



William Law CE Primary School

Twelvetree Avenue, Werrington
Peterborough, PE4 5DT

Telephone: 01733 577600
Website: www.williamlawceschool.co.uk
Email: office@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs T A Cunningham B Ed (Hons)

Learning Living Loving Together

14th December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach Christmas, it is always a good time to reflect on the past year or in the case of school, the Autumn Term. It has been a busy period for the school community, the Governors and myself, as newly appointed Chair of Governors.

School is constantly seeking to innovate and improve. As Governors we monitor and guide the school in this process. Areas of investment are documented in our school improvement plan which can be found on the school website. As you read the plan, a key area for constant improvement are our teachers and teaching assistants to ensure they have the greatest impact with the children.

As we invest in our team, new opportunities appear for individuals that enable them to further their career. As a school it would be wrong not to support teachers as they progress even if this is elsewhere. We thank our teachers that have worked tirelessly and contributed to the school community, we wish them success as they progress in their careers and hope they stay in touch.

I know as a parent and a Governor this can sometimes feel like there is a high turnover of staff, however in one school year, a single form entry school with an average of 7 teachers would expect 1 - 2 members of staff to leave due to promotion, to gain further experience and of course because of retirements or maternity leave. In a primary school the size of William Law, with 3 form entry and over 25 teachers, that number is always likely to be higher. To plan for this, we continuously work with two school-based training partners to train new teachers in the Peterborough area. We find that William Law is a desirable place to work, that ensures a broad selection of candidates for each position that becomes available.

One of the attractions for parents and teachers alike to William Law are our Christian Values and how we as a community work as one team to lead by example. This includes Governors, members of staff, children and parents. It is because of this that when I reflect back on the year, some of the most disappointing conversations I have had are with members of staff who have been disrespected or threatened by members of our community. This has occurred in multiple areas around the school but a key area of contention is access to the roundabout at the front of school.

As a matter of safety for everybody we respectfully ask that the car park is retained for staff members and that the roundabout is not used for parking (other than those using the disabled spaces). It can be used for dropping off. Our teaching assistants are having to manage the situation for the school at present, as we find that members of our community are unable to stick to these simple principles.

Even more disappointing, our children continuously learn from the environment around them. When adults behave in a disrespectful or threatening manner, that behaviour is then learnt as acceptable and then repeated in the playground and at home. I ask that all of us take this time to reflect on our behaviours and consider our actions towards one another.

To be clear it is unacceptable for anybody to threaten or show disrespect to any member of the William Law community be it a member of staff, carer or child.

As we enter the New Year, I know many of you will be planning for holidays. I would like to remind you of the School's Absence policy that is approved by the Governors but really is dictated by Government legislation. Holidays during term time cannot be permitted unless in an exceptional circumstance. The school can only make a decision on the information that is provided to them. If your child has unauthorised absences, you could be liable for a Penalty Charge Notice fine. To be clear the fine is issued by and dealt with by the Local Authority and not the school and the school receives no monies from the fine.

As a school, we do understand the cost of holidays and this is why last year we moved our inset days to enable a longer summer holiday at the end of 2017. We have heard lovely stories from the children and families who managed to take advantage of the inset days to reduce the cost of a holiday whilst ensuring their children were in school on time on the first day of term. As a school we believe this is a positive approach and we will continue to plan and publish our term times accordingly.

To finish on a more positive note it would be amiss not to thank all of the parents, staff, local businesses and the School Association for the great voluntary work that occurs throughout the school. From teachers providing their time to run almost 40 different clubs, through to those parents that volunteer their time to read with children and help on school trips; you all make a fantastic difference to our school and help to enrich the children's learning experience.

At the same time as many of you may be aware the Government continues to limit funding for education. As such, we are grateful for the volunteers from local businesses such as IGO4, Marks and Spencer and Baldwins (Rawlinsons) who dedicated their time to paint the school during the summer.

Lastly, I would like to thank the School Association for their continuous drive and fundraising, the contribution to the school and the projects that you invest in are invaluable and would not be achievable in any other way.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas

Yours faithfully



Kristian Toms
Chair of Governors

