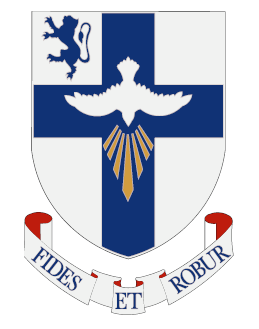
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***Willow Park Junior School***

**Re: Birthday Parties**

Dear Parents,

Birthday Parties (for children) are moments of celebration and excitement. They should be happy times, inclusive get-togethers and ‘fond memories’.

However, because they can involve large numbers of children who are , betimes, ‘sugarfuelled’ with energy, these parties require planning, tight supervision and ‘rules’ (as any teacher will tell you!).

Recent experience would suggest to us that some commercial ‘Party Centres’ are not always tightly run. They offer play, freedom and room for ‘expression’ but they do not know the children personally, have ‘light regulation‘ and variable ‘standards’ (when it comes to behaviour).

Their clients (our children) quickly perceive such ‘latitude’ and act accordingly! Play becomes ‘messing’, messing becomes hurtful and suddenly, one or more of our children become upset. Not because of deliberate meanness but because of poor supervision and understanding on the part of the Centre providers.

In Willow, we advise caution in using such venues. Should families decide to use them, then we suggest you keep a very close eye on what’s happening. By all means be inclusive and generous to your son’s class-mates. Remember, Birthdays are Fundays (or should be) – for everybody. Should you be planning a large party for your son, just ask other Parents to help you in your endeavours, - Willow Parents are always supportive on such occasions (and remember…the ‘situation’ comes round to all of us in due course!) If you have any queries or seek advice on similar occasions, please talk to your class-teacher.

Thank you for your support.