

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2020



The Willows School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe it's nearly time for the Christmas break! Who knows what this celebratory season will look like under the current circumstances.

In school we have made sure your children have still had fun and experienced memorable learning activities which you will see in this edition of The Willows School newsletter regardless of the restrictions. It's been extremely challenging as a Head teacher these past few months but as always I feel so blessed to have such a great team of staff who always go above and beyond for your children regardless of the situation. Thank you to you as parents and carers for supporting us as we navigate our way through all the government policies which change weekly, daily at times!

I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas no matter what we can or can't do, and I look forward to working together with you in 2021.

Best Wishes,

Mrs. Rachael Booth



L1 Autumn/Christmas

L1 have had such a wonderful term getting creative and messy but of course lots of learning has taken place in L1. We want to share with you some of the highlights and some of our learning with the 'The Willows Family'

Firstly we want to share with you our Phonics work. We used a multi-sensory approach when forming letters each week Mrs Gamble put on her apron ready to do some messy writing. This term we have used shaving foam, flour, shower gel, icing sugar and food colouring. This has made our phonics lessons fun and engaging. Have a look at some of the fantastic work that was produced.



Next we want to share with you our baking, This term we have had many opportunities to bake when incorporating 'Instructions' in English and our Topic lessons. Have a quick look at some of the amazing baking we have done in our lessons. Children had the opportunity to follow instructions and order



instructions to ensure that got the steps correct in their baking.

Finally in we want to share with you our special events learning. In L1 we have had chance to learn about dyslexia awareness, Halloween, Remembrance Day, Children In Need and Christmas. Each time we had the chance to learn, make and promote by undertaking difference activities.



See some of our learning and pictures we want to share with you.

Have a wonderful Christmas and L1 students and staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to sharing more work with you in 2021.

L2

In L2 this autumn term we have been very busy. We have done lots of exciting things! We have learnt about how different countries celebrate



Christmas. We have tried lots of food that other countries eat – did you know people in Japan eat KFC on Christmas Day!



In PSD we have been doing lots of work around being safe. We have learnt about the green cross code and how to cross the road safely. We practised our skills when we posted



our letters to Father Christmas and would you believe it... we got a letter back!!

We have also celebrated Remembrance Day as a class and created our own poppy wreath and made Anzac biscuits to pay our respects.



We are really busy getting ready for Christmas, we have been practicing our songs and are enjoying getting dressed up and creating props and costumes for the show! We can't wait to show off all our hard work!

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From everybody in L2 😊

L3

In L3 this Autumn term we have been very busy.

We have welcomed 8 new friends into school and everyone has quickly settled into routines and there is a fabulous atmosphere in class.

In Science we have been learning about rainbows and exploring light and shadows. We especially enjoyed making shadow puppets and our own lanterns.



In English we have looked at bossy words and writing instructions and also newspapers. We made a class newspaper article about Post 16's cakeaway project and loved doing the virtual interview with them to get our ideas together.



Since half term we have been doing forest school on a Wednesday morning. We are loving it!! So far we have

spent time in Wickersley woods and Anston Stones. Each week we learn a new skill as well as having lots of fun climbing trees and making leaf angels. We have made a fire, toasted marshmallows, made delicious 's'mores' and cooked Polish sausages. Yum!



At the moment in Topic we are exploring "Christmas around the World" and how other countries celebrate this time of year. We have started to learn our Christmas songs and we can't wait to share it with you "virtually".

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas holiday!

From everybody in L3 ☺

L4

We've been very busy keeping safe but still having fun!



We have been working in our school bubbles practising our singing, and getting ready for a special Christmas treat.



We joined in with Joe Wicks' PE lesson to help break a World Record for Children in Need Day. We also supported Remembrance Day by wearing red and making poppies.



We have been getting really crafty this term, carving pumpkins, sewing pumpkin bags and making Christmas puddings.



M1's Autumn Term

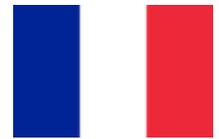
Cooking Rother Valley Visit



We have been hard at work in cooking, making sausage rolls, wraps and sweet pastry rolls.



Remembrance Day



This term we have been learning French and trying French foods.

English



As usual, we have been working hard in English using bossy verbs.

Hope you have an amazing time over the holidays!
We can't wait to get started again next year!

M2 Autumn Poetry!

We went to Wickersley woods to explore and feel the autumn season.

We played hide and seek.



We told scary stories.



We made hot chocolate!



M3

We have been working hard in the M3 bubble!

It has been a bit tricky at times, especially cooking in the DT workroom.



We have practised independence and life skills!

We really enjoyed taking part in our virtual Christmas play this year, it was very different but extra special when it snowed.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas hopefully 2021 will be a much better year please keep safe.

Mrs Kavanagh and Mrs Lovatt



W4

We dressed up and had our faces painted for a Halloween party!



We worked together to make a Mexican feast in Food Technology. We made a beef chilli, a veggie chilli, salsa, guacamole and rice.



We went for a walk around Rother Valley - it was absolutely freezing!!



We made some eco houses for a competition set by Worcester Bosch. The prize is a £50 voucher!

These are some of the lino prints we created in DT.



This half term, we have worked as a team to re-pot the houseplants around school. We now have lots more plants in our classroom and we've made some hanging planters.



Our Autumn Term in M5



M5 have had a very busy start to Fun at the Fair! the year.

At the fair we looked at adding numbers, using money, preparing and cooking food and making posters advertising the Fair. We had lots of fun!



Halloween



We had a spooky time making scary pumpkins, cooking pumpkin soup and creating our own creepy potions.



Space Week

In science we trained to be astronauts to celebrate Space Week.



M5 created their own zoo including animals, cages and animal snacks. They all worked really hard in English making leaflets to advertise the zoo.

The Willows' Zoo



English

M5 have been looking at using persuasive language. In English we created a video trying to persuade a new student to join.



Birthdays

Before the end of term we will have celebrated 4 birthdays!



Cooking

Over this term we have baked, fried, boiled, chopped and sliced to create some delicious snacks.



M5, we have had a fantastic term and we have all worked really hard and achieved many great things. All the staff are super proud of you. Keep up the good work!



U1 News!



Every Friday U1 are making and selling dinners to staff. The pupils offer a variety of food on their menu.

The foods that we have made include; Spaghetti bolognaise, Flatbreads, a variety of sandwiches, Jacket potato with fillings, Chicken tikka, Chocolate orange sponge with custard & Lemon curd sponge cake!

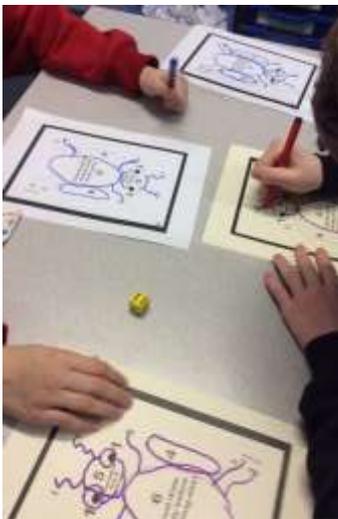
We even made our very own Just Eat inspired advert, and sent this out to staff!



U2 Autumn Newsletter



U2 have had a wonderful return to school with an unusual first term timetable. All lessons this term have been in the classroom but this hasn't stopped the children enjoying their Art, DT or Cooking lessons.



Over November options resumed and the children have been working hard on their project to clear the pond behind the school. We have had other special days including Halloween where we made concrete pumpkins and Remembrance Day where we tried the Beetle game played by refugees in WW2.



CHRISTMAS

For Christmas we have an exciting project in the works for the whole school and for you at home! Keep an eye out on DOJO for some hints...



U3



We loved unpacking the
Avon Boxes!



We have worked very hard on
our work experience this term.

We loved our Subway treat
with the commission we made!



U4 Remembrance Day Diaries

6 June 1944

Dear reader

If you find this I am probably not here but I wanted to share my experience with the world.

The day all of us got on the boat going to war. It was the hardest thing you can do sitting on the cold wet metal ship with the waves splashing in your face.

It makes you sick the fact that you don't know how many people are going to be there just thinking in your head when that door drops you have to go all the waves crashing into the ship the loud bang. It makes you jump everytime.

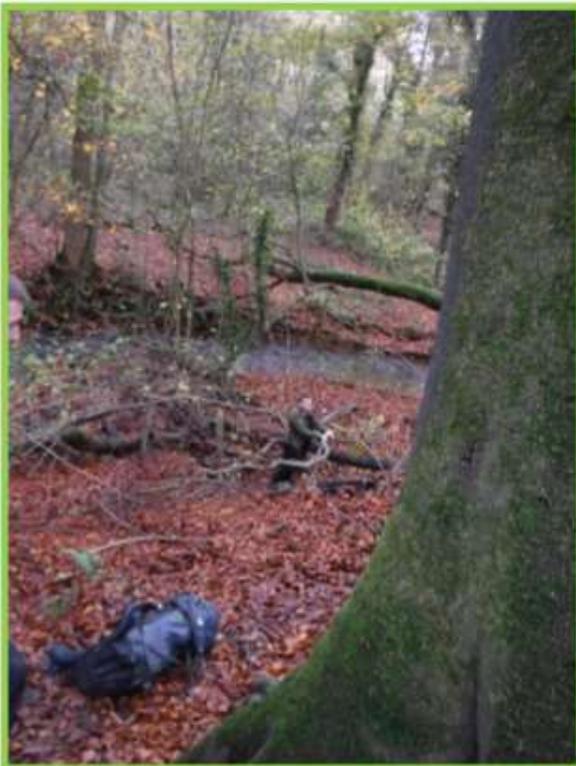
I hope someone gets this and shows it to the world we fought for you and all the world.

By Reggie Bacon

As part of our remembrance day commemorations U4 have each written a diary entry of a soldier about to land on the beaches at Normandy. They discussed the thoughts, emotions and sacrifices of the soldiers who risked and sometimes gave their lives so we could live in peace. All of the diary pages were written from a different perspective, but all were heart felt and showed empathy for the soldiers. They also made an array of poppies which are part of a whole school display in the corridor.



U4 Forest Schools



Getting out of the classroom and into the woods is always a popular choice for upper school's options. Forest School's activities included shelter building, making and cooking on an open fire, foraging and team building exercises.



U4 wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Post 16 Update!

September brought our next group of Post 16 students. Welcome Kyle, Kian, Molly, Caitlin, Lewie, Aiden, Ellie and our new student Ryan.



Post 16 now have 21 students. Everyone has settled in really well and are enjoying the new, more grown up way of learning. Our students take charge of their independent work and move into different groups for

different lessons.

Everyone has a pathway visible on a notice board where it shows their final goal and the steps they need to take to achieve it.

The present situation with Covid 19 has made it difficult to be out and about like we should be but everyone has adjusted to the new ways and look forward to things getting better next year.

Post 16 unfortunately cannot be a part of the main school at present but via Google Meet we have been able to keep in touch. Our class councilors this year are Ellie Manley P1 and Shaun Cox P2.

Students as part of their AQA Maths ran a Cake away for staff and raised a massive £109.02 which will be donated to the wonderful Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice.



On the 7th November we had our very first Willows student turn 18!! Courtney had gifts and cards from students and staff around school, she had a fantastic day celebrating her special birthday!

Ann Gyte, Chair of Governors, held a Google Meet video chat with students asking them how they felt about post 16 and in return students asked Ann questions about the Governing body in school and how it worked.



This evidence will go towards their Asdan and Entry Level English qualifications.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is still going ahead and students have been finding local walks, planning on maps and splitting into groups on our expeditions. We have encountered lots of obstacles during these walks but resilience has got us through.



Everyone in Post 16 would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2021!!

Modern Foreign Languages

Since September, Lower School have been having a French session every week on a Wednesday and it is so wonderful to hear and see the children enjoying their learning. We are all fantastic at saying

"bonjour", "au revoir" and "merci" to each other and have been learning songs and



tasting typical foods.

At the moment we are looking at French Christmas activities. We are having a "bûche de Noël" (yule log) making competition, making Christmas cards in French and saying "joyeux Noël" (merry Christmas) and counting up to 10.



We have made a link with Stone Hill School in Doncaster and each child in Lower School has a penpal buddy from the school. We are going to take part in lots of different French activities throughout the year together, starting with a Christmas card exchange. We have all sent a French Christmas card to the Stone Hill children and we have just received our cards from them!

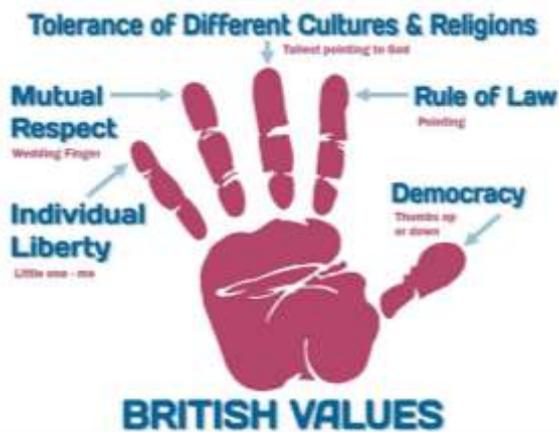


Some of the children are working towards earning some French certificate awards, so watch this space for after Christmas!

Joyeux Noël à toutes les familles de The Willows!

British Values @ The Willows

We have been busy using the Picture News resource to keep up with current affairs during our consultation lessons. We are learning about what it means to be British.



To help us understand the British Values strands we looked at our hands and realised that it helps us remember what each strand means to us.

During UK Parliament Week 1-7th November we took part in the democratic process and thought about the straws given out in school with the milk, and ask the question should straws in school environmentally be friendly? After the voting 100% of the votes agreed, we are going to find out if the straws are safe for the environment.



Watch this space to find out if they are!



As a school we received a certification of participation in recognition of our participation in other school around Britain and our understanding that democracy starts with us!

Religious Education



Remembrance Day 2020

As a school we spent the day thinking about those who lost their lives in WW1 and WW2, learnt that red poppies symbolise those people who died and purple the animals who lost their lives helping on the battle line.



Wrote poems in thanks for their sacrifice and thought about what it must have been for children evacuated during WW2 and the celebrations they must have had at the end of the war.



RE Competition 2020

In October we ran a RE competition to create a piece of art inspired by Religious Education symbols, values and practises – we asked you to let imagination run WILD!



Winner

Well done to **Antony Denman M1**, his design will be used on all RE books in school and wins a £20 shopping voucher.

Runner up

Upper school U3 pupil,
who wins a £10 shopping voucher



Class winners

M3 – Kyran Lidster-Kirton, M5 – Ben Thomas and U2 – George Haywood who win an Advent calendar each.

Thank you for all those who took part.

How Christians celebrate Christmas



U2 for options this term have been working towards creating a video to share what they know about Advent and what an Advent wreath symbolises. Pupils worked together to create video clips, pictures and wrote scripts to explain what each candle represents.



We learnt that the wreath is a circle to remind us of eternity, no beginning and no end, that evergreen leaves represent hope and eternity and each candles symbolize hope, love, joy and peace and one is lit on the four Sundays before Christmas.



We must thank you to Jenny who is part of our Thurcroft community for providing us with the oasis and wreath holders.



We hope you all watch and learn from our video which can be found on the school website and social media.

Advent is all about preparing for Christmas Day. Advent starts on the Sunday on the 29th November this year and we wish you whatever you celebrate seasonal greetings.



Physical Education

What's the latest in PE?

Dependant on your child's class they have been working on:

- Y3-6 = Agility, Balance & Coordination activities with Mrs McClune
- Y7-11 = Football, Rugby, Netball & Hockey
- Post-16 = Duke of Edinburg Award & Asdan qualifications (Health, Fitness & the Body).

We continue to ensure your child's safety & education are of the most importance to us and with this in mind we have several measures in place:

- Classes stay within their own class bubbles when accessing PE.
- All equipment and surfaces are cleaned down with a state-of-the-art 'fogging' gun (sanitising) in between classes.

In what has been a very different year to one we are used to, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your support in ensuring your child accesses PE, fitness and general well-being and to wish you a Merry Christmas and an even better 2021!

Kind regards,

MR L Knight

Year 11 Netball – Katy & Lucy show us how to perform a 'chest pass'



Preparations are well underway for our Duke of Edinburgh Award students. With our first ever cohort of Silver award taking place. Here is our Post-16 participants in Anston Woods



M5 Hockey skills on display



Online Safety

Will your child spend more time on tech this Christmas? The Legends Family Adventure from Google and Parent Zone will help you all become Internet Legends – and have festive fun along the way!

The Legends Family Adventure – Google and Parent Zone's new animated series



– is the perfect winter watch for families. It's part of the Be Internet Legends programme — helping children to be safer and more confident online.

When Lumen's bear goes missing, the whole family must brave Interland to get it back. Along the way, the family learns lessons from the Legends Code — including helpful tips on what to do with cyberbullies, how to spot scams and set strong passwords, as well as important lessons on kindness. And, Lumen discovers they're stronger and braver than they ever thought they could be.

Embark on this adventure as a family by visiting g.co/legendsfamilyadventure

GOVERNOR NEWS

How things have changed in the year since our last newsletter! We all hope that you and your family have kept safe and are well.

All our lives have changed and we have had to find new ways of doing things, and this has been the same for the governors.

We have had to have virtual meetings this year to keep up to date with the school, and Mrs Booth has done a magnificent job in keeping us all well-informed!

We have checked the risk assessments and seen how the return to school and the 'bubbles' have been managed. We have ensured policies have been updated, and monitored the budget, safeguarding and health & safety.

Normally governors would be in school at times, and able to speak with staff, pupils, parents and carers.

Mrs Gyte was able to have a virtual meeting with some of the post-16 students. They were keen to ask questions about what governors do and Mrs Gyte found out what they like about being in Post-16. It's great that they all love school, enjoy their lessons especially Maths, English, Art and Duke of Edinburgh and feel very safe. They have some great ideas about what they want to do when they leave.

A big 'Thank You' to the Post-16 staff for organising it!

GOVERNOR NEWS

In the summer we sent out a survey to find out how the school had supported you during the lockdown. Thanks to all of you who responded; the comments were all very positive! Here are just a few:

'All I can say is The Willows School is amazing.'

'Thank you to all the staff for your outstanding support over this difficult time.'

'We very much appreciate the weekly calls, delivery of stationery & the wide variety of school work. This has enabled us to keep a good routine at home.'

'The staff have been amazing over the past weeks, ---- has loved her weekly phone call and the packs that have been brought around. It has been difficult at times trying to get her to do the work but there's been plenty to choose from, sent through daily by staff.'

'The teachers have gone above and beyond in offering their support.'

'A fantastic school!'

I think that says it all - **Merry Christmas!**

Academic calendar 2020/21 UK



September 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36		1	2	3	4	5	6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	28	29	30				

October 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44							1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49	30						

December 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49		1	2	3	4	5	6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53	28	29	30	31			

January 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
53					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				

April 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
17						1	2
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22	31						

June 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22		1	2	3	4	5	6
23	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	28	29	30				

July 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26				1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
30							1
31	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
33	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
34	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
35	30	31					

Bank holidays 2020/21 UK

25th December '20	Christmas Day
26th December '20	Boxing Day
28th December '20	Substitute day

School Holidays

1st January '21	New Year's Day
2nd April '21	Good Friday
5th April '21	Easter Monday

Inset Training

3rd May '21	Early May Bank Holiday
31st May '21	Spring Bank Holiday
30th August '21	August Bank Holiday

The
Willow
Autumn
2020

