

Willaston Primary School

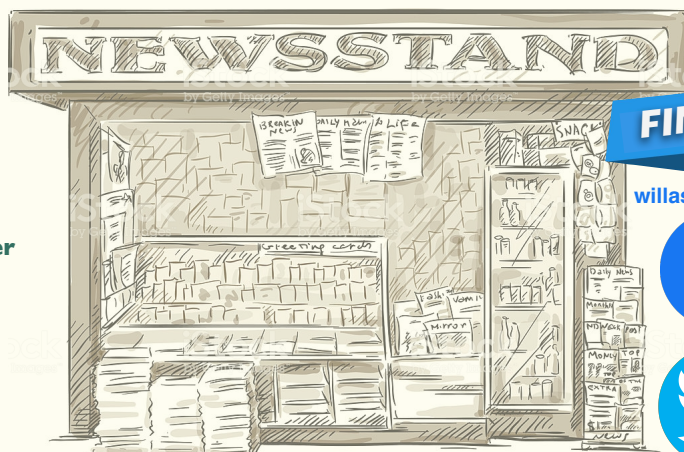
'Behaviour values: fair, respect, safe. This is how we do it here'



Executive Headteacher
Mr Maxim Kelly

Head of School
Mrs Beth Lace

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NEWSLETTER
JAN 2023

Dates for Your Diary

- 18.01.23 Y2 Tag Rugby starts at Centre 21
- 19.01.23 Y1 multi-sports starts at Centre 21
- 20.01.23 Parent Forecast Sheets published
- 06.02.23 Children's Mental Health Week (details to follow)
- 07.02.23 Y2/Y3 Tag Rugby Tournament (details to follow)
- 16.02.23 PAWS Valentines Disco
- 17.02.23 Dress As An Animal Day for MSPCA
- 17.02.23 Close for Half-Term 1 at 3.30pm
- 27.02.23 Open for Half-Term 2
- 10.03.23 Lempen Puppet Theatre Visit (details to follow)

This is not an exhaustive list! The homepage of our school website will soon show a live calendar of events - check it out

Message from Mr Kelly

I'm delighted to contribute to the first newsletter of the year, my first as headteacher of Willaston School. I intend to use this as a key mode of communication amongst many others; including parents' evenings, workshops, letters, and those enjoyable chats I've started to have outside the school gates each morning and afternoon (although the rain has reminded me that I must invest in a new umbrella as I've got a bit wet this week!). For everyone's convenience, I intend to make newsletters very regular and you can anticipate receiving them on the first Friday of every month.

I was able to spend some time at Willaston School last term, and I have spent part of the Christmas break in school preparing for the term ahead. This has enabled me to find out a lot about the school and I've met so many different people that I'm already feeling part of the fabric of Willaston School. The school is full of life and fun with the children, families, governors and all the school staff working together enthusiastically to provide exciting opportunities for learning. Everybody has gone the extra mile to make me feel welcome - especially the school staff and children who make up the school. I've tried to meet as many parents as I can by being outside at the start and end of the day - if I haven't yet spoken to you, please don't be offended and do just approach me and say "hello." I promise you'll be met with a smile. I've included my mug shot in the picture above so you know what I look like if you're not quite sure.

The world of education is moving a pace, and the Isle of Man continues to lead the way in many areas. Examples of recent changes/updates include the implementation of an updated EYFS curriculum; a new shared vision for education from the Department of Education, Sport and Culture; and for Willaston, the use of the Cornerstones Curriculum to shape the teaching and learning opportunities for our pupils. To name but a few! I am committed to leading the school through this changing landscape, ensuring that standards are the highest they can be - with children's learning as our relentless focus, achieved through exceptional teaching and a rich, creative curriculum.

One final thought; every morning as I've crossed the car park at the start of the day, I feel privileged to be headteacher of Willaston School and look forward to whatever the day brings. I look forward to getting to know you all. *Max Kelly, Headteacher*



We have also welcomed Mrs Bousfield to Willaston School this week. She will be working in Y3!



Keep an eye out for the Parent Forecast sheets which will be published next Friday (20th January) and contain lots of information about what the teachers have planned for your children to learn about this term! Use this to ask questions to your children about their day in school and to help support their learning at home.

MSPCA Dress As An Animal Day

Willaston School will be supporting the MSPCA by joining in with "Dress As An Animal Day" on Friday 17th February.

It is optional to take part - if your child is more comfortable in dress down clothes or school uniform then that will be fine. We are asking for an optional donation of £1 per child if you take part, which can be brought in on the day. Your outfit can be as elaborate or low key as you like - a bit of black eyeliner and some black paper triangles clipped to a hairband can make a quick and easy cat; onesies can often be a quick and easy costume too! More information to follow on this - we thought it would be useful to give you an early "heads-up!"

REMINDER

Deposits of £100 for Y6 children going on the Venture Centre trip in July are due ASAP! Please drop this off to Mrs Slater in the school office.



Willaston School - Online

Keep an eye on our school website (willaston.sch.im) and our socials (FB Parents At Willaston School; Twitter @WillastonIOM) which will be refreshed and rebranded very soon! Give us a follow to keep up to date!



PAWS Valentines Disco

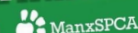
PAWS are arranging a Valentines Disco for the children which will take place straight after school on Thursday 16th February (3.30pm - 5pm).

More details to follow, but we are sharing the date now FYI.

NB There will be no Youth Club on the 16th Feb (YC are intending to run a double session the week before instead.)



Animal Day



Dress up as an animal day is returning on Friday the 17th of February 2023. It is an all island dress down day for preschools, schools and workplaces!

Adults and children will be given the option to dress up as an animal for a day and donate £1 per person. Schools and workplaces will be encouraged to carry out their own further fundraising activities on the day. Examples could be cake sales, raffle and face painting to raise extra funds.

Staff from the ManxSPCA will be visiting participating schools on the day. Photos of visits will be uploaded to the ManxSPCA Facebook page with permission from the school.

To register your school or workplace, please email Krish@manxspca.com



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If you know of any families who have a child due to start at Willaston School next September, please would you remind them to contact the school as soon as possible to register a place with us.

