

Willow Academy

Newsletter December 2015

Parent Pay

Following the consultation with parents that was carried out earlier in the term, we are pleased to announce that the majority of parents were in favour of the opportunity to use Parent Pay. We are hoping to roll this out after the February half term.

Christmas

On Friday, the last day of term, pupils and staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner made by the kitchen staff, who did a great job with so many extra mouths to feed. Everybody made a great effort and looked very smart in their Christmas jumpers. The money collected £234, will be going to Hallam FM's Mission Christmas.



Christmas Parties

Great fun was had by all the children at their Christmas parties. Many thanks to parents and carers who provided donations of party food; the children have been having little treats at break times as parents were so generous and this will continue into the New Year.

Sports

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON SPORTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT FUTURE SPORTING ACTIVITIES PLEASE VISIT SAINSBURYS SCHOOL GAMES WEBSITE:

yourschoolgames.com

Concerts

"We've got the power!"

The choir has had a busy festive season, preparing and performing a wide range of music for concerts both in and out of school. Following their success at the Christmas Fayre the children were invited to join the KS3 Hall Cross performers in their 'Mistletoe Cheer' evening concert on Wednesday and absolutely sang their hearts out! Everyone enjoyed the experience of singing on the 'big stage' and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your much appreciated support in transporting your children to and from Hall Cross Upper School - we could not have done it without you.

We are already looking forward to our January performance at the Sheffield Arena as part of the 'Young Voices' concert series.

Well done to all choir members for your excellent commitment and wonderful singing this term. We are so proud of each and every one of you.

Keep singing!

Mr Safrany and Mrs Williams

New Year's Panto

We hope as many FS2 and Year 1 children as possible will come to our pantomime. It is always a fantastic evening, enjoyed by young and old.

Willow's Attendance Challenge

Following a visit by the Trust Director for Behaviour and Attendance on Wednesday 16th December, all children have been set the challenge of 97% attendance. At present our attendance is 95.3 %.

Punctuality was also discussed; again Willow has been challenged to reduce the amount of pupils coming late to school (after 8.45 am for KS2 and 9.00 am for KS1), as well as being collected late at the end of the school day.

We are very supportive and welcome parents to contact us if there is a problem. Please keep talking to us!

Being absent can seriously;

- Stop their progress and create gaps in their learning, plus every day absent from school is a day of lost learning,
- Affect your child's friendships, its harder for them to socialise and be part of a team,
- It's embarrassing for your child to walk into an already settled classroom and have to catch up,
- Bad habits are hard to break - we can cope with minor illnesses like coughs and colds and if ever there was problem, we would contact you as soon as possible.

In accordance with section 444(1) of the Education Act it is the parents' responsibility to ensure their child receives both a **regular and punctual** education.

Attendance System used in School

Letters sent to parents are in line with **Doncaster Council Policies**.

- **GREEN** is a concern, below 97%.
- **AMBER** is a warning, below 95%.
- **RED** is a serious concern, below 90% and can lead to court action.

The Education Welfare Officer constantly monitors the registers and will intervene with all cases below 97%.

Attendance – Week ending 18.12.15

FS2C	94.2%
FS2H	91.5%
1C	96.3%
1F	89%
2O	98.6%
2V	97.7%
3G	96.7%
3S	91.8%
4R	98.9%
4S	97.5%
5N	95.9%
5P	99.3%
6C	93%
6R	94.3%

e-Safety Website

Many thanks as ever for all your valued support. We hope you enjoy a well-deserved festive break... but before you do, here's one last update for you from the CEOP Education Team.

New parents and carers e- safety website

We're proud to announce that a Beta version of our new website for parents and carers is now live at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents. The new site offers a completely refreshed suite of articles and guidance on all aspects of child internet safety.

Families can visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents to access advice and support on how to keep children safe from sexual abuse, both online and off. Articles provide guidance on topics as diverse as: challenging harmful sexual attitudes and promoting positive behaviours; helping a child with autism negotiate life online; supporting a child who has been sexually abused; and dealing with a range of online issues such as sending inappropriate selfies and viewing inappropriate material. Users will find films, downloadable guides and useful links to support organisations.

Families can also use the website to access the CEOP Safety Centre (www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre) where they can report abuse and exploitation direct to CEOP.

With best wishes from us all in the CEOP Education Team

Wishing all pupils, parents and carers a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Y Buckley
Headteacher