



William Ford C of E Junior School | Ford Road | Dagenham | RM10 9JS  
Tel: 0208 270 6582 | Email: [Office@Williamfordschool.co.uk](mailto:Office@Williamfordschool.co.uk)  
Headteacher: Mr David Huntingford

Thursday 05 September 2024

## Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to welcome you and your child(ren) back to William Ford C of E Junior School for another exciting school year. A special welcome goes out to our new Year Three pupils who have joined us. We are thrilled to have you as part of our school community and look forward to seeing all that you will achieve this year.

### Our school vision

Today has been Vision Day, where our pupils explored and reflected on the Vision of William Ford C of E Junior School:

*“Learning from Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to work diligently, act generously, and live at peace with everyone.”*

This guiding principle, inspired by Psalm 34:14 - *“Seek peace and pursue it,”* is at the heart of everything we do. Each year group engaged with different aspects of this vision in meaningful and creative ways:

- **Year Three** focused on working diligently, drawing inspiration from the story of Noah.
- **Year Four** explored the theme of acting generously, reflecting on Marcus Rashford’s campaign for free school meals during holiday periods for families who need this.
- **Year Five** delved into the concept of peace, crafting thoughtful poems that express their understanding of living at peace with others.
- **Year Six** concentrated on the person of Jesus Christ and the fruits of the Spirit, exploring how these can be lived out in our daily lives.

Our new Lego was also used throughout the school to help pupils visually express their understanding of these themes along with other media. The work produced today has been truly outstanding, and we are excited to see how these lessons will continue to influence our school community.

### New rules regarding fines for attendance, punctuality and term time holidays

Along with this letter, you will find a communication from the Local Authority regarding new, stricter laws on attendance and punctuality. We kindly remind you not to book holidays during term time, as regular attendance is crucial for your child’s learning and development. This letter will also outline the new fines that we have to issue, through the court system, by law. The Department of Education now have access to our attendance systems to ensure we as a school comply with this. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that your child is present and on time every day.

### Morning pupil drop-off arrangements

Starting tomorrow, we will be reintroducing our morning drop-off policy. Parents will no longer be allowed on the school site in the mornings. Instead, we ask that you drop your children at either the main or park gate. This policy, which was in place previously, is being reinstated to help our pupils



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develop greater independence and confidence as they walk into school on their own. Rest assured, both gates will be manned, and the site will remain secure.

This policy also allows our teachers to begin teaching immediately, without the interruption of morning messages from parents. If you need to speak with your child's teacher, they will be available at the end of the day when children are collected.

Please ensure your child is in class by 8:45am. Gates are open from 8:35am. Our gates are locked at 8:45am and any child arriving after this time will have to enter via the main office and will be recorded as late. Please be advised that the school is required to issue a fine to families where children are persistently late.

### **OFSTED report for William Ford C of E Junior School**

Many of you may be wondering when our Ofsted report will be published. Due to our inspection taking place late in the school year and Ofsted not working over the school holidays, the report has not yet been released. We expect it to be available within the next 2-3 weeks. Recently, there have been changes in the news regarding Ofsted; we are uncertain if or how these might impact our report. We will, of course, keep you informed as soon as we have more information.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we strive to create the best possible learning environment for your children.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Mr. David Huntingford  
Headteacher