



Learning for Life

11th September Issue 01

Invitation to Parents of children in Year R (Reception)

Throughout the year we will run a series of meetings for parents to learn how we are teaching your children to read and how you can help at home.

Our first meeting will be on **Tuesday, 17th September @ 2:45pm in the school hall**. This session will focus on how we will teach your child their first 16 sounds. If you are able to attend, please sign in at the school office, where you will be directed to the hall.

Please do not worry if you cannot attend any of these meetings in person, as all presentations and information will be recorded and uploaded to the Tapestry online Learning platform.

After-school Clubs this term

After-school Clubs will start from the beginning of next week on the following days:

Wednesday Year 2 Gymnastics

Thursday Year 1 Multi Skills

Friday Years 2 to 6 Comic Club

Places are limited and will be offered on a 1st come, 1st served basis. Children can be signed-up via the parent evening booking system from Friday 13th September at 7pm until Monday, 16th September @ 9am.

P.E Information

Just a reminder that children are required to wear their P.E kit to school on the days they have P.E or sports club.

Their uniform is:

- P.E shirt with school logo or a plain white t-shirt.
- Black shorts.
- Black plimsolls.
- White or black socks.
- Additional sweatshirt and black leggings or tracksuit for winter.
- Trainers for Key stage 2 outside P.E.
- For safety reasons,
- All long hair must be tied back.
- Children who have their ears pierced should only wear plain studs and these must be covered for P.E. Please do this before your child comes to school or supply them with micropore tape for them to cover them themselves.
- All watches, including Fitbits and other sports watches must be removed for P.E lessons.
- Children who need glasses for P.E must have a strap to secure them in place.

Attendance Matters

The DfE have issued new statutory guidance for school attendance. This is part of the national drive to address low school attendance rates across the country since the return from Covid. There are some important changes for you to be aware of:

-Firstly, I am now unable to grant absence for a holiday. This was already severely restricted but now the code H which we used in the register when holiday in term time was granted no longer exists. This means that any request that would previously have been a term-time holiday request must now be an **exceptional leave of absence request** in which you must detail why the planned absence is exceptional. Beyond funerals and severe family illness, there is very little leeway for me to grant this absence. Weddings, for example, are specifically excluded.

-Importantly, I am now no longer able to grant an exceptional leave of absence retrospectively. This means that if you don't seek permission on the appropriate form for an absence before it begins, I am obliged to record it as an **Unauthorised Absence**. It may be that this is paving the way for the DfE to further strengthen its policy on parental fines (which have recently been increased) so please bear this in mind!

-Finally, and very importantly for many of our parents, a request for exceptional leave of absence **can only be made by a parent with whom the child normally resides**. This appears to mean that, for example, in a split family where the child lives entirely with Mum, the Dad cannot submit an absence request; it must come from the Mum even if the absence will be taken by the child and Dad. If residence is shared, our new guidance seems to indicate that either parent can put a request in.

Please remember these aren't my rules, they come from the Department for Education.

*Thank you for your
continued support
Naomi Tottle
Headteacher*

Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 **Website:** www.willand.devon.sch.uk **Email:** office@willand.devon.sch.uk
governors@willand.devon.sch.uk lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk absence@willand.devon.sch.uk
Online Payments: <https://login.schoolgateway.com> **PTFA:** willandschoolptfa@gmail.com

SchoolGateway

You can also use the SchoolGateway system to pay for items online, for example uniform, school meals and educational visits. Register for this at <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login> and download the SchoolGateway app from the app store or Google Play.

Reminder to Name School Uniform!

We are determined this year to prevent the lost property mountain, please ensure you name your child's school uniform.

End of School Day

If Somerlea school gate is not your collection point, please do not walk through it with your child at the end of the day.

Parent Parking

When parking at the start and end of the school day, please can parents be mindful of our neighbours in Gables Road; at times residents and village hall users have been unable to safely pull-out due to parent vehicles either partially or fully blocking them.

PTFA NEWS

Hi Everyone!

We hope everyone had an amazing summer and a great first few days back at school! We would also like to say a massive hello to all our new starters! We look forward to meeting you all!

Despite the summer break, we have still been busy trying to secure grants for our playground project and also work on our environmental area revamp.

Originally the environmental area was going to be started during the holidays on a volunteer basis but we are very lucky and grateful to say that a local company, Pickerings have stepped in and during October half term and with the help of professional landscapers the area is going to be transformed. Watch this space!

We already have events planned across the academic year including a Bake Sale, Disco and Meat Bingo Christmas event! Plus as always your chance to get your child's art work on a Christmas present!

If you want to get involved in the planning and see what we do, please join us at our first PTFA meeting of the term on Friday 13th September starting at 6:30pm at school. Email willandschoolptfa@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

We still have lots of pre-loved uniform available and would like to thank everyone who purchase some over the summer.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Your PTFA Team

Willand School Lunch Menu for week commencing Monday, 16th September

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pepperoni pizza	Italian Bolognese	Roast Turkey with sage and onion stuffing	Sausage Rolls	Fish Fingers
Cheese pizza	Quorn chicken noodles	Cheese & onion pasty	Cauliflower Cheese	Vegetarian Fingers
Potato Wedges/ Pasta Sweetcorn Salad Bar	Spaghetti Garlic bread Green beans Crisps Salad Bar	Roast/Mashed Potatoes Fresh Carrots Gravy Salad Bar	Pasta/mash Baked Beans/ Peas Salad Bar	Chips / Pasta Seasonal vegetables Tomato sauce Salad Bar
Meringue nests, peaches and cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Chocolate cake and chocolate sauce Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Cheese and crackers or Smoothie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Fruit Cocktail and Ice-cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Homemade Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt
PASTA POTS with Italian tomato sauce, cheese, beans or tuna JACKET POTATO with cheese, beans or tuna WRAPSWITH FILLINGS: Ham, Chicken or Cheese				

Diary

Key Dates for your Diary

Thursday 3 rd October	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 10 th October	Parent Consults
Tuesday 15 th October	Parent Consults
Friday 18 th October	Harvest Festival
Thursday 24 th October	Last Day of Half Term
Friday 25 th October	INSET Day

EVENTS

Please see the noticeboard outside the school office for the following events

Rocker Toddler Group – Monday mornings at 9:15am – 11:00am (Term time), Willand Church Hall, Rectory Close. £1.50 per family. Toys, crafts, singing and story time plus refreshments.

Please note that we are unable to check on the validity of the companies or the people running the schemes, and if those working with children have the correct police checks.

Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 Website: www.willand.devon.sch.uk Email: office@willand.devon.sch.uk
governors@willand.devon.sch.uk lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk absence@willand.devon.sch.uk
Online Payments: <https://login.schoolgateway.com> PTFA: willandschoolptfa@gmail.com

Safeguarding - From time to time the school may need to make referrals to Children and Young People's Services