

Our new values are to ASPIRE at Willow by:

Achieving, Self-Motivated, Positive, Independent, Respectful, Engaged

Lessons and homework

- We have a revised approach to planning and teaching maths and writing; children will work towards a piece of assessed extended writing every two weeks.
- 'Bug Club' Reading website/ app will be available for all children to use at home (Bug Club logins will be available via your child's new Reading Journal) and information sessions will take place for parents over Spring Term.
- We have bought a new package for Maths support and homework called 'Mathletics' where children will receive individual activities set by their teacher that they can access via an app or internet based games. This will be launched over the Spring Term.
- More Teaching Assistants (TA) to ensure each year group has one TA in the afternoon to carry out intervention and learning support, directed by the main class teachers.

Curriculum

- We have launched a creative, project and skills based curriculum for foundation subjects called 'Cornerstones' (Geography, Science, History, Art, Music, PSHE etc...) taught around imaginative themes that will inspire and engage the children. 'Cornerstones' meets the national curriculum in an engaging and active way.
- Personal Social Health Education and promoting our British Values will be a priority through lessons and other activities and events around the school. Extend the 'Pupil Parliament' & School Council.

Playtime and Lunchtime

- Structured play and lunch time activities will be led by our newly appointed Pastoral Care Leader, Mrs Lindle and the Year 5 Active Playground Leaders.
- Access to lunchtime activities including Nintendo Wii, Minecraft, DVD club and Table Top games.
- From February 2017 we will take a more 'family dining' style approach to lunch service to reinforce social skills, and table manners and promote the older children as role models to the younger children. More details about this will follow via the website and through letter communication.

Behaviour consequences and Rewards

Our children are usually well behaved and respond well to correction; we will continue to raise our expectations of the children to create the right conditions and culture for excellent learning and progress.

- From the start of term we have reinforced high expectations through a relaunch of the behaviour policy. If children do not make the right choices with their behaviour and attitude, sanctions will take place on the same day such as a loss of playtime or social time at lunch for children who have not met our expectations of behaviour and attitude.
- If children fail to respond to same day loss of social time, continue to make poor choices and persist in disruption or poor behaviour this will now result in a full loss of Golden Time.
- Golden Time will still be used as a reward for most children.
- Children are able to collect reward cards and awards based on how well they have demonstrated the Willow ASPIRE values and behaviours which will be promoted through lessons and assemblies.

Please refer to the Ethos and Values section of our website for further detail about our updated behaviour and rewards.

Parents and Community Communication:

- Updated website to ensure it is the first point of contact for information and news.
- The availability of our wearelistening@willowacademy.org for parents to communicate directly with your feedback.
- Follow the progress of the academy through our new Twitter account @AcademyWillow

Morning and After School Clubs

- After a review of this provision we now have two coaches, one for each Key Stage; this is so that the children's experience is carefully matched to their stage of development and needs, it also ensures we have lower child to coach ratio.
- These sessions are currently led by 'Active Fusion' coaches who are fully qualified sports and leadership coaches. They continue to operate from 8.00am until the start of the school day.
- To ensure that we continue to meet health and safety ratios and provide the most enjoyable experience for the children the cost of the Multi Skills sessions will be £1 per day from January 2017. The sessions must be paid for in advance for each half term via Parent Pay.

What can parents and carers do to support us?

- To make sure that the children focus on their work and learning, we respectfully ask that children do not bring any items or toys into school that may cause a distraction from their learning. This includes stationary equipment, toys or match attack cards. We have all the equipment the children need so they do not need to bring anything else into school.
- Ensure your Parent Pay account includes an up to date mobile phone number and email address as we intend to develop our use of the text/ email communication system further.
- Please make sure your child arrives on time, attends every day and is dressed in the correct school uniform:

Reception – Year 5:

- Grey knee length skirt or Pinafore dress.
- Grey trousers or shorts (in summer)
- White Blouse/ shirt or white polo shirt (plain)
- School logo sweatshirt or cardigan (with Academy Logo on)
- Summer Dress (red/white gingham check only)
- Plain white, grey or black socks.
- Plain red or grey tights.

Year 6

- Children are provided with Burgundy Blazers and a tie by the Academy with white shirts and blouses or shirts

Footwear

- All shoes are to be sensible, black and low-heeled.
- Trainers are not acceptable for children to wear in school.

The relationship between parents, staff and children is crucial to the success of the school and in moving the school forward. By working together we can ensure that children enjoy their time at Willow Academy and make good progress.

Thank you for your support.