



Dear Parents and Carers

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and an incredibly happy New Year. As ever, it has been an extremely busy month at Willowtown with dozens of activities, trips, visits and events taking place. We have been especially proud of the launch of the first of our new learning heroes, Resilient Rhod, and the way the children have taken to the learning behaviours we are always seeking to promote. Please look out for Rhod and his friends over the next few terms and have a very enjoyable end to the term. **Paul Keane, Headteacher**

Christmas Plays and Pantos

The dates for our Foundation Phase Christmas plays and pantos are as follows:

- Year 2: **Thursday 21st December (pm)**
- Year 1: **Monday 18th December (pm)**
- Reception: **Monday 18th December (pm)**
- Nursery: **Tuesday 19th December (am + pm)**
Wednesday 20th December (am + pm)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day!

This year's **Christmas Jumper Day** will take place on the last day of term:

Friday 22nd December

Once again, we will be raising money for Save the Children so please give generously (suggested donation 50p).

Class Christmas parties will also take place on this fun-filled and action-packed day and class teachers will provide you with further information in the next ten days.

Book Donations for Accelerated Reader!

We are always looking for more books to add to our collection to engage our pupils with a variety of reading materials. Any donations of books in good condition would be greatly welcomed and can be left at the School Office. Thank you!

Pupil Progress Meetings

Sign-up sheets for you to meet with class teachers to discuss your children's progress are still on display outside the School Office and Foundation Phase classrooms.

If you have not already done so, please sign up for a meeting with your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Monday 11th December	Reception
Tuesday 12th December	Year 6
Wednesday 13th December	Year 5
Thursday 14th December	Year 4
Monday 18th December	Year 3
Tuesday 19th December	Year 2
Wednesday 20th December	Year 1
Thursday 21st December	Resource Base

The meetings are your essential chance to discuss your children's progress, the next steps in their learning and what you can do at home to help them learn better. Meetings will take place on the dates above. Meetings for **Nursery** will take place on **Friday 12th January 2018**.

Friday Class Assemblies: Spring Term

Thank you for coming to see and support your children: our assemblies remain very popular and it is lovely to see so many of you there.

Please arrive before 3:00pm in order to be seated before the assembly begins.

Here is the timetable for assemblies up until Easter:

Friday 12th January **Class Assembly:**
Year 6 Gwyrdd

Friday 19th January **Class Assembly:**
Year 6 Melyn

Friday 26th January **Class Assembly:**
Year 5 Hilston
Park Special
Assembly

Friday 2nd February **Class Assembly:**
Year 4 Gwyrdd

Friday 9th February **Class Assembly:**
Year 4 Melyn

Friday 16th February **Class Assembly:**
Year 3 Gwyrdd

HALF TERM

Friday 2nd March

Class Assembly:
Year 3 Melyn

Friday 9th March

Class Assembly:
Year 2 Gwyrdd

Friday 16th March

Class Assembly:
Year 2 Melyn

Friday 23rd March

Class Assembly:
Year 5 Lead
Creative School
Special Assembly

Friday 30th March

No Assembly:
Easter Holiday

Assemblies will finish by 3:15pm. Parents/ carers will not be able to collect siblings until the end of normal school at 3:20/3:30pm.

Scholastic Book Fair

The grand total raised in our book fair before half term was a fantastic:

£1,153.82

Thank you to all of you who spent time coming to the fair. The total raised means we qualify for **£576.91** towards buying books for our new and vastly improving school library, which we are adding to all the time. Thank you especially to Mrs Bradley and all who helped make the fair such a success.

Loose Parts Play Equipment Appeal

We are quickly working towards becoming the best school for playtimes in Blaenau Gwent. All of our support staff have taken part in high-level training days to improve their skills and provide your children with great play experiences every day. Part of our training is in the use of 'loose parts' and we are always looking for donations of the following items:

- saucepans
- wooden spoons
- plastic jugs, bowls, etc.
- plastic guttering pipes
- bamboo sticks
- milk crates
- plastic flower pots
- toy cars/toy garages
- old sheets/duvet covers/curtains
- old clothes and shoes (adults)

All items can be left in the School Office. Thank you for giving generously!