



Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a very busy two weeks as the autumn term gets underway. There is a lot of exciting learning happening all around us.

Our swimming pool has had interactive lighting fitted. We can change the colour of the swimming pool or make things happen in the ceiling if children are floating on their backs. Children will be able to operate the lights themselves from inside the water. We are looking forward to showing you our finished pool after half term. The top part of the Foundation Stage building is nearly ready to open and our exciting picture floor is being fitted in Foundation Stage lower hall during half term. Look out for photographs coming soon. Graham Construction are beginning to move some of their equipment off site and although we aren't quite completed, we feel as though our new build project is nearly there. You will be able to see for yourselves at our Parent Social Event which is taking place after school on 20th October.

This week we held the first of our 'DiscoverME' parent workshops and we are looking forward to hearing feedback from the parents who are attending.

We are already welcoming new children to Willow Dene this term. The school is almost full and lots of parents are phoning or visiting to find out more about us.

We are also welcoming our first visiting groups from other schools who are using our beautiful conference rooms for training and meetings. We have already hosted a meeting for teachers who are part of The Compass Partnership. Soon we will be hosting meetings of The Royal Greenwich Teaching Schools Alliance who train teachers in Greenwich. We are enjoying meeting new people and sharing our school with others. If you are visiting the school you may well meet Pauline who is our new Housekeeper. Pauline will be preparing for meetings and welcoming people to Willow Dene as well as ensuring that central areas of the school are well maintained.

Look out for your child's Personal Learning Plan for this term which should be coming home to you soon. This will show you how we plan to work on your child's annual review targets during the term to come. Enjoy the autumn sunshine while it lasts!

John Camp
Executive Head Teacher

Carolyn Vagg &
Rachel Harrison
Co-Heads of School

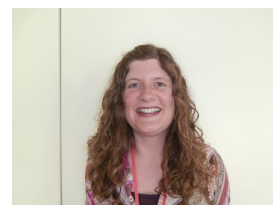
Governor News

We have a vacancy for a parent governor, as Ruth Gage has served her 4 year term of office. Many thanks to Ruth for her time and contribution since 2010.

Governors hold the school to account by asking questions and coming in to school to see for themselves if all pupils are reaching their potential and the targets set for year on year school improvement (called Core Priorities) have been met. They are also involved in setting the vision for the school - deciding Willow Dene's future. Training is provided free and the school will conduct a DBS check. Do get in touch with me via the school office if you want to know more.

Kind regards,

Anne-Marie
Chair of Governors



Music and Movement

Redwing, Magpie, Sparrow, Chaffinch, Robin and Starling Class have been making great progress during music and movement.

The children are developing excellent body awareness, balance, position and control, through fun active music the children can practise skills like pushing, pulling, side stepping, jumping and rolling, and the children are starting to work independently helping to increase attention, Anticipation, hand and eye coordination and focus.

CLASS FOCUS – Magpie Class

Magpie Class are a busy class of eight children. We all like to have lots of fun and love music. We have had a really good start to the school year and have been enjoying lots of activities related to the topic Willow Dene School. We have been exploring all the new play opportunities in the school.

Rory and Joe love being Bob the Builder in the building area. Marvin is enjoying testing out the new climbing equipment in the playground. Jacob and Abdoulie love the train set and dark tent. Veenan's favourite is the doll's house. Samira enjoys playing the instruments in the music area. Katy loves to chill on the chairs with her favourite adults.

Our focus in communication this half term is PECS and we are all developing our skills at our own different levels also we are keeping working with the Attention Autism.

We all enjoy our sessions with Mandy (sensory processing co-ordinator) moving our bodies in different ways. Our favourite is the bouncy ball game which we are becoming really good at.

We are all looking forward to spending the school year together learning and having fun.

Speech and Language Therapy News

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back from what we hope was a positive summer break for all. We are already enjoying spending time in classes this year. Please do feel free to contact our team if you would like to talk about your child, you can do this either through asking your child's class team to pass a message on through the home contact book or by calling us (020 8317 8596).

Spotlight on Jacob

I am Jacob. I have just turned 10 years old. I love coming to school especially on swimming days. My favourite hobby is scaring new life guards when I roll under the water. I am learning that it's fine to swim on top of the water too.

Recently I have become more vocal and I am increasingly interested in my surroundings.

I especially enjoy interacting with my favourite adults and particularly like to listen to them imitating the sounds that I make.

My PECS skills are developing well, I am able to request my favourite messy activities. I love trains and Thomas the Tank Engine and enjoy playing with the train set in reception.

I have a busy social life as well often spending my weekends at theme parks and going on my favourite rides.

Friends of Willow Dene News

This week the Friends of Willow Dene had their first committee meeting of the new school year. During the meeting we spent time recapping on our activities from last year and planning fundraising events for this term.



I am pleased to be able to tell you that over the summer term Denise Bell and Emma Mott completed their swimming challenge which was to swim from Eastbourne to Brighton and back again (a total of 50 miles) to raise money for us. This event has raised £1,400 in pledges and sponsor money. Thank you to Emma and Denise for doing the swim and to every one of you who supported them by sending in sponsor money or pledging to sponsor them on line.

This term we will be asking for parents to volunteer to help with making boxes for our loose change appeal and to help with our Christmas Fair so please keep an eye out for letters that will be coming home soon!