind Parents and Carers that we ask children to be brought on to the school site by an adult and collected by an adult until they reach Year Five. For children in Nursery up to Year Two, this person should be sixteen, whereas for a child in Years Three and Four, it can be an older brother or sister.

### **Vision Screening**

Vision tests will be taking place in school for all Reception children on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. There is an information letter in your child's book bag about this.

Please only return the slip on the letter if you **DO NOT** want your child to have their eyes checked.

## Applications to start school in September 2020

The admissions process for starting school in September 2020 opens on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

For further information see the School Admissions webpages at: [www.devon.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissions)

Don't forget we have organised some sessions for prospective parents to look around the school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Sign up in the school office for a tour at 9.30am or 2.30pm.

## Friends of Willowbrook

Willowbrook Bake Off - entries need to be in on Monday morning, 11<sup>th</sup> November. There are four categories KS1 and Early Years; KS2; Parents/Grandparents; and Staff. The winner will be picked based on looks, taste and overall presentation. There will be a winner from each category with prizes donated from Lakeland. Friends will be selling the cakes after school next week on the front playground for 50p

Children in Need Day is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – all children are invited to wear their pyjamas to school for a £1 donation. Biscuits will be on sale for 50p on the day and wristbands will be available all week for £1.

## Dates for the Diary

Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Music assemblies for Years 1, 2, 3 & 6 – 2.30pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Friends of Willowbrook Bake Off
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Day for Reception 2020 parents: 9.30am and 2.30pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Music assemblies for Reception, Year 4 & 5 – 2.30pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children In Need Day – wear pyjamas to school!
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 2 trip to Haldon Forest
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Last day for Christmas Lunch orders

## Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery, Reception, Yr 1 & Yr 2 Christmas lunch
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Nativity - 2.30pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas lunch
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Carol Concert - 2.30pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day & Santa Run
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair – 2-4pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Nativity time 2.30pm
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Vision Screening
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Concert time TBC
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

## Non-pupil day

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	First day of Spring Term
--	--------------------------