

AUTUMN TERM 1 BULLETIN

2nd OCTOBER 2020



Headteacher's Message

Welcome to October! The colder mornings are certainly here and that drop in temperature, coupled with the need to have all classrooms well ventilated is making for quite a chilly school! Please don't forget to support your children in dressing for this. Vests are a must– as are jumpers this month.

There is lots of great stuff going on in school this month– please make sure you refer to our Bulletins for all the latest dates and information.

Miss Matthews

Contact: Head@willenprimary.org

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Dates for your diary:

7/10—Phonics Workshop for Parents/Carers of Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 children (via video link)	21/10—Halloween Dress Down Day (WSA fundraiser)
7/10—Early Years settling in catch up (via telephone), 2pm onwards	21/10 - Last day of term
14/10—Year 6 SATS information session (via video link)	22/10 INSET day (school closed to all children)
14/10—Harvest festival (collection of dried and tinned goods for the MK Foodbank)	23/10 INSET day 9school closed to all children)
16/10– Deadline Parent Governor nominations	2/11—Back to school
21/10—Hotdogs for Halloween (WSA fundraiser)	13/11– World Kindness day and Children in Need
	13/11 Parent Governors elections
	16/11- Parent Consultations (by apt)
	18/11- Parent Consultations (by apt)
	21/11—Open day for New Starters 2021

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2020

Now more than ever, our local community need our support. As part of our Harvest celebrations this year, we would like to collect donations on behalf of the MK Food Bank.

The following items are desperately needed:

Tinned Pasta (Spaghetti, Spaghetti hoops, ravioli, macaroni cheese), Tinned Custard and Rice Pudding, Tinned Meat (corned beef, Spam etc. or tins of Bolognese, chilli con carne, hot dogs etc.), Tinned Fruit, Biscuits, Long life Juice / Squash.

Please send into school on the morning of **WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER**.



Halloween 2020

We understand that many traditional Halloween activities are being cancelled this year...

In order to continue to bring magic and sparkle into our children's lives the following events have been planned for here in school on **WEDNESDAY 21ST**

OCTOBER:

Halloween Dress Down—£1 cash on the day or via school money online (to dress in Halloween costumes or your weekend clothes)

Please, no weapons such as axes or costumes that may cause significant distress to our younger children. Masks will not be permitted to be worn in class)

Hotdogs for Halloween- £1 for a meat or veggie hotdog in a bun at break time (paid in advance via school money)

Please ensure payments for Hotdogs are received by **FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER**.

All profits will go directly towards improving playtime resources as a result of Covid 19 restrictions.



Parent Governor Elections 2020

We are pleased to announce that we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our wonderful Governing Board.

Details have been sent via email and hard copy letter to all families.

Please (if you are willing and able!) submit your nominations by **Friday 16th October 2020**.

Elections will take place on Friday 13th November.

WPS School Council 2020

Congratulations to the following children for being successfully voted in by their peers as class representatives for the year:

Elliot W (3Otters), Yvette (3Zebras), Oliver (4TreeFrogs), Saud (4Toucans), Nathan (5Pandas), Thomas C (5Macaws), Lilian (6Turtles) and Eshan (6Wolves)

Phonics Workshop for Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 Families

Widely recognised as the foundation of early reading, one of the most concerning consequences of national lockdown has been the potential impact on children's reading/phonics acquisition.

We need your help to address this gap!

The teachers have created an informative and directly relevant training and information video for all parents/carers of children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2

Please take the time to watch the video (link emailed 7/10) and put into place some of the suggested activities at home. Thank you!

Introducing our new Chair of Governors– Dr Raymond Moodley

Dear Children and Parents of Willen Primary School (WPS)

I want to commence by thanking all of us for our collective efforts in keeping WPS safe, open, and an exciting centre of learning during this challenging time. Safety at WPS is, and will always remain our top priority.

It is an immense privilege to assume the role of chair of governors of WPS and lead us into this next exciting phase of growth. Much has been done over the last years to grow WPS under the leadership of Margaret Hart, who announced earlier in the year that she will be stepping down at the end of her term. We thank Margaret for her outstanding work and contribution to life at WPS and wish her our very best for her future.

Looking ahead, we will launch several exciting initiatives over time with the aim of positioning WPS as the school of choice in Milton Keynes. Our focus will remain on growing WPS as a safe, value-centric, excellent centre of learning that serves the community of Milton Keynes. Naturally this is only possible with your support and we invite you to join us in realising this ambition for our beautiful school and community.

A little bit about me ... I have been a governor at WPS for over 7 years, and I describe myself as a life-long learner and a global citizen. I am passionate about learning (anything and everything) and I am passionate about the wonderful diversity of people and cultures across the world and seize every opportunity to embrace these as I do my own. In my spare time – I spend most mornings on my bike soaking up the beauty and tranquillity of Willen Lake (also known as our school's back yard!) and when I have the rare combination of spare time and spare cash, I spend it on travelling with my family, usually to some less-travelled place somewhere in the world, like in attached picture where I had the great privilege to take a selfie with these 600 year old Rapa Nui statues in Easter Island.

I wish you all my very best, stay safe, and I look forward to meeting you in person when it is once again safe for us to do so.



Introducing– Mr Tony Cerff– Vice Chair of Governors

Firstly congratulations to Raymond on becoming the new Chairman and it will be an honour supporting him as the new Vice Chair.

I have been a Willen Primary dad since 2012 and although there have been a few challenging times since then, I have seen so many positive changes recently. With the school's strong leadership and fantastic group of teachers, I think Willen Primary is a great school and a happy place for our children to learn. Along with the teaching staff and the other governors, we will continue to work to keep the "Willen Way" the best way for our children.

