

WILLOW DENE NEWS

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2015 - ISSUE NO: 82



Dear Parents and Carers

This will be the final newsletter of the Autumn term. We cannot believe how quickly this term has gone and how much the school has grown and developed in such a short time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support you give the school in so many different ways.

As ever, Willow Dene has been very busy with visitors during the last two weeks. These have included a group of five teachers from Horn Park who were very interested to see teaching and learning at Willow Dene in action. We were visited by two large parties of visitors to the swimming pool, including a group from Marjorie McClure School, who wanted to learn more about how we teach swimming.

Last week we hosted a three day MOVE 'Train a Trainer course' which was attended by professionals from all over the country. We are very proud of Dinah, Tracy and Pauline from Willow Dene's MOVE team who are now qualified MOVE trainers.

Last Friday evening we held our very first Winter Party and were overwhelmed by the response. The evening was attended by Willow Dene children of all ages; from youngest to oldest, their families and Willow Dene staff with their own families. In total there were about two hundred people at the party which included the staff who acted as very willing volunteers. Both the disco room and the quieter film room were very busy, as was Lisa who was taking family photographs on the evening. Proofs of the photographs should be on their way to you this week.

This week we held our second Year 7 Specialist Interest Afternoon. These afternoons focus on the achievements and interests of each of our year 7 children in turn. The afternoons are linked to our involvement with the Jack Petchey Foundation who recognise and award individual achievement. On Monday December 7th all year 7 children received an invitation for afternoon tea to celebrate the progress Lyla has made in her independent eating and drinking. Children were able to choose from menus and sit together to enjoy their food and drink which was served at a decorated table with china plates and cups and saucers. There are photographs on the school Twitter feed @willowdenesch

Our six week Citylit course for parents has been very well attended and very much enjoyed by our parents who are learning new cookery skills together and who are

making a collaborative recipe book. The course has been so popular that it has now been extended for a longer period of time. Citylit is an adult education college which offers part-time courses in a range of areas. You can find out more about them at citylit.ac.uk

We have been focussing on the Core Priority of developing our Creative Arts provision and we have already achieved a lot. We have had a staff meeting to share good practice in teaching drama, have researched new drama opportunities, joined the Shakespeare Schools Festival and sourced a theatre company to give an immersive theatre experience to children in the new term. At the end of this term several classes are going to see a live performance of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen at Stratford Theatre.

Our festive events are beginning, and on Tuesday December 8th a group of children and staff from Willow Dene choir ably supported by parents went carol singing at Blue Water and had lots of fun. Today our EYFS celebration took place and this will be closely followed by Key Stage 1 concert on Monday and Key stage 2 sing-along on Friday.

On Wednesday 9th December we attended the funeral of Harley Micallef-Nelson. We are grateful for your understanding in letting us pay our respects to Harley and to support his family who we have known for such a long time. Thank you also for all of your kind messages, cards and flowers which we have passed on to Harley's Mum Brady. Harley will be very much missed.

Wishing all of you a safe and happy winter holiday.

John Camp
Executive Headteacher
of the Compass Partnership

Carolyn Vagg &
Rachel Harrison
Co-Headteachers

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Children break up on

Friday 18th December at 1.30pm

and

return to school on

Monday 4th January

CLASS FOCUS – Goldcrest Class



This term in Goldcrest class we have been learning about our senses in our focus topic “Explore it!” We have had lots of fun exploring a variety of materials, smells, textures and tastes.

In Science we have explored all of our senses through a range of exciting messy play activities. This gave us the opportunity to use our senses and our skills in creative arts to learn more about people, cultures, food, music, clothing and celebrations around the world.



This term we have been exploring our Forest School, which is a new learning environment for us. We have collected different coloured leaves and pine cones, dug for treasure, and enjoyed ourselves on the mud slide! We have particularly enjoyed finishing off our learning, every week, with a cup of hot chocolate to warm us up – look how happy we are!

Our story this half term has been “Aliens Love Underpants” this has fitted in with our topic “Around the world”. We have had lots of fun in lessons travelling to different places in our spaceships!

In September we welcomed two new classmates, Finley and Justin. We are really happy to have them in Goldcrest class and they have begun to form great friendships.

We have lots to look forward to next year in Goldcrest class, learning about wonderful things and having lots of fun whilst doing it!

Royal Greenwich Sensory Service News

Over the summer holidays we moved office! We are at a temporary location near M&S in Eltham. Our phone numbers are the same but if you need to contact us by post we are at:

20 Orangery Lane, Eltham, SE9 1HN

The Vision Impairment side of the Sensory Team pop in and out of Willow Dene to see children as needed. Lizzie Bourne, Teacher of the Deaf/Hearing Impaired visits Willow Dene at least twice a month to see various hearing device wearers.

Ear Mould Impression Clinic

There is now a clinic in Eltham once a month for children that wear ear moulds to have new impressions made. St Thomas' Hospital CYPAC sends one of their clinicians to do the impressions. This service is available to any child/young person who needs new moulds but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The clinics are at:

4 Wensley Close, Eltham, SE9 5AB

10am to 12pm on the following Fridays:

18th December

29th January

26th February

18th March

If you need your child to have new moulds, please **telephone Magda on 020 8921 2433** to make an appointment.

Swimming News

We have just finished Going on a Bear Hunt in the swimming pool, the children have been practising their Front Crawl skills including a prone body



position, arms clearing the water, an effective leg kick and aquatic breathing. These skills were put into practise as we swam through the long grass, the cold river, squelched through the mud, stumbled tripped in the forest, pushed our way through the snow and found the Bear.

Well done and we swam back safely.

The Swim Team