

WILLOW TREE ACADEMY



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Visit us at: www.willowtreeacademy.org

Mr A. Trueman – Chair of Trustees Mrs J.K. Fearnley – Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents

I hope you had a lovely summer with your children and family? We have been watching closely the situation with Covid-19 over the last six weeks and are happy to say that all Willow Tree schools will be open to all children from the 4th of September. This will be a relief to you all I know, especially for those children who have not been in school since March. Unfortunately, we have to keep our rigorous controls and measures in place to keep our children and staff safe. We will continue with our school organisation for drop offs and pickups, staggered breaks and lunch times and health and hygiene. It is important that you support us with this by keeping to the allocated drop off and pick up times and continue to use the designated gates and routes in and out of the school grounds. Children should wash their hands on leaving home please and will continue with the hand washing regime in school throughout the day. In order to keep contact to a minimum and our children and staff safe, in the Autumn Term we will not be allowing parents and only necessary visitors to access school, you are encouraged to move swiftly through the school grounds, as many of you have been doing in June and July. We ask you not to congregate in the school grounds or by the gates please. Throughout the summer we have planned wonderful learning opportunities for your children and although the residential have had to be cancelled (for the time being), our educational visits will go ahead. In the first two weeks of school we will concentrate on getting children back into routines and settling them in. We are mindful that some children will love to be back to see their friends and teachers and that others will need more support. Every child will be different and your continued support and communication through Class Dojo will be appreciated.

I know you will have received plans from our Heads of School and class teachers but just to remind you; School will close at 1:30pm every Friday from the 11th September to allow for Deep Cleaning and PPA time - this will enable us to restrict movement of cover personnel across bubbles during the week. We will stagger the bubbles leaving school to ensure social distancing is in place.

The first day of school for all children will be Thursday 3/9/2020.

Should any child or member of staff show symptoms of the Coronavirus CoVid-19 we will contact you if this affects your child's bubble. We will be promoting the testing, tracking and tracing programme, so please do not be alarmed if we have to close bubbles at short notice. The local testing station is at Forge island in the centre of town. Should the infection rate (R number) rise in Rotherham, localised outbreaks occur, or anyone in school be confirmed as Covid-19 positive we will notify you immediately. Of the people that have been tested in Willow Tree these have been largely precautionary and have, thankfully, been negative. Results are back within 24 hours now and this means we will be able to act swiftly in the event of a positive result. We know that children and staff will have colds and allergies that may mimic some symptoms and so we will work with you closely to ensure we have the right information to proceed. We can assure you we will act on the side of caution, so please bear with us as we all get back to normal, there will be ups and downs I'm sure! However, should we need to close I know we are also set up to continue our Home Learning as we did in lockdown.

Finally, I want to reassure you that our amazing team (many of whom have worked throughout the summer) will continue to do what they always do - be dedicated to giving the very best education possible to your children. In the Autumn term our school events will remain virtual, but as in the Summer I know they will still be wonderful! Thank you in advance for your support with this. I am extremely proud to lead such an amazing team and as always, I know they will be going the extra million miles! Stay safe, stay vigilant and Welcome Back!

Kind regards Mrs J K Fearnley Mr A Trueman
Executive Head Teacher Chair of the Trust

Willow Tree Academy is an exempt charity regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Number 09440025), whose registered office is at Herringthorpe Junior School, Chatterton Drive, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 2JW