



Windmill L.E.A.D. Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

# Windmill News

**Date: Autumn 1**

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great start we have had to the new school year. I am so impressed with how smart the children look in their uniforms and how calm and focussed they are with their work. Over the summer, teachers have worked hard to prepare an exciting range of topics for the children to learn. You should have received your child's class newsletter to inform you about what your child will be studying, when PE lessons are taking place and about homework tasks.

## Curriculum Development

As a staff, we have been working hard to develop the curriculum across the school so that it is ambitious and interesting. We will be updating the website with our new plans over the coming term. One aspect of the curriculum that has caused some concern across the country, has been the law on Relationships and Sex Education being compulsory from September 2020. Sex Education in primary schools is not compulsory and parents will still be able to withdraw from this aspect of Relationship Education. Over this term, I am attending briefings and trainings for head teachers, after which, I will hold a series of meetings to share information and gather parental views.

## Lockdown Practices

As a school, we regularly practise fire evacuations, children practised one last week very calmly and orderly. We have also practised getting back into the building quickly and safely in case there was a disturbance outside. These procedures have been in place for a long time, but I feel that it is important to make you aware that we will be practising full lockdown procedures on a termly basis, in case we find ourselves in a situation where we need to keep everyone safe. These will involve children learning to respond to a new lockdown alarm by coming into the building quickly and learning to stay safe in a room with their teacher, such as sitting under their table out of view. These practices will be discussed with children beforehand so that they do not cause any undue anxiety. As a school, we feel that we must unfortunately plan for any eventuality in order to do our best at keeping everyone safe.

## Collection of Children from School

Keeping children safe is at the heart of everything we do

## In this half term...

- Curriculum Development
- Lockdown Practices
- Collection of Children from School
- Children's Individual Photographs
- Home/School Learning Conferences
- Parent Classes
- Parent Governor Vacancy
- Midday Vacancy
- Farewell
- Dates for your Diary

and this includes handing your children back to you at the end of the day. At Windmill, we have a Collection of Pupils Policy, which is available from the school office if you would like a copy.

In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, children MUST be collected by a parent/carer. If you choose to nominate someone else, they must be at least 18 years old to collect a child in Foundation Stage and they must be at least 16 years old to collect them from Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2).

In Years 3 and 4, again, parents are expected to collect their children and if they nominate someone they should be 16 years old. We will allow a sibling, who is younger than 16 years to collect if we have written consent. They will only be permitted to walk home with written consent and having talked this through with the class teacher.

In Year 5 and 6, again parents are expected to pick their children up or choose someone they deem responsible. Children are allowed to walk home if this is the parents/carers wishes, as long as permission (verbally or written) has been given.

If a child is not collected, we will try to contact you by phone. If you are still unavailable, we will ring your other emergency contacts. If by 4pm we still haven't made contact with you and if your house is within walking distance, two members of staff will walk your child home. If there is no one at home, they will return to school and by 4:30pm we will have to inform Children and Families Direct (Social Services). This timeframe would be slightly later (5pm) if your child has attended an after school club. Ultimately, we would have to hand the care of your child over to them/and or the police if your child remains uncollected.



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Please help us to avoid these situations by keeping us informed of home time arrangements and having at least **three current emergency contacts**. Please communicate with your child any changes in home time collection arrangements as children can become quite distressed if they are not collected as expected.

## Children's Individual Photographs

Miro, our school photographer, will be here taking individual children's photographs on **Tuesday 24th September**. He will be taking family photographs between 8am and 9am. Please see additional letter to book your slot.

## Home/School Learning Conferences

On **Tuesday 8th October**, there will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teachers and see their work.

## Parent classes

We have successfully held a number of parent classes in English and Maths over the last year and we will continue to work with local colleges to put on more, especially as we have a lovely purpose built training room. This term, Miss Aggus, has organised a 12 week driving theory course starting on Tuesday 1st October from 1—3pm. There will be more details coming out nearer the time

## Parent Governor Vacancy

We still have two parent governor vacancies on our Academy Governor Board. The AGB have a very important role in sharing parental views at governor meetings and supporting the leadership of the school. If you would like to be a school governor, please come to the school office to request an expression of interest form or ask to talk to myself. The closing date for expressions of interest will be Friday 4th October 2019.

## Midday Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a midday supervisor. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please go to the school office and ask to speak to myself or Mr Colvin. The office will also be able to give you an application form. The closing date for this post will be Friday 4th October 2019.

## Farewell



Gillian Key and Margaret Bradburn, both retired from Windmill on Friday 6th September. Gillian had worked as the school's Assistant Cook for 28 years and Margaret was a Midday Supervisor for 18 years. They will be very missed by both children and staff alike.

Thank you for your continued support.



Teresa Shrestha  
Headteacher

## Diary Dates

- Tuesday 8th October—Home/School Learning Conferences
- Friday 18th October—Break up for Half Term holiday
- Monday 4th November—Children return to school
- Friday 20th December— Break up for Christmas
- Monday 6th January 2020—Children return to school



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**Diary Dates**