

16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today has been the last day of term for many of our children. When we began the new academic year in January none of us could imagine that we would be hit by a global pandemic and that school would close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Since this time, school has continued to be open to some groups of children albeit in a very different way to before.

Firstly, I would like to wish all our Year 6 children “Good Luck” as they move onto their high schools. It has been very sad that their final year has been interrupted. Those Year 6 children who returned to us in June have been celebrating the end of the school year this week. All of the children are to be commended on their super attitude to school over the last few weeks and I am sure they will continue to flourish in their new schools.

I would like to say thank you for all your support this year. We know that many of our children have not been able to return to school since March but parents have continued to support home learning and engaged positively with phone calls home from the class teachers. I am extremely proud and grateful to lead a brilliant staff team who have worked throughout the pandemic. They are committed to ensuring that all of our children will receive the support that they need when they return to school in September. This includes the office staff led by Mrs Patton who have worked tirelessly to ensure that school has supported families to receive their school meal vouchers and support families in any questions they have had during the closure period.

This week’s transition meetings were well supported by families. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces at the meetings and I know that teachers appreciated both saying “goodbye” to this year’s class and “hello” to their September classes. I am hopeful that those of you who attended are reassured by the protective measures we have put in place ready for our full school opening in September when we look forward to welcoming all children back into school.

It is vital that all children are able to return to school in September and more importantly to establish them into a routine as normal. We know that children may have experienced trauma during this time, but please be assured that staff will be here to provide the support they need. The children who returned in June settled quickly into school because new routines were established from day 1. We will be following this approach in September when opening fully.

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We therefore expect:

- That our uniform policy is adhered to including all black shoes and sensible hairstyles
- Children arrive in school on time and ready to learn
- That you continue to support us with home learning and regularly hearing your child read
- That all absences are reported to the school office by 9am and any holiday requests are made via the school office
- That parents continue to support the school in reinforcing key messages relating to high standards of behaviour, respect of others and focus on learning

### Drop off and Collection times

All information regarding specific class start and finish times can be found on the school website: [www.willowtreeprimary.org](http://www.willowtreeprimary.org). It has already been emailed to families this week.

We will email this information out again in September to remind families of the new procedures.

This presents the biggest challenge to school and it is important for everyone's safety that we have your full support. This whole system will fail if parents arrive too early or late. We know this will be challenging however, we do not want to create queues inside or outside of school.

As explained at the transition meetings any child who is late to school will have to wait until all class bubbles have entered the school site. This means late children will not be admitted until 9:20am.

This has been a challenging time for the whole school family however; we have worked together successfully and know that the partnership between home and school has never been stronger. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours faithfully,



R.L.Munro  
Head Teacher

