

# Willow Dene News



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Head Teachers Message



Welcome to our summer term 2 newsletter. We are drawing to the end of what has been a remarkable year and one that none of us could have imagined a year ago. In the last month we have seen a gradual increase in the children coming into school and the school building is once again alive with the sound of children's voices. We still have a long way to go before we are back to normal school life!

Things look and feel very different to the way they were. However, we have gradually become used to the changes and can see our way forward no matter what the next few months have in store.

As you can imagine, planning transitions this year has been a considerable job with lots of organisational elements to consider. Transitions for year 6 and year 11 are discussed further in the newsletter. Of the children who are staying with us next year some will move classes and some will stay in the same class. These decisions are based around the environment and peer group that we believe will suit your child best and not necessarily their year group.

As you know, this year we have been unable to do all of our usual transitions work due to the restrictions on social contact in school. To make this possible some

child will return to their current class groups in September for up to 2 weeks. Some children will go straight to their new class group if we feel that this is what is best for them.

Next week you will receive your letter letting you know your



child's class, their teacher and STA (Senior Teaching Assistant) for next year. It will also tell you whether your child will start off with their old class with a gradual move during the first two week

We do not yet know what September will hold in relation to the Covid-19 restrictions. As you can tell from this newsletter, our plans are to begin the year as normal. Should government guidance prevent this, we will need to reorganise our plans. Whatever happens we are committed to standing by our principal of getting things as right as possible for all of our children. If our plans change, it is likely that we will not know this until well into the summer holiday, but rest assured that we will communicate any changes as soon as we are able.

This will be the last newsletter this term but we will continue to keep you updated with the website, parentmails and twitter. There will also be a letter in the last week which will give you a further update. At the moment we are looking forward to playscheme during the first two weeks of the summer holiday beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July following the last day for children on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July (3.15pm). Immediately after the children last day, Swingate Lane will undergo a systematic deep clean so that we are ready for September in line with Oakmere Road which has already been deep cleaned.

We want to thank you for your patience and understanding during the last few months. Your positive uplifting comments, encouragement and support have kept us going during such uncertain times and have affected the whole school community. We feel very lucky that everyone in our school community is safe and that we have achieved a lot since March by working together.



**Rachel**

## Term Dates

Our last day of Summer Term will be:

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

School will finish as usual at 3:15pm.

School will be CLOSED to all pupils on

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for a STAFF INSET DAY

Pupils return to school on:

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

## Transitions for Year 6 and Year 11

Earlier this week we released a film giving all the details about our plans for year 6 and year 11 transitions. You will all know that we were very worried about how we would make these transitions as they should be under such restrictive circumstances. We feel that by planning with RBG (Royal Borough of Greenwich) and CPA (Charlton Park Academy), we now have a really exciting plan in place.

There is a differentiated transition plan in place which means that some children will be able to leave us in July as planned and some will return to Willow Dene so that we can work with their new team in September. We are also planning a unique leavers event to take place in September which means that no one will miss out on saying their goodbyes and celebrating their years at Willow Dene. This is particularly important for our year 11's who in many cases have been at Willow Dene since their nursery years. As our very first group of secondary aged children to leave at the age of 16 we want to celebrate this event in style.



At this time of year, we would normally be holding our parents social evening where families have the chance to come and celebrate the year with teachers, say goodbye and meet new faces. We usually finish the evening with a whole school photo presentation to celebrate an area of learning across the school. In past years we have enjoyed photos from educational visits and sports day.

Although parents evening will not be happening, we are determined to continue with our whole school celebration. We are currently putting together photographs of as many children as possible to reflect the home learning that has taken place during the last few months and your commitment in sharing them with us.

If you would like your child's photograph to be included, then you can send them to your teacher or post them on Twitter. If you have already done this in the last few months, we will include them in the presentation for you. The presentation will be shared on our private YouTube channel which can only be viewed by Willow Dene parents.



## Free School Meal Vouchers

The Government scheme for free school meals that has been operating during the Covid-19 virus will be continuing throughout the 6 week summer break. Vouchers will be issued covering the 6 weeks of the summer holiday to those who are entitled at the end of the summer term.

If you have any questions about these vouchers please contact the office for assistance

## Joy of Moving Festival



Willow Dene recently took part in the home, school 'Joy of Moving Festival' that was organised by Charlton Athletic Community Trust. Over 1200 schools across the UK took part in the festival which focused on providing

children and families with activities and sessions to keep fit, healthy and moving and to learn about their bodies in a fun and motivating way whether they were in school or at home.



Children here at Willow Dene enjoyed participating in a range of sessions that included dance, PE, outdoor games and healthy living DT sessions to keep moving and to learn about foods that are good for our bodies and minds. As you can see from the pictures we had a great time!



If you would like to access the Joy of Moving Festival booklet for use at home it is available on the link below:

<http://www.willowdene.greenwich.sch.uk/node/823>

Stay safe and keep moving 😊



Earlier in the week we released a parent's film to brief you all on some of the most current issues for Willow Dene. You should have received a Parentmail directing you to this.

If you did not receive the link this probably means that your Parentmail details are not up to date.

This can be rectified by giving us a call in the office so we can update your details and resend the link.

## Art Club



Children have been coming to a new 'Art Club' run by teaching assistant and art therapist Rachel. The art club has encouraged children to make art independently choosing and using art materials to express themselves. The Art Club aims to support children to explore different textures and ability to make art pieces that can be calming and fun!

It is hoped that in September Rachel will be able to offer art therapy sessions where art making can support children to connect to their emotions in a tactile and sensory way.

## Twitter spotlight



During these unprecedented times it has been wonderful to share the home learning and special moments with our families who are shielding safely at home and the rest of our school community. Twitter has proved a great platform to help us all feel closer, stay informed and share what's been going on at home and at school!

To hear about all the exciting opportunities we are planning and to share more of what is going on at Willow Dene, and to stay up to date with what is happening as it happens, with useful information and links; follow us on twitter @willowdenesch

To join, simply go to [www.twitter.co.uk](http://www.twitter.co.uk), click 'Sign Up' and follow the prompts on screen.

## Willow Dene Family Support



Our Family Support Worker, Vicky House, continues to host our '**Families Connect Coffee Mornings**' every Monday at 11am.

We have been really enjoying our weekly virtual get togethers. It's been so lovely to see lots of friendly familiar faces. The

Connect Coffee Morning is an opportunity for parents to share some of the difficulties they are having or have experienced, to talk and receive support or advice from other parents. We also have some much-needed laughs and chats. Parents have expressed that it has been a relief just to take 5 minutes for themselves.

We have had some special guests join us to share advice and info with parents such as Claire Hardy from Greenwich Greenlights Project, Emma Bennett one of our Deputy Heads and Amanda Baines our Sensory Processing Coordinator.

The Coffee Mornings have definitely helped us to keep in touch, share important up to date information and 'Connect' with our wonderful parents and carers during these very different and often difficult times. This is a virtual coffee morning that parents can access on any device just as long as you have internet connection. If you would like to join the Coffee Morning or have any questions or concerns, please contact:

**Vicky House on  
0208 854 9841**

or at [vhouse@willowdene.compassps.uk](mailto:vhouse@willowdene.compassps.uk).

Also, just a reminder that although Vicky is currently not able to have face to face appointments, she is still happy to provide support for Willow Dene families with phone calls and emails.

## Greenlights project

The Greenlights Project provide intensive 1-1 support to parents of children with disabilities and behavioural issues. Due to Covid-19 they are not currently able to run their full service, but they are running an online Parent Support Group on Thursday Mornings at 10am.

For more information or to join the group please call **07944682280** or email [greenlights@greenwichmencap.org.uk](mailto:greenlights@greenwichmencap.org.uk)

## CITYLIT

Although we are not currently able to run the free City Lit courses in school for our parents/carers we are still collaborating with them. City Lit are currently running courses for Willow Dene families on Art/Crafts, Cookery and Family Histories. To find out more about these please contact **Vicky House on 0208 854 9841**.

City Lit are also running free and useful Employability courses for families online.

- Confident Communication - Reading with your children with props.
- Introduction to Child Care - For those interested in working with children in an early year setting.
- Parenting Skills - Developing strategies and understanding.

To find out more please contact:

**Hayley on 07810 836811** [Hayley.holliday@citylit.ac.uk](mailto:Hayley.holliday@citylit.ac.uk).

If you have any trouble, please call Vicky House.

## Short Breaks

If you have not registered for the Short Breaks service, then do call them on 0208 921 3002 and request a self-referral form ([short-breaks-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:short-breaks-referrals@royalgreenwich.gov.uk))

## Family Fund

Family Fund provides grants applicable for families on a low income who have a child with a disability across the UK. You can find the application form on their website <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/faqs/how-do-we-apply>

If you have any questions or feel you need help with this, please call Vicky House.

# Stay Alert against scams

During the Covid-19 pandemic we have seen the best of people and society coming together to support one another, but sadly there has also been a rise in people trying to exploit people's anxieties about the virus. Criminals are experts at impersonating people and organisations to try and get hold of your money. Below is some information about a few scams to be aware of.

## The latest email and text scams to watch out for:



**Fake lockdown fines** - This text message says you have been fined for leaving your home during the coronavirus lockdown. The scam message claims to be from the Government and says that your movements have been monitored through your phone and demands payment for a fine.

**Fake council tax reductions** - A fake email which looks like it comes from the government asks you to provide your bank details in return for a coronavirus-related council tax rebate.

**WhatsApp request to forward your code** - Someone who knows your phone number could request to register your WhatsApp on a different device. A verification code is sent to your phone and the hacker will then message you to try and coax you into forwarding this on to them. This will give them full access to your WhatsApp messages, photos and videos. They then target your contacts with requests for money.

**Free school meals** - This email pretends to be from the Department for Education and asks you to send your bank details. If you are entitled to vouchers for free school meals, these will continue to be sent via Willow Dene and you do not need to provide your bank details.

**HMRC goodwill payment** This text message is designed to steal your account details by encouraging you to click a link to claim a 'goodwill payment' from the government.

**Access to Covid-19 info** These emails may appear to come from WHO or the CDC. They offer information about people infected with coronavirus in your area, or a download with advice on how to stay safe. The link will take you to a malicious website which will ask you to make a payment.

## Fake 'Test and Trace' scams

There is a rise in criminals trying to steal your details or money by claiming to be part of the NHS Test and Trace service. The scams might come by email, text message, phone or even people knocking on your front door. If this is a genuine contact, the NHS will get in touch by text or phone.

Genuine text messages will come from **NHStracing**.  
or  
Calls from **0300 0135000**.

### Contact tracers will **NEVER**:

- ✗ Ask you for any form of payment
- ✗ Ask you for any passwords or PINs
- ✗ Ask any details about your bank account
- ✗ Ask you to download anything
- ✗ Ask you to hand over control of your PC
- ✗ Send someone to your home



**TO STOP FRAUD™**

### STOP

Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

### CHALLENGE

Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

### PROTECT

Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.