

WILLOW DENE NEWS

FRIDAY 16th June 2017 - ISSUE NO: 112



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the final half term of the year! We love the summer term because there is always a lot happening. There is a very busy atmosphere in the school and we already have lots of exciting things to update you about.

This half term our topic is 'Venture out' which is highly appropriate for the time of year. We will be putting Forest school, our orchard, sensory garden and habitat zone to best use to support learning across the school. Each class has a 'topic descriptor' on display which shows you how the topic will be approached and what sort of experiences children will be having.

During the half term holiday we were very excited to welcome a film crew into school. One of our families was nominated for a home and garden makeover with Alan Titchmarsh and his team, and the film crew came to Willow Dene to find out more about Aryan and his daily life. We were very excited to attend the big reveal on Friday night and we are looking forward to seeing the finished program in the autumn term.

Last week we sent Claire Bayfield and Mandy Baines to try out the 'Autism Reality experience' which is an innovative, hands on training session developed to give people an experience of the sensory processing difficulties faced by people on the autism spectrum. During the next few weeks we will be thinking about how we could use this training to raise awareness of sensory processing difficulty in our school community. Watch this space!

You will know that our school minibuses are very important to us as they enable us to get out and about easily and therefore enrich our children's experiences. During half term we received our new minibus. This replaced our old white bus which was decommissioned last term. We were very excited to hear that we have also been allocated another minibus which some of our children will be collecting later this month. They will also be treated to a special round of golf before driving the new minibus away! Huge thanks to the Variety Club for all their support. Later in the term children from several classes will be joining The Variety Club once more for their Barking Park Fun Day. Look out for photographs on Twitter @ Willowdenesch

This week a group of children joined The Albany Taxi Charity trip to Hastings. Albany Taxis hold this event annually and it is always a pleasure to be part of such a well organised and fun-filled day out. We were very proud of the behaviour of the Willow Dene group, who were a credit to the school.

We were excited to hear from Move who said they love our weekly Move Tweets and would like to share some of them on their Facebook page. If your child is on the Move program, look out for special permissions forms coming home soon.

On Wednesday we held our second open morning at Willow Dene Oakmere Road for the parents of children in year 4

and 5. The morning consisted of a presentation about the curriculum, environment and admissions for the school followed by a tour and the chance to speak to children and staff. We hope the mornings have been useful for those of you who have attended. Transition visits for children going to Charlton Park Academy in September started this week. In total there will be four visits before the summer holiday. Transition visits for children going Oakmere Road will be arranged according to the needs of your child and will vary from weekly visits to short drop-ins. Your child's class teacher can tell you more.

Our school council at Oakmere Road has been busy having a say in the life of the school. Having decided that the new class at Oakmere Road will be called Otter class, they now have other important decisions to make. These include finalising the colour scheme for our climbing wall and deciding a new location for our sensory circuit.

We were very proud to attend two award ceremonies this week. Amy and her Mum visited the O2 on Monday to receive a Jack Petchey Award. The Jack Petchey scheme is used by 2,000 schools, colleges and youth organisations throughout London and Essex. The scheme is a reward and recognition initiative which enables schools and youth organisations to celebrate the achievements of their young people and to help young people raise their aspirations, believe in themselves and make a contribution to their society. The award scheme links to the Specialist Interest Afternoons which are part of our Key Stage 3 Curriculum. We are also celebrating Ryan's Do the Right Thing Award at Eltham Palace tonight. Do the Right Thing celebrates the contribution of children who are outstanding citizens and role models. We are very proud that Ryan will be receiving his award in the category of Learning and Achievement.

Last week we were part of Willow Dene's primary admission panel. We agreed placement for 26 new children in September which means that we will be beginning the year full. We are looking forward to meeting all our new families this half term and are excited to welcome the children.

We have had a busy day today with hundreds of school photographs being taken at Swingate Lane and Oakmere Road. We can't wait to see the final selection which will be coming home very soon!

John Camp
Executive Headteacher
of the Compass Partnership

**Carolyn Vagg &
Rachel Harrison**
Co-Headteachers

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Parents Evening	Wednesday 5 th July
Last Day of Summer Term	Friday 21 st July
First Day of Autumn Term	Thursday 7 th September

CLASS FOCUS – Greenfinch

This half term our topic is 'Venture Out' which we are very excited about in Greenfinch class. In TPPC we will be building our Geographical skills by venturing out into our local environment, following direction cards, looking out for useful information such as street signs, and seeing what hidden treasures we can find within walking distance of our school!



In PE we are looking at outdoor and adventurous activities, using our Forest School habitat zone to look at moving through different terrain, increase our balance by sitting on hay stacks and tree trunks and of course have fun on the tyre swing!

In play and leisure we will be tending to our school orchard, enjoying a bit of gardening, playing games and flying kites on those really windy days!

PUPIL VOICE - Our Trip to Hastings

On Monday 12th June, children from across the school attended the Run to the Sun trip with the Albany taxi charity! We met at Charlton Football club very early in the morning to begin our journey. We were greeted by a huge group of black cabs. All of the drivers had given up their time to take us to the seaside. We soon set off in our cabs filled with excitement. Our first stop was Bewl Water where we had a delicious picnic. We then headed to Sainsburys in Hastings where we were greeted by the Mayor and lots of other important people.

Soon after, we were on our way again! We arrived in Hastings and everyone went off in different directions to explore. Some children went to the funfair, some to the beach; others went to Smugglers Cave and some the aquarium! All very exciting! After some time exploring, our cabs took us to our final destination for the day. There we were greeted by the Mayor and a really funny DJ! We enjoyed dancing the afternoon away and eating our fish and chips! At 6PM we were all tired out, we headed back to our cabs with an amazing goody bag! We set off back to London, sleepy from a day filled with fun!

Here are some of our highlights: **Cameron** - 'I liked the fast caterpillar roller coaster! It was fun!'

Anika - 'I loved the horse on the carousel!'

Charlotte - 'I enjoyed throwing pebbles into the sea and making a SPLASH!'

Ishmil - 'I enjoyed the Sweet Shop! It was filled with bright colours and delicious looking sweets!'

Osewie - 'I liked the smugglers cave! Everyone was really scared, but I found it very funny!'

Keep an eye out on twitter and the school website for further reports on our Hastings trip and photographs.

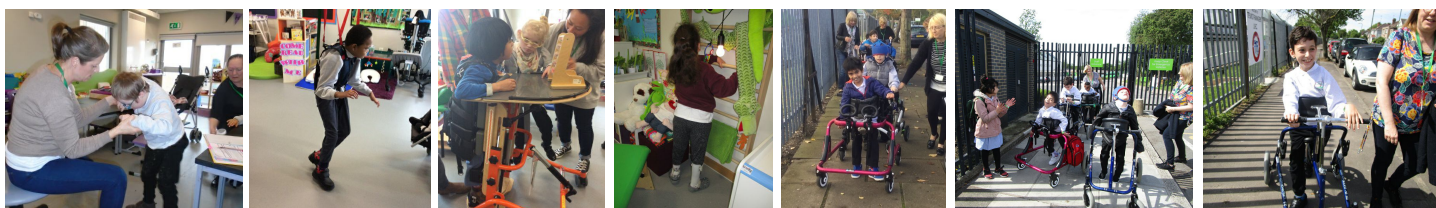
In other pupil voice news:

For other pupil voice news, check out the KS3 Blog on the website for our most recent updates. Don't forget to follow our twitter account for photographs and up to date news! Twitter - @willowdenesch

Move NEWS - The Alert Programme

Hello from the Move Team!

Our focus in this newsletter is on all the hard work that the children do on their standing and walking. We practice this in a variety of ways: with adult help, using equipment such as a standing frame, standing sling, gait trainer or ladder backs. The equipment helps give children some security and stability when working on their mobility and weight bearing skills.



Greenfinch class have been working on building their confidence and stamina in their gait trainers. In the autumn term they took a trip to the local shops in their walkers and did very well getting there and back again. Recently they took the trip again after lots of practicing in the playground, the progress they have made is astounding! Well done!