



Winwick CE Primary School

Myddleton Lane, Winwick

Warrington, WA2 8LQ

email: winwick_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk

Telephone: (01925) 630995

22nd July 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

At the end of a very busy and challenging year as well as a disappointing abrupt end to summer term for four of our classes in the final week, due to Covid, we are pleased to share and update you of the many successful outcomes and tremendous achievements our children, staff and families have made over the last eleven months.

Learning Outcomes

From September 2020 the school moved into working on a recovery curriculum to ensure children had the right focus on areas where they had previously disrupted learning. Although National tests have this year once again not been conducted, the school's own assessments report very good levels of attainment across all year groups.

Mrs Dymond and the team are delighted to report that the children's results and learning achievements over the year are firmly on track with every child in school having achieved at least 2 points of progress across combined Reading, Writing and Maths, with an average of 96% of children having achieved 3 points or more progress.

Children's attendance into school over the year is at a record 97.9% - which is one of the highest in Warrington schools. Our surveys show this is due to our families feeling that school is safe and ultimately the best place for their children to learn.

Health and Wellbeing

A central focus of the last 16 months has been the consideration of everyone's health and well-being. A strong emphasis of ensuring our children and families remain fit and healthy and able to participate in individual and family activities as well as class events such as: school sports days, soak the teacher fund raiser, collective worship in the school yard, Father Christmas' visit and Christmas parties amongst just some of the events. These shared activities have brought everyone together and have had a very positive impact on everyone's mental health and wellbeing.

In addition, focusing on the care of our staff as well as our children we have introduced a new health and wellbeing policy for our team. Adjustments have been made to the way we work in school to ensure that all teaching and support staff feel fully supported, have the opportunity to continue to share good practice as well as maintain social interaction – elements which have been essential during these recently challenging times. The improvements have resulted in a very positive impact amongst the staff which ultimately cascades into us providing excellent teaching and learning provision for our children.

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Finance and Facilities

Throughout the year a strong focus for governors has been in also ensuring our building remains safe and is fit for purpose now and in the future. As we stride to be more eco-friendly with targets to reduce our energy consumption and make greener choices, our key priority also is to improve the safety of our carpark and access to school.

We would like to thank you all very much for your support to our proposals for the phased carpark development plans and are pleased to report that planning permission has now been granted for Phase one. This will see us, in Autumn term, upgrade the existing school carpark and the side access road as well as install safety barriers. As we continue to pursue our Phase 2 & 3 carpark and school yard extension vision into 2021/22, we will keep you updated along the way.

As a school, we are equally pleased to report that at the end of July 2021 the main school budget remains in a good position. This is due to prudent management of funds in the previous financial year as well as the utilisation of Covid catch-up funding and Pupil premium grants.

The government furlough scheme has also assisted us to manage our After School and Breakfast club budgets; going forward the Senior Leaders and governors are mindful of the requirements of extended provision for Autumn term onwards, thanks to parent survey feedback. From September, it is our intention that Breakfast and After School Clubs will continue to run as normal whilst being flexible to meet the demands of our families' new ways of working.

Governance

An end of year summary provides the opportunity to share updates on our staff and governor team also.

Governors, despite having limited access to visit school this year, have been extremely busy in the background. Full governing body meetings with three supporting committee meetings have continued to be held termly via Ms Teams - with an attendance average of 90% across all meetings from our 12 members including our observers Mrs Duckett and Mr Henaghen.

Our end of year impact analysis also shows governors have completed over 89 hours on specific governor training with over 260 collective hours spent in meetings and governor business. A full report on this will be added and updated to the governor section of the school website.

We were also delighted last November to welcome Mrs Lesley Rafferty, a past Winwick parent, as a new foundation governor to bring additional education and business experience to our governor skill set. We currently have a foundation governor vacancy and are seeking to recruit – we very much welcome enquiries from interested candidates over the coming weeks.

In addition to managing all the school governor's business-as-usual, our 3-5 year Strategic School Vision has been reviewed and updated with short, medium and longer term targets set as part of our annual review process with the Senior Leadership team.

The Autumn term will see a refreshed 'School Strategy and Vision' document shared with the staff at Inset day, with the launch to parents and community to follow in September. Our plans will include the

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re-introduction of the Children's School Governor Awards in line with the overall school focus on achieving our overarching objective of '**Excellence for All; developing the whole child**'.

This summer will see us update the governor section on the school website - please take a moment to update yourself when you can of the governor team membership roles and responsibilities, as well as our ambitious plans for our school going forward.

Our Staff

As part of our strategy to share management experience and support other schools, I am very pleased to confirm that Mrs Dymond will continue to work in her capacity as a Local Authority School's Advisor, this year supporting another local school as Executive Headteacher on a part time basis from September until Christmas. She will also continue with her role as an Ofsted Inspector bringing much experience back into our school. Mrs Duckett and Mr Henaghen will, as last year, provide leadership support and cover in school as part of our plan to offer additional leadership career development opportunities to our very experienced team.

As the summer term draws to a close, we take this opportunity to share our heartfelt thanks to our whole team for keeping everyone safe during the global pandemic of the last 16 months.

Our class teachers, TA's and senior leaders have worked extremely hard to ensure our children's education has remained as normal as possible, making adjustments to the curriculum and lesson plans whilst always considering the impact on the children to maximise their learning experience to achieve best outcomes.

We especially thank Mrs Dymond, Mrs Duckett and Mr Henaghen for their exceptional commitment and diligence in leading the school, working within strict Covid government guidance and often having to make very difficult leadership decisions over the weekend and evenings.

They have been stoic and exemplary in their management and we cannot thank them enough.

We, of course, also couldn't function as a school without our support staff – our breakfast and after school club team, office and finance, kitchen and facilities teams – again all who have played an integral role in the school's success this year.

We offer the greatest of thanks to each and every one of Team Winwick for their exceptional hard work and outstanding achievements this year!

Last, but by no means least, we offer our thanks and appreciation to our children, families and our wonderful PTFA led by Sarah Browning.

To our children we say a huge congratulations and well done for all their hard work and perseverance and in making very good progress - we also say a huge Thankyou for being kind and considerate to everyone in school. The children have been amazing and we know that they have thoroughly enjoyed being back in school with their teachers and friends!

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To our parents we very much thank you also for all your questionnaire responses, your positive and constructive comments and for remaining flexible at the most challenging of times; not forgetting of course you unreserved commitment in supporting your children's home learning!

To our wonderful PTFA - we also share our immense appreciation for all the positive fun and fundraising initiatives and for keeping everyone motivated and connected both on and off-line! It is very much appreciated.

And finally, to our brilliant children of Year 6 as well of those children and families who leave us for pastures new this week - we say a fond farewell and a huge Thankyou and well done for the impact you have made during your time with us at Winwick. We will miss you all and send you all our love and sincere best wishes for the future.

Mrs Mather, Mrs Dymond and the whole team were this week, like all the children, so disappointed that the end of year celebrations were unable to go ahead as planned for Y6. These events have now been rescheduled to the end of August and we thank everyone for their patience, flexibility and understanding to make this happen for everyone at a later date.

On behalf of Mrs Dymond and the school governor team I wish you all a very **Safe and Happy Summer** and look forward to seeing you all, rested and refreshed, for an exciting new school term in September 2021.

With our very best wishes,

Jackie Neal

Jackie Neal - Chair of Governors

For and on behalf of Winwick CE School Governor Team

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