

WILLOW DENE NEWS

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2014 - ISSUE NO: 58



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the first newsletter of a very exciting term. We have started off the year in typical busy style and we are another step closer to our finished, new, state of the art school building. In September we moved into our brand new foundation stage classes. They are currently putting their new furniture into place and are beginning to really settle in. The building is unrecognisable with overhead hoists and new fixtures and fittings. Our beautiful sensory garden is complete as are our two ball pools and soft play rooms, our high technology sensory room and our multisensory room. We are very proud of our specialist learning environments and the children are gaining so much from them. We have also received two large new classrooms and three meeting rooms on the lower ground floor which gives us plenty of space for the future.

The next step will be the completion of the upper foundation stage area including our room for the two year olds. This phase will also see the completion of the swimming pool and play spaces. In conjunction with this, the very last piece of the old Willow Dene building will be demolished.

We are planning a huge grand opening event in January to celebrate our amazing new school. Watch this space for more details.

We will be giving you an opportunity to visit this term as our first Parent Social Evening of the year will be on October 20th. You will be receiving more details and an invitation soon.

Our whole school topic this half term is 'Willow Dene School' which will give children the opportunity to learn more about their new environment.

This week we are excited to tell you more about the discoverME course for parents which will be running at Willow Dene. Some of you have already attended to information morning in school this week. A fun and interactive four day programme designed to reconnect you with yourself, discoverME allows you to learn about yourself in an exciting way. Each day explores a different aspect about you, how great you already are and how being a confident and happy person can impact your family and your community. discoverME is designed to produce results in your life in areas such as Family, Relationships, Health, Finance, Safety, Leisure, Work and more. Through team work you build confidence and are empowered and inspired to take action. You can find out more at:

garciainspiredtraining.com/index.php/discoveryme1/

We are pleased to report that our summer play scheme, which took place during the first two weeks of the summer holiday at Horn Park school, was a huge success. It is the first time for a while that Willow Dene has run its own summer play scheme and the positive effects of this were evident. Visitors during the two weeks commented on the happy and relaxed children and the high quality of experiences offered. Parental feedback has also been very positive. We are happy to report that we will also be running summer play scheme next year and we hope you will consider applying for a place for your child.

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead. Don't forget that you are always welcome to visit the school.

John Camp
Executive Head Teacher

Carolyn Vagg &
Rachel Harrison
Co-Heads of School



Welcome back after the summer break, so lovely to see the children looking so well. They have grown taller and stronger, returned having developed their skills and surprising us.

Gracie-May returned to school an independent walker, happily exploring her new classroom, she is able to travel to across the building and out to playground!

Gabriella and Isabelle have been using their head control to turn and look around their new classroom and listening to the new sounds and voices.

Our amazing children, they work so hard to achieve their goals.
Well done to them all.

CLASS FOCUS – Goldcrest Class

In Goldcrest class the children are pleased to be back at school after the long summer break. They are all happy to see their friends and to welcome their new teacher, Dorothea. In the first half of the Autumn term our topic is 'Willow Dene School'. As part of our topic we have been exploring our new environment including the new ball pool, playgrounds, sensory rooms and garden. We have also been looking at the building works which are still underway and are therefore, focusing our topic work around construction.

So far we have been using different materials to explore this topic as you can see in the photo below.

As well as building with different materials we have also been focusing on building good relationships with our friends and the adults that work with us. Additionally we are working on building on our independence skills to enable us to be more confident in our learning throughout the school day.

Goldcrest class are really looking forward to seeing the building work completed and making full use of all of our facilities including our new swimming pool.

Twitter News



Looking, tracking, reaching, stretching, rolling... Just some of the skills we practice on the Magic Carpet.



Our swimming pool has water in it and is due to open in November!

Follow us on Twitter @WillowDeneSch

Spotlight on Leona

My name is Leona, I am 8 years old.

I have quickly adapted to my new routine in class and am developing relationships with the new staff.

One activity I really enjoy is jumping on the brand new trampoline which is in our new playground.

In class I like to respond to questions about our topic or to engage with activities on the smart board. I also likes to build towers out of all sorts of material and I've made an especially nice house out of geometric shapes.



Important Diary Dates

Two Inset dates have been set for:

Monday 5th January and Tuesday 6th January (school closed to children)

Parents social event - 20th October

ASD Accreditation visit - 18th-20th November

Parents Evening - 26th November

discoverME parents course - 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd Oct (places still available)

Christmas Dates:

Foundation concert - 12th December

Christmas dinner - 16th December

KS1 concert - 17th December

Christmas parties - 18th December

KS2 sing-a-long - 19th December