

# WILLOW DENE NEWS



FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## Dear Parents and Carers

It is shaping up to be a very busy end to the school year! You should know next week which class your child will be in next year and who the teacher and senior teaching assistant working with them will be. Soon you will be invited to our annual Parent Social Evening. This is a chance to catch up with your child's teacher and other parents. It is also an opportunity to say goodbyes and to meet new people as well as see where your child will be next year. If your child is moving class and you are worried about this and would like to spend a little more time with your child's new teacher talking about them then this is fine and you can do this by contacting us at any time.

If your child is leaving us for new adventures this year you will shortly be receiving your invitation to our Willow Dene Graduation event where we will share some memories for each child and also our 2018 yearbook which showcases some of the achievements that we are very proud of.

There has been a lot happening at Willow Dene in recent weeks. Following a very successful sports day we have had chance to look at some of the stunning photographs that were taken on the day which were set to music in a presentation for staff to watch. We look forward to sharing some of these with you soon.

After that we were immersed in the world of cooking, tasting, smelling and touching food from all around the world during Multi Cultural Food Week. Staff and parents worked with classes to make and share recipes personal to their family, culture or a special place in the world. On the last afternoon every class made a dip and met outside in the playground to try out all the different tastes. It was lovely to end the week with a shared social event.

We had our Big School Sleepover with 10 of children from key stage 3 and 4 staying overnight at Willow Dene Oakmere Road. Some children went out for dinner in Bluewater followed by a relaxing pamper session at Lush. Some children stayed in school for film night and then ordered their own dinner using the iPads. Everyone was exceptionally well behaved and slept well. We enjoyed a shared Saturday breakfast together before home time!

On the same evening we were also at the Do the Right Thing Awards at Woolwich Town Hall where our three outstanding citizens and their families were able to celebrate their achievements and receive a special presentation. You can see photographs on twitter @willowdenesch

We have also held our very first options evening for children who will enter Key Stage 4 or year 10 next year. The options evening was a chance for children, parents and teachers to get together and talk about what to expect in year 10 and to discuss our plans and hopes for the future. In September our year 10 children will begin learning which will lead them to accreditations through

the AQA unit award scheme. Everyone has chosen their six areas of focus according to what they enjoy, are interested in or what might help them in the future. Our governors monitoring morning looked specifically at our key stage 4 Core Priority and we are looking forward to receiving their report soon.

Last week our parents enjoyed their first Cookery Club session and our Speakeasy had a trip out of school to Greenwich Carers Centre, The Stables where they were able to see the facilities on offer and speak to the CEO of The Stables to tell him what they would find useful and helpful as potential service users.

Tonight we will be celebrating both the arrival of summer and sadly saying goodbye to Carolyn Vagg who has been Co Head Teacher at Willow Dene for many years. Carolyn is retiring and we are very sorry to see her go. We hope that tonight will be a celebration of a lot of happy memories.

We have a lot to look forward to in the next few weeks including our last visit of the year from our School Improvement Partner Jo Atkins and our final two school journeys amongst many other things. We look forward to sharing more with you next time.

**John Camp**  
Executive Headteacher  
Compass Partnership

**Rachel Harrison**  
Headteacher  
Willow Dene

## TWEET IN SPOTLIGHT

Our first Cookery Club session for parents and carers was a hit! To see more like this, stay up to date with what is happening as it happens and get 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 School  
@WillowDeneSch

Parents and carers enjoyed the first Cookery Club session last week, making a delicious tomato and vegetable sauce! #cookeryclub #cooking



8:49 AM - 21 Jun 2018

1 Retweet 8 Likes 

## SWAN CLASS

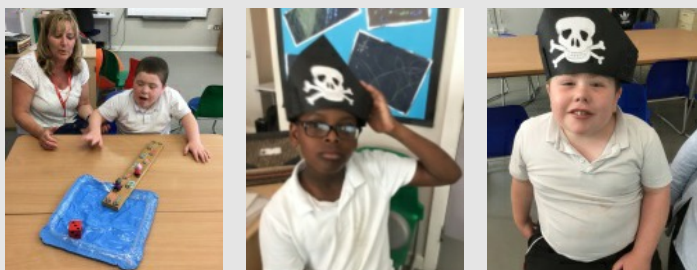
With the World Cup underway and Wimbledon coming up, Swan class have been focusing on ball games.

We've been practising our kicking skills, scoring goals but also kicking balls to knock down giant skittles. We've played games passing balls to each other, tried keepy-uppy with a balloon, designed our own football kits and made dough balls. We've investigated the different patterns made when we roll balls in paint, and in our interactive story the class have explored concepts such as heavy and light, hard and soft, as well as different shapes through playing with balls we bounce, roll, throw and kick; oval rugby balls, round footballs; balls we throw into hoops and balls we hit with racquets and bats. We're proud of the Swan Academy of Sport's first graduates!



## CHAFFINCH CLASS

Our new Summer topic is 'Sail the Seven Seas' and Chaffinch class have gone pirate mad. We are learning some pirate games in our play and leisure sessions which include walking the plank and being eaten by sharks. We're also working on our imaginative play skills by dressing up as pirates and pretending to be at sea in our cardboard box boats.



Our shape space and measure topic is capacity and we're filling and emptying a variety of containers with water and sand. Some of us are making and labelling containers that are full, empty and half full. We're enjoying reading the class story Peter Pan as there are lots of sensory props that accompany it. We're finding out that Captain Hook is not a very nice man!

As the topic is sea related, it has given us the perfect opportunity to make and try different foods associated with the sea-side. The most popular so far has been the candyfloss closely followed by the fish and chips. In our music sessions we are learning different action songs relating to the sea and pirates.

## NURSING TEAM

As we move into the final months of this school year, we would like to remind all parents that we are only able to administer medications in school if the medication is prescribed by a GP or hospital doctor. Medication must come into school with a prescription label, be in date and needing administration during the school day. Any medication needing administration for three times a day, can be given around the school day, eg in the morning, on arrival home from school, and at bedtime.

The nursing team also require secondary evidence of the prescription, and we would ask that you send a copy of the prescription label or hospital discharge paperwork, along with any new medication. Without having secondary evidence, we are unable to transcribe the medication which would mean this is unable to be given in school. This is especially important for any medication prescribed during a hospital clinic appointment or A&E department, as we are unable to obtain this from the GP's computerised records.

If your child has a medical condition which requires a nursing care plans for school, we are currently reviewing these ready for the new school year in September. You will shortly be receiving your updated care plans home. Please can you review these and inform the nursing team if there are any changes to be made. If we do not hear from you within 2 weeks, we will assume you are happy with the new care plans.

Alongside your child's care plans, you will also be receiving a patient survey questionnaire. This is in relation to the nursing care your child is receiving from the school nursing team or the community nursing team. Please can you only tick the nursing box, and offer your comments regarding the nursing service, and not any other Oxleas services.

We are available to discuss any medical concerns that you have with your child and if needed referrals can be made to other professionals. Please contact us via your child's home/school book or our direct telephone number is 0208 316 1516.

If your child is leaving Yr 6 to start in a new school in September, we will be transferring their care to the new school nursing team, to ensure that their nursing needs are known and planned for. We wish all those children the very best.

Tara Sissons - Team Leader for the nursing team.

## MUSIC THERAPY TEAM

On May 22nd the music therapy team (Ergina, Nicky and Richard) joined in with the MOVE day, which was focussed on circus themes. We worked with the whole class in Woodlark and Nightingale.

We created some activities which involved us playing on the keyboard, using our voices and encouraging the students' physical playing of various instruments, encouraging their vocal, physical and social responses. The activities used familiar sounding circus music, as well as an adaptation of the Blue Danube (a Viennese waltz). We used the waltz for everyone to have a turn playing a bell or the surprise sound of a honking horn on a Big Mac! This was one of our slapstick elements! Which produced some hilarious responses from students and staff.

Besides the musical activities, which involved a lot of laughter from students and staff, we also discovered that one of therapists -Richard, is an expert juggler! One of the student's who is usually rather discrete with his responses, was particularly transfixed by Richard's skill. He leant towards Richard as he was closely juggling 3 oranges. Our other colleague Ergina was accompanying the juggling on the piano. (Richard can also uni cycle but we didn't know this till the day)!

Besides this 'Off timetable' day we have also been involved in the first ever performance by a music therapy group. The Oakmere road Jammin' group performed to great acclaim at the Compass schools Spring concert. The performance took place at Corelli college in a daunting sized venue and in front of a substantial audience. The students brought the house down.

Here are 2 quotes after the performance :

Student (the next day) " When can we do our next concert ?"

Head-teacher : "It was a public representation of all of the things we value including celebrating diversity and being proud of our uniqueness. Carolyn and I were sitting behind a huge group of mainstream parents who were cheering and clapping away and genuinely loving the WD performance."



*In Rehearsal for the Concert*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Parents Evening at Swingate Lane  
Last day of Summer Term 17-18  
First day of Autumn Term 18-19 for Pupils

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 4 -6 PM  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018, at 1:30 PM  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## WILLOW DENE SCHOOL TERM DATES 2018/2019

### AUTUMN TERM 2018

### OTHER SCHOOL CLOSURES

Term Time	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September – Staff INSET Day Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September – Staff INSET Day Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September – Staff INSET Day
Half Term	<i>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October</i>	
Term Time	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	
Christmas Holiday	<i>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019</i>	

### SPRING TERM 2019

### OTHER SCHOOL CLOSURES

Term Time	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January – Staff INSET Day
Half Term	<i>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</i>	
Term Time	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	
Easter Holiday	<i>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</i>	

### SUMMER TERM 2019

### OTHER SCHOOL CLOSURES

Term Time	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday
Half Term	<i>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May</i>	
Term Time	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	

**Please note 1 staff INSET day to be decided**