

William Law CE Primary School

School Newsletter – September 2023

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this message finds you well as we begin this new term. As we embark on this journey together, it is important to remember the core values and vision that guide us in all that we do.



This year, we are excited to introduce a new addition to our school's strapline: "Flourish." It beautifully encapsulates our shared aspiration to thrive and grow in all aspects of our lives. We aim to flourish as individuals and as a community, and we do so by embracing the wisdom found in our biblical verse, Matthew 22 v 37-39:

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

These words guide us as we learn, live, and love within our school and the broader community. They remind us of the importance of love, compassion, and understanding in all that we do.

Our core values remain unchanged and continue to be the foundation upon which we build our character and relationships. We encourage our students and families to embrace **hope** in the face of challenges, to **persist** in their efforts, to **trust** in themselves and others, to seek **wisdom** in their learning, to **show** respect to all, and to be ready to **forgive**.

As we look forward to the exciting experiences and opportunities this term will bring, we want to extend our warmest wishes for a positive start to all our children, parents, staff and the wider community. Together, we can achieve great things, and we eagerly anticipate building excellent relationships with each and every one of you.

We are delighted to welcome our new Associate Vicar, Ali Williams, to our school community. It was a privilege to attend her Licensing Service at the beginning of the term. We look forward to sharing in her wisdom and guidance as she becomes a valued member of our team. I am sure you will all welcome her and her family to the William Law family.

I would also like to remind everyone of my new role as Interim Executive Headteacher and Miss Lenton's role as Interim Head of School. We are here to support and lead our school community as we work together to achieve our vision and uphold our values.

Once again, I wish you all a wonderful start to the term, filled with learning, growth, and moments of joy. Let's embark on this journey together, nurturing our spirits, and flourishing in every way possible.

Mr D Epton-Smith
Headteacher

Staff Update

Congratulations to Mrs Sansom who gave birth to a baby girl and also to Mrs Martin who gave birth to twins, a boy and girl over the summer holidays. Both mums and all children are doing well.

Miss Rivers got married during the summer holidays and is now known as Mrs Saczek.

Parents Calendar

The parents' calendar is on the school website for your perusal. Each time an event is added, the date in the top right hand corner will be changed. This way you know which the latest version is. Please find below a QR code which will take you to the parents' calendar.

The web link is



<https://www.williamlawceschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=6389&type=pdf>

Attendance Update

Overall attendance in school is 97%. Well done to Classes 10, 13, 16, 5 and 1 who are currently in the top 5 for attendance since the start of the academic year.



There have been 41 occurrences of late arrivals at school since the start of the academic year. This equates to 860 minutes or 2 days of lates across the whole school. Please ensure that your child gets to school on time, late arrivals does impact on their learning time and unsettle children with their relationships and friendships.

As part of raising awareness about your child's attendance, we shall be periodically sending out reminders via Arbor. Good attendance is vital in ensuring your child achieves well in school. Good attendance is considered to be at least 96%. We do understand that illness can't be avoided but where possible please do send your child to school when they are well enough to do so.

Please click on this link sent by the NHS entitled 'Is my child too ill for school.' <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> for advice should you be unsure whether to send your child to school.

Safeguarding

For any safeguarding concerns please email safeguarding@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk A Designated Safeguarding Lead will then get in touch with you.

Please find attached a link to the school website where there is information on keeping your child safe online, domestic abuse and PREVENT.

<https://www.williamlawceschool.co.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=2961>

Our Safeguarding Leads are:-

Mr Epton-Smith
Miss Lenton
Mrs Attwood
Mrs Jessop
Mrs Post



Open Days



William Law are holding open days for new EYFS who will be starting school in September 2024. These are taking place on:-

Thursday, 2nd November 2023 at 10.00am and 1.30pm
Tuesday, 7th November 2023 at 10.00am and 1.30pm
Wednesday, 15th November 2023 at 10.00am and 1.30pm
Monday, 20th November 2023 at 10.00am and 1.30pm
Friday, 1st December 2023 at 10.00am and 1.30pm

Please ring the office on 01733 577600 or email office@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk to book yourselves onto one of the sessions. Please share this with others who may also want to book a visit.

Local **Secondary School** open evenings for a start in September 2024 are taking place on:-

Ken Stimpson Academy – 27th September 2023
Manor Drive Academy – 5th October 2023
Arthur Mellows Village College – 12th October 2023

Parking

Please can you ensure that you are not blocking Twelvetree Avenue near the entrance to school. You should not be dropping your child off and then turning your vehicle around in the road. This is dangerous to other road users and children alike who may be crossing the road to come into school. If you are obstructing Twelvetree Avenue near to the entrance to school, emergency vehicles and buses may not be able to get through if needed.



Please remember to park considerately if you are parking in neighbouring streets to collect your child and always be respectful to the residents. We have had several reports of parents parking irresponsibly across resident driveways or blocking them in. There is plenty of parking down Twelvetree Avenue or in the car park behind the school. We urge you to use these rather than parking in neighbouring streets. These residents are part of our community and everyone should be respecting each other.

Parking is not permitted on the school roundabout unless you have a blue badge, which needs to be shown to the school office. Other parents may only park on the roundabout with permission from the Headteacher.

Allergies & Medical Conditions

Please ensure you provide an update to the school office on any change in medical condition or allergy that your child may have. Please ensure this is done in writing by emailing office@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk

Nut free school

Just a reminder to Parent/Carers that we are a nut free school. Snacks and packed lunches should not contain nuts or anything which contains nuts i.e. peanut butter, nutella sandwich spread or Reeces.



Who do I contact if I need to report a concern?

If you need to speak to someone in school about anything school related please follow the hierarchy below as in line with our school procedures.

Class Teacher

If the matter is unresolved after making contact please speak to



Year Group Leader

EYFS – Mrs Fotheringham
Years 1 and 2- Miss Byrne
Years 3 and 4 – Mr Richards
Years 5 and 6 – Miss Batten

If the matter is unresolved after making contact please speak to



SLT Members

Miss Batten (Interim Assistant Head)
Mrs Attwood – **SENDCO** (Interim Assistant Head)

If the matter is unresolved after making contact please speak to



Miss Lenton – Interim Head of School
Once all other channels have been
exhausted and you are still unhappy
with the outcome

Please do not give messages to adults on the school gate in the morning please email office@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk and it will be passed onto the relevant person or call the school office.

Communications sent during the school day should be addressed to office@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk. Please do not expect to speak to a teacher during the school day as they will be teaching your child/ren. Please allow 48 hours for a response.

Leave of Absence Requests

All requests for leave during term time should be submitted, giving four weeks notice as per our Attendance Policy, on the [Leave of Absence form](#) (available on the school website or from the school office). It should clearly show those who have parental responsibility for the child/ren and give a full explanation of the reasons for the absence request with evidence where possible e.g. do not just put attending a wedding. You should give details of who is getting married and the relation to your child/yourself with a copy of the invitation if possible. If no explanation or evidence is provided, the absence will automatically be unauthorised. The Interim Head of School will look at each request on it's own merit to make their decision.



As per the Attendance Policy (available to view on the school website - [Attendance Policy](#)) the Headteacher is unable to authorise any holiday within term time unless it is deemed an exceptional circumstance. If leave is taken you may be fined by the Local Authority. Please note that any Penalty Notice issued is done so by the Local Authority and not by the school.

As William Law are part of the PDET MAT, we also have to follow their guidelines on term-time absences which clearly states that "if an event can be reasonable scheduled outside of term-time then it would not be normal to authorise absence for such an event – holidays are therefore not considered 'exceptional circumstances'.

Late Collection - Any children who are not collected from school by 3.30pm will be taken across to The Hive Out of School Club, as we do not have staff in school who can care for them after this time due to meetings etc. If your child is taken across to The Hive, you will be invoiced via Arbor for the session at a cost of £9.50. Please ensure that your child/ren are collected on time.

School Improvement Priorities

- Developing phonics teaching using Little Wandle and implementing catch-up for phonics
- Supplementing writing curriculum focusing on writing as a reader .e.g using metaphor, similes and onomatopoeia
- Redeveloping learning powers into William Law powers with focus on behaviour powers
- Precision of support for SEND children

Snacks

Please ensure that you are sending your child in with fruit or vegetables for their snack for KS2. KS1 children are welcome to bring in additional fruit and vegetables.



Dogs on the school grounds



We recognise that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the playground and school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment. Therefore, school policy is that no dogs are allowed on school premises (either on a lead or carried). We would appreciate your co-operation by not bringing your pet to school.

Please do not bring dogs onto school property. This includes the front of school and playgrounds. The only exception to this is if you have an assistance dog. If this is the case, please do inform the school office and provide the relevant documentation to support this.

Collection of Children

As soon as you know that another parent will be collecting your child from school on a certain day, please let the office know by emailing

office@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk providing your child's name and class and who will be collecting them. At least 48 hours notice should be given unless it is an emergency.



Contact with School



If you have an urgent query or it is an emergency e.g. an urgent medical appointment for your child or you are not able to collect your child on time, then please ring the school office. Where possible please give at least one hours notice. Between 2.15pm to 3.30pm the school office receives a large volume of requests. Otherwise all contact should be made via email (office@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk) A response will be forthcoming within 48 hours.

Uniform Expectations

As children Year 1 to 6 are wearing their PE kits all day it is vital that uniform standards are upheld. Children are required to wear a plain white t-shirt and black shorts with a plain dark (preferably black) tracksuit in the winter for outdoor PE. The tracksuit includes a plain dark (preferably black) zip up jumper (hoods are allowed) and plain dark (preferably black) joggers. This needs to be plain with no branding this includes white stripes. Children must wear shorts under their tracksuit for indoor PE so they are wearing shorts inside due to health and safety. Black sports leggings' are permitted as part of the PE kit during the colder months for outside PE, however with no branding.

Children are able to wear a William Law House t-shirt instead of a white t-shirt. This must be a William Law House T-shirt purchased from Chroma Sports, 10 Wulfric Square, Bretton, Peterborough. No other coloured T-shirt is a part of the school uniform policy.



Children should wear:

- A plain white t-shirt or William Law Branded House T-Shirt
- Plain black shorts for indoor PE (can be worn underneath tracksuit in Winter until PE lesson). No branding.
- Plain black shorts for Outdoor PE or a plain dark coloured (preferably black) tracksuit in the winter. No branding.
- Dark sports leggings (preferably black) are permitted as part of the PE kit during the colder months.
- Suitable Trainers.

Ice Packs

If your child has come home with a reusable ice pack following an injury/accident, please can you ensure that it is returned to the school office. If the ice pack was held in a blue sling, please ensure that the sling is returned to school as soon as possible.

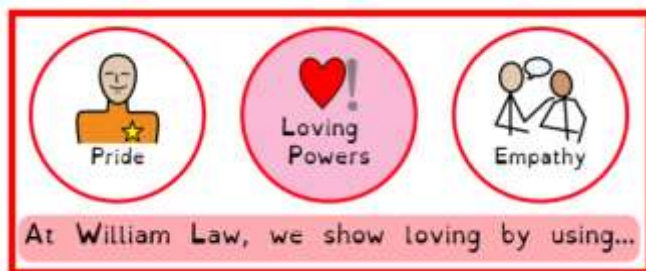
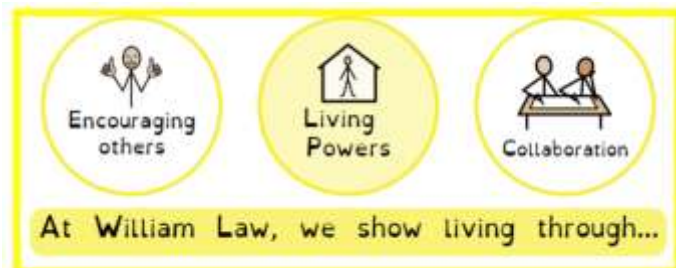
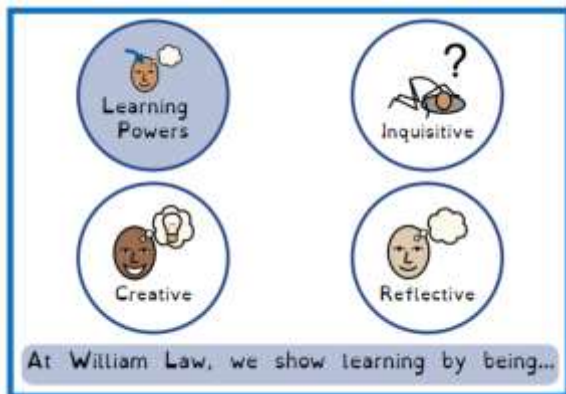


Supporting your child's mental health

Young Minds have advice for parents and a series of activities that parents can implement to support their child. The advice ranges from young children to teenagers. <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-mental-health/>

William Law Powers

This year we have launched our William Law Powers. We have redeveloped our 'learning powers'. As part of the William Law Powers, we now have behaviour, learning, living and loving powers.



- Independence - Complete a variety of tasks on your own.
- Resilience- Cope with challenges and problems when they arise and be ambitious in all you do.
- Self-control- Control your emotions, behaviour and do what's right.
- Communication- Speak with clarity so others can understand.
- Respect- Treat each other kindly, embrace opinions and recognise that others might have different views

As part of our William Law Powers, this term we are focusing on our William Law Behaviour Powers. We have been having lessons focusing on how we can use these powers in school and in everyday life. Our whole school focus each week on our recognition boards are related to our behaviour powers.