

12<sup>th</sup> January 2024



# THE WILLOWS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Welcome to 2024

Welcome back to school in this brand-new year. 2024 is going to be a very busy year. I know the staff have lots of exciting opportunities planned for the children, one of which you will find out more about below.

I trust you all had a lovely break, spending quality time with your families and making memories.

## Swimming Pool

Today, you should have received a message via MCAS from Mr. Sharrock about the swimming pool we are hiring.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for all the children but will also ensure that as children leave our school, they meet the statutory requirement to be able to swim 25m.

Given that as residents in the Fylde, we have so much access to water, we feel strongly that all children should be able to swim.

The information from Mr. Sharrock goes into detail about what will be happening and when. Please do take the time to read it and if you have any questions, please speak to myself, Mr. Wylde or Mr. Sharrock.

## PTFA – Coming Soon

The PTFA are busily organising our next two events. A family film night on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 6:00pm and the Chocolate Bingo (previously known as the Easter Bingo) on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 6:00pm.

Please put these dates in your diary as we very much value the support of the PTFA and all our families.

These events will be raising money to introduce new reading books into the Library and classrooms.

## Next Week

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Year 1 Forest School morning

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

5:00pm Governor Meeting  
(Academisation)

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

2:45pm Star Award Assembly

## Coming Up

### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

8:30am Family Photographs

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Year 2 Forest School morning

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Holocaust Memorial Day (Year 6)

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

Swimming Pool is operational.

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Year 4 Forest School morning

### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

Safer Internet Day  
Year 3 A Roman Soldier Visits

### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Year 3 Forest School morning

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

3:30pm School finishes for Half-Term  
6:00pm PTFA Family Film Night

**Don't forget, there is a calendar on our website (Parents > Calendar) that you can subscribe to, this will add all these dates directly onto your device.**

## Communication

### **Contacting teachers**

Use the Messages tab on MCAS, press the + button and choose your child's teacher. Send a message from here.

Remember you won't get an instant response.

### **Contacting the Office, Mrs Barnett or Mr Wylde**

Use the Messages tab on MCAS, press the + button and choose The Willows Catholic Primary School

Use this option for anything that does not need to go to a teacher. You are more likely to get a quicker response using this method.

### **If you need to tell us something – always ring the Office**

If you need to book into After School Club, change something etc. please ring us – 01772 684371.

**IN AN EMERGENCY – ALWAYS RING.**

## Open Door Policy

Communication is key to ensuring your child is happy and thriving at school. It makes sure everyone feels valued as part of our Willows Family.

We operate on open door policy where you can speak to your child's class teacher any time after school – please give teacher's time to dismiss their class first.

If you would like a longer appointment, please send them a message on MCAS or contact the Office.

## **PTFA – News**

As you know, the PTFA create many exciting opportunities for our community to come together. These opportunities are primarily fundraising events to provide new and additional resources for the children to benefit from.

These are some of the things that your contributions have enabled them to pay for this year ...

**UV Lights** – Last year the children very much enjoyed our Glow Dodgeball days. Mr. Sharrock organised the purchase of 4 of these UV lights so that we can organise and enjoy more UV sports. Since their purchase, we have had numerous Glow Dodgeball matches as well. We are now planning Glow Handball and Glow Bench Ball competitions.

**Survival Supplies** – Late last term, Year 6 enjoyed a Survival Day. The PTFA funded the purchase of outdoor cooking supplies as well as 15 fireplaces so the children could light their own fires and cook on them. These resources remain in the Forest School area for the rest of the school to use.

**Easter Costumes** – The Year 3 & 4 Easter production will soon be upon us. The PTFA have funded various new costumes for the children to use in this performance.

**Spiritual Garden** – At The Willows we are very fortunate to have amazing outdoor spaces, but this doesn't stop us enhancing them. The PTFA have funded the development of our Spiritual Garden and this continues to be an ongoing project.

**Reception Outdoor Area** – The PTFA have supported Mrs. Aris in providing new and improved resources for the outdoor learning area.

**Floodlights** – You may have noticed the addition of floodlights last term after our evening events. The PTFA supplied these and have plans to extend the amount of lighting during the darker months.

None of these projects could have been funded without your support at their events. Thank you.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thewillowsschoolptfa](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thewillowsschoolptfa)

Please use the **Data Collection** tab on MCAS to keep us up to date with any changes to addresses, telephone numbers or email addresses. Thank you.