

September 3, 2021

# ÉCOLE WILLOWS SCHOOL



## First Week

We are looking forward to having our students back to school on Tuesday!

Students will be spending time in their former classrooms until Friday morning. It has been a busy summer with families moving into our community and families leaving. This gives us time to confirm how many students will be attending Willows for the 2021/22 school year.

### ***Tuesday, September 7 (Grade 1 to 5)***

Students will attend school from 9 to 11:30. They can bring a small snack and water along with basic supplies (pencil case with pencils, eraser and colouring pencils).

#### *Returning students*

Please meet your teacher at last year's meeting place.

#### *New students*

We are excited to welcome our new students and families! Please meet us outside in front of our Library which is near the main entrance to the school.

### ***Wednesday, September 8 and Thursday, September 9 (Grade 1 to 5)***

Students will attend from 8:53 to 2:35 in their former classrooms. Students should bring a lunch, snack and water bottle. On Thursday after school, you will receive an email from your child's new teacher welcoming your family and letting you know where to meet on Friday morning.

### ***Friday, September 10 (Grade 1 to 5)***

Students will begin in their classes for the 2021/22 school year. Please meet your teacher at the new meeting place (this information will be sent the day before). Students can bring the rest of their school supplies. If you have ordered supplies through the PAC, we will have them delivered to your child's class.

### ***New Kindergarten Students***

Please refer to your gradual entry schedule.

## School Supplies 2021 / 2022

Our school supply lists for 2021 / 2022 are on our website. <https://willows.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/2021/05/Willows-School-Supply-Lists-2021-2022.pdf>.

## Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

Please refer to our School District Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.

<https://willows.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/communicable-disease-prevention-plan-to-families/>

Please take the time to talk about what the return to school will look like with your child(ren). It is important that everyone in our community understands the safety plans in place to help ensure the health and safety of all students, staff and families.

### ***Coming to School***

Students and staff must stay home if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 communicable disease. It is the responsibility of parents to assess their child(ren) daily for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to sending them to school.

Further information:

- [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>
- Contact 811 or your family physician

### ***Physical Distancing***

Students and staff will be reminded to respect the personal space of others. During the drop-off and pick-up, families are highly encouraged to stay outside and spread out as much as possible to help reduce unintentional contact and prevent crowding. Arranging a specific location to meet your child at the end of the day is recommended and helps your child to know where to go after school.

### ***Masks***

- Mask wearing indoors is required for all K-12 staff, visitors, parents and students in grades 4 to 12
- Mask wearing indoors strongly encouraged for students in Kindergarten to grade 3

### ***Cleaning and Hand Hygiene***

- Focus on hand hygiene as previously done. Hand washing routines will be incorporated into the school day
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting to be continued

### ***Vaccinations***

We have had some inquiries regarding the vaccination status of staff members. I am confident that all staff members who can receive the vaccine have done so. At this point, the provincial government has not mandated vaccines for employees in educational settings. With regards to parental inquiries about the vaccination status of staff members, neither I nor anyone else has the right to any staff member's personal health information. All staff will be following all the provincial health protocols. These have proven to be highly successful at keeping everyone safe.

## Schedule and Calendar

Students will attend school between 8:53am and 2:35pm Monday through Friday (with the exception of any non-instructional days).

A friendly reminder that we have a Professional Development Day on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

<https://willows.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/2021/09/Willows-School-Calendar-2021-2022.pdf-1.pdf>

## What students should bring to school

### ***Lunch and snack***

- Refillable water bottles
- Containers and packages that students can open independently
- Reusable containers are encouraged. Students will be asked to take home any remaining food and garbage from their snacks and lunches.
- Students are to bring food and snacks that are nut and allergen free if they are in a classroom with a student with anaphylaxis. Information will be sent home if there are any allergies to be aware of.

### ***Clothing***

- Students need to be prepared with clothing that allows be outside and to be active. Students will be outside at recess time most days. Please make sure your child has west coast appropriate coats and footwear when the weather gets colder. It is a good idea to have a change of clothes at school

## Drop off and Pick up Times

- Students and families are asked to arrive at school as close as possible to the bell time
- All students will enter and exit the building with their teacher
- Parents are asked to wait outside the school and not to come into the building to drop off or pick up their child
- For students arriving late, please come to the main door

## Visiting the School

- During the school day, if you need to enter the building please come to the main door by the office with your mask on
- Sanitize your hands and sign in at the office
- Please do not come to the school if you are feeling unwell
- At this time, parents are asked not to go directly to their child's classroom. Please come to the office so we can assist you
- When possible, please phone, email or make an appointment
- When in the building, please respect the personal space of others