



The Willows Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. S. A. Barnett
Victoria Road, Kirkham, PR4 2BT
Telephone & Fax: 01772 684371
www.willows.lancs.sch.uk

Questions from Parents

To be honest we don't know what to do?

These are very challenging times and it is often difficult to decide what to do for the best. No-one will be subjected to fines or attendance procedures if they choose not to send their child back to school. What you need to remember is you have the right to make the best decision for you and your family. All of our Willows family will fully support whatever decision you make and we'll look forward to welcoming you back into school when you feel the time is right.

The Willows is on holiday on the 1st June. When will my child start at school?

We are anticipating that the first class will start on Monday 8th June which will be Reception. The introduction of Year 1 and Year 6 will then be staggered. We want to 'test' our systems and procedures to ensure that every child and member of staff is as safe as possible before introducing Year 1 into school. We will only introduce Year 6 once we are as confident as we can be that it is safe to do so. At the centre of each decision will be the safety of our children and staff.

Breakfast and After School Club?

Whilst we understand the lack of Breakfast and After School Club may make things a little more complicated, we are not running either of these sessions. We are making sure we have the minimum amount of children and staff in school wherever possible to minimise the risk.

How will the year group be split? All boys/girls, friendship groups or ability?

Would it be possible to keep with his friends to be able to settle back in to school?

How will the groups be decided? Can we request any friends to be in the same group together?

How will the class be split?

How are the groups being decided and will the group be a mix children from each year group?

Your child's class teacher, irrespective of who will be teaching them, will be looking at friendship groups and splitting the children based on these. This will only be with children from their year group. Given the very stressful time for the children, being with their friends will quite possibly be the most important thing to them and us.

How would I be able to bring Year 6 child to school if I have to bring sibling with me as well when I drop off/collect?

Parents with multiple children.... Can we do school drop off with them with us?

The Government guidance requests that only one adult brings their child to school. If for childcare reasons, you need to bring a brother or sister with them, then this is fine. The most important thing to remember is social distancing – please keep 2 metres apart from any other families and children.

What will happen with children from other year groups, if you are a key worker?

If you are a key worker, and already have a place for childcare at school, this will not change. The hours and routines which are currently operated for our Key Worker families will continue to apply.





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Will start and end times be staggered or will school operate the usual 8:50-3:30pm?

The only thing I am concerned about is the staggered start and finish times. My husband has luckily been able to arrange his finish time to be able to collect our child when school finishes.

We are aware that staggered start and finish times may have an impact on parents and their working patterns. However, we have no choice but to operate staggered start and finish times in order to reduce the number of parents on site at any one time. I hope you can take some comfort from the knowledge that we are doing our best to balance this with the need to keep our children and staff as safe as possible.

Your child will be in school for as many hours as is safe to do so – taking account of the need to bring over 100 children in and out of school safely.

Can you please clarify the rationale behind not driving to school?

The Government, in the guidance they have issued, are trying to encourage families to walk to school as there is less risk of the virus being transmitted in the open air. If this is not practical then of course you can drive. We ask that you park on the church car park and enter the school gates from the church car park. The rationale is to reduce the number of people walking out of and into one car park so that social distancing can be maintained.

If twins were to return to school, could they be in the same group to minimise contact?

Absolutely.

Would children of parents in high-risk jobs (NHS/Care Workers) be separated from children of lower risk?

No. The children will be split into their 'class family' by friendship groups.

Will there be opportunities for play?

Yes – outside is possibly one of the safest places for the children to be. Each 'class family' will be assigned a break and lunchtime and will have a designated space in which to play outside with the children from their class family. They will not mix with children (or staff) from any other class family.

I would also like more information on how social distance will work during break times?

How will break times work, will my child be told to just play on their own and told off if near anyone?

The children will be split into 'class families' and will have break and lunchtimes with their class family. They will not mix with any other class families. The children will be constantly reminded about social distancing and keeping 2 metres apart. As I am sure you are aware, children do forget and are naturally drawn towards each. For this reason, we cannot guarantee social distancing – we can only do our best.

Will equipment be wiped down between uses?

Each class family will be given their own equipment to use both inside the classrooms and outside. This will of course be cleaned between uses.





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Will there be socialising between children?

The children will only socialise with children from their class family. They will not mix with any other class family.

Will my child be mixing with Key Worker children?

Yes but only the Key Worker children within their designated class family.

Are the other year groups expected back before the summer, resulting in larger classes again? If all year groups return at some point before the summer will classes return to normal class size in each classroom and all children then be taught by their normal teacher?

We are guided by the Government and what they want us to do. At present, the Government are aiming to have all the children back in school for at least a month prior to the summer holidays. The only way this can work in our school is if the 2 metre rule is removed. We will be using every classroom base and the hall to accommodate the return of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and the Key Worker Club children so it will be impossible for us to accommodate any other year groups unless the social distancing rule is removed.

Unfortunately, we do not make the decision as to when more children will be allowed back to school. We will however, use our discretion based on the guidance and science to make as the environment as safe as possible.

The safety of your child and our staff is our highest priority.

Is the intention for children to be full time, 5 days/week, through to the summer holidays?

Will there still be a 6 week summer holiday or will school remain open?

Yes. We will be offering as close as is possible full-time hours to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, but with staggered start and finish times. At present, we have enough staff to maintain our high standards of safety. If, for whatever reason, we our number of available staff reduces, we will have to review what we are able to offer.

The Government guidance at the moment indicates that schools will be closed over the summer holiday – to all children.

What is school going to look like? Will everybody be at separate desks all day?

Will they still have a proportion of the toys and learning aids to work with?

The school environment which the children left behind in March is now very different. Due to social distancing rules; tables and resources are more spaced out, surfaces are clear and resources have been put away in order to facilitate the constant cleaning that is needed. The children will still have access to some toys and learning aids but these can only be ones which can be disinfected easily once they have been used.

The children will not necessarily be sitting at their desks all day. Inevitably Year 6 will be able to spend more time at their desks as they can concentrate for longer periods than Year 1 or Reception. The needs of the children will be taken into account in designing our new curriculum and we are planning to spend as much time as we can outside.





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Reception and Year 1 children will notice a difference in that they will have stations to use at certain times rather than having free reign over the classroom so that staff can limit the number of children at each station to ensure social distancing rules. We will be taking our learning outside as often as possible as well.

Will the classes be taught by a teacher or a TA?

At the moment, we have enough teachers available for each class family. If this changes, then we will of course inform you.

What happens if someone gets symptoms? Every time a child coughs, will the whole group be sent home to isolate for a week whilst awaiting that child's test results?

Someone getting symptoms and someone coughing are two different issues. If a child coughs, this will be monitored. As we are all aware, the symptoms of Coronavirus indicate a new and continuous cough. If this child's cough persists, or they begin to display any other symptoms, their parents will be contacted and the child should be collected immediately. This child will be taken out of the family and supervised separately by a member of staff who will wear full PPE.

Should this child then have a confirmed case of Coronavirus, all of the children and staff from that family will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days.

If however, the test comes back negative, the child will be able to return to school.

Would we be notified if anyone in my child's group was absent due to symptoms of Covid-19?

At present, the Government guidance is that we inform you when a child has a confirmed case of Coronavirus and they have been in school.

Would seesaw app still be running for Yr1?

Will we still get work sent home if we decide to not send her to school?

Will online work still be set if we choose to continue home schooling?

Will children at home be sent the same work that is completed in school?

Yes. All year groups will still have work set for them on Seesaw. The amount of work that is currently being set and responded to by teachers will HAVE to be reduced due to the fact that all of our teachers will be teaching a class family full-time and as I am sure that you appreciate we need be manage our staff's workload. Currently they are responding to over 60 submissions per day. We are planning to set English and Maths activities set with one or two additional activities each week. We will also provide a list of other on-line learning sites for parents to access should they require additional activities.

Please can you give more detail on how social distancing will work for the reception classes?

Good question. We are working to create an environment that will enable the Reception children to maintain social distancing through the use of work stations. However, given that this is an entirely new situation, we cannot predict how these measures will work. We will of course continue to review our policies and procedures to ensure we are doing our absolute best we can to keep your child safe.





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Will the teacher be a resident teacher from the Willows school?

Yes. Any member of staff teaching or interacting with your child will be employed by The Willows – your child will already know these people.

When will we know which teacher my child will have?

Will parents be informed which teacher they will be assigned?

We are expecting to provide parents with a pack of information prior to them returning to school. The name of the teacher who will be teaching your child will be in this.

Is this the complete end for children in other years till September? To sit them down and explain if they cannot go back to Year 3.

Being completely honest – we don't know. As we have already said the only way we will be able to return other year groups is if the 2 metre rule is removed. We will be using every classroom base and the hall to accommodate the return of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and the Key Worker Club children so it will be impossible for us to accommodate any other year groups unless the social distancing rule is removed.

If my child doesn't adapt to all the changes and it's too much for them then can I keep him at home?

Yes – you know your child the best and you have the right to make that decision. It is your choice as to whether your child attends school or not.

Please can you clarify are children allowed to play together within their own groups?

Yes. The children will only mix with other children from their family. They will of course be reminded of social distancing wherever necessary.

I am really concerned that my child's emotional needs might not be met as this is a very scary time for them. Will they be comforted if they are frightened or upset?

We will of course do our very best to comfort your child – we too are very worried about their emotional needs. How we will do this, we can't say – we just don't know at the moment. Mrs Plant will be in school and available to support any children. She will be maintaining the social distancing rule.

Would the reception curriculum be followed or will they be doing other type of activities?

The Government have specified that children in Reception should continue to experience the EYFS curriculum. The guidance does also state that this may need to be modified in order to ensure safe delivery of activities. Miss Ashworth, Miss Duffy and Miss Forshaw are extremely capable and will ensure the children have a variety of interesting and stimulating activities whilst following all the safety guidelines.

Can my child do part-time hours to fit round my work?

Can we send them in on a part time basis or change our minds if we feel it is not right for them at a later date?

This is your decision. The Government are encouraging all eligible children to attend school full-time, where possible. You of course have the right to make any decisions about your child's health and well-being that you feel are important. If you feel your child would benefit from doing part-





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time hours, then we will support you in this decision. If you choose not to send your child to school we will also fully support your decision. All we ask is that you let us know if and when your child will be in school. We understand that you may wish to change your decision as time goes on and again we will fully support you in this. Again please just talk to us and keep us in the loop.

Are the children to be in full uniform?

Yes. The children are returning to school – even if it will appear different. We accept that some children may have outgrown uniform and you cannot currently purchase new uniform. If this is the case then we ask that your child wears clothes that are suitable and as close to our uniform as possible. I would suggest that the children wear the summer uniform.

Possible transition for high school?

At present, the High Schools do not have any plans in place for transition. This will be led entirely by the Government guidance. With the information we have at the moment, it is unlikely that your child will have any face to face contact with their high school. We are in discussion with the different high schools and they are exploring options such as virtual tours. That said, Mr. Sharrock and Mrs. Spacey are very experienced at preparing the children for their transition to high school and will do all that they can to help prepare your child for transition to their high school.

Is there anything educationally that my child would be missing in the last few weeks of school that would be significantly detrimental to his development?

Our priority is to ensure the children's emotional well-being and safety within school and the curriculum we are planning will reflect this. We will also will be covering English and Maths work within school which will also be set on Seesaw for children who are not attending school.

How will children do reading practice or get help with their work when learning?

Staff will support the children in the best way they can whilst maintaining social distancing.

What will a typical day look like in terms of activities and lessons?

Before your child returns to school, you will receive a separate email which will inform you of the arrangements for drop off and collection and who will be their class teacher. Our priority is to ensure the children's emotional well-being and safety within school and the curriculum we are planning will reflect this. We will also will be covering English and Maths work within school which will also be set on Seesaw for children who are not attending school. As much learning as we can will take place outside in line with the Government recommendations. Miss Ashworth, Mrs Roddy and Mr Sharrock will be planning for both groups of children within their year groups so that each group follows the same curriculum.

