



Willows Academy Trust

ASPIRE ... ACHIEVE ... THRIVE

Sawley Junior School
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CEO: J. Haigh
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12th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome all those pupils and families who are new to our schools. I hope your first week has been a pleasant and enjoyable experience. The children appear to have settled very quickly and there are lots of happy smiley faces around schools.

I hope those of you who managed to have a holiday at home or overseas had a good time and just for a change the British weather over the summer was warm and sunny, which certainly helped.

All schools will be closed on Monday 19th September due to the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II and the state funeral. Whether you are a supporter of the monarchy or not, one cannot help but recognise and admire the dedication she gave to serving the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Schools have recently celebrated the Platinum Jubilee and they will ensure pupils have an opportunity to discuss the death of the queen and the traditions associated with the funeral and ascension of the new monarch King Charles III.

The summer has been an interesting period politically and we now have a new Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education, Kit Malthouse the fifth in the last twelve months. The education sector just like the general population are facing financial challenges due to the fuel price increases, staff pay awards and soaring inflation. School budgets were set prior to these announcements and although we always plan for increases they are significantly higher than expected. This is putting considerable pressure on school budgets and over the academic year the trust will work with schools to ensure they remain financially viable for the future. Schools unfortunately may not be able to offer the same level of support and experiences as in previous years but they will do their best.

Many of you will be aware that your child's school is part of a multi-academy trust which is run by a board of non-executive directors. Their purpose is to make key decisions, provide strategic direction and governance of the trust, making sure it operates within the terms set by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and company law. All documentation relating to the Trust can be found on the website at willowsacademytrust.co.uk. Annually the Board of Directors produce a Trustees Report detailing the work of the trust and the financial position which is available on the website.

The October half term break will be quickly upon us and I recently saw a trailer for Strictly Come Dancing which means Christmas is not too far away - the final is Christmas week!

Kind regards

Mrs J. Haigh (CEO)
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