



FRIDAY 5th April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

This newsletter will reach you on the last day of term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your constant support in everything we do, positive messages and feedback which means a lot to us. We greatly value our relationships with families and believe that together we can achieve the absolute best for your child. It was lovely to catch up with so many of you at The Spring Fling last week. After a busy half term it was lovely to see everyone having fun together.

Jude McPartlan will be beginning a phased retirement from Willow Dene in the summer term before leaving us in July. Many of you will know Jude who has been so committed to the children and families at Willow Dene for a long time. We will miss Jude greatly, but a phased retirement gives us the opportunity for a newly appointed Deputy Head Teacher to work alongside her for a term and gain knowledge and insight into the role. We are very pleased to announce that following a very successful interview Emma Bennett will be our newly appointed Deputy Head Teacher, joining Claire Barnes and Claire Bayfield in this role.

You may remember that at Willow Dene we are working towards our Arts Mark. Artsmark is the creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. The breadth of arts, culture and creativity across the curriculum and beyond is very important to us. Many of our children have creative interests and strengths. We are involved in a year-long project with The London Philharmonic Orchestra who have been working with children and teachers in a range of contexts. Last week they met with our focus group teachers to evaluate the impact of some of their early ideas on music teaching across the school.



Last Thursday evening our Jammin' Group opened the show at The Compass Partnership Concert. Our Jammin' group is a fluid group of children who attend Oakmere Road. They meet together every week to make music. The performers and mode of making music can vary on a weekly basis and this is facilitated by our Music Therapy Team. In preparation for the concert the Jammin' group looked at what 'performance' means and looking beyond the music to what they need to do in preparation for the

event and what to expect. Our 'live Tweet' coverage broadcast the event to our followers!

Our year 3 children are taking part in 'The Tate Year 3 Project'. Photographer Steve McQueen is creating a mass portrait of London's Year 3 pupils which will then be on display at Tate Britain. Last week we were visited by a Tate photographer who photographed our group, who will be invited to visit the finished portrait later in the year.

Following our autumn term successes, we are also excited to have received an invitation to participate in 'Shakespeare for Schools Festival 2019'. Each autumn nearly 30,000 young people from primary, secondary and special schools across the country unite in the world's largest youth drama festival. Months of preparation culminate in exhilarating performance evenings; young people playing Shakespeare in professional theatres. If you are at Swingate Lane please stop to look at our cast photographs from last year's performance of Romeo and Juliet, on display. This year our choices for which play to perform are Hamlet or Othello but we will have to wait and see which play is the one we will get to know and ultimately perform to a packed theatre in the autumn term!

We would like to wish you all a very happy and safe holiday. If this holiday feels like a long time and you would like contact with someone from school during the two weeks, don't hesitate to request this in your child's home school book or by giving us a call. We will see your child ready for a brand-new term on Tuesday 23rd April. We are looking forward to lots of exciting learning planned for our new topic 'Green Planet'. If you are visiting Oakmere Road after half term you will be able to see our new wall painting designs, based on the art workshops that the children took part in last half term. Keep watching Twitter [@willowdenesch](https://twitter.com/willowdenesch) for photographs of wall painting progress!

Rachel Harrison
Head Teacher

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is now possible for parents to order school uniform via SIMS Pay. If you have not already set up your SIMS Pay account please contact Stephanie Heasman, School Office who will be happy to assist.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Wish everyone a happy Easter break and we return back to school on Tuesday 23rd April .

COMIC RELIEF 2019

Thank you to all our students, families, parents and staff for helping us raise a huge £457.85

REDWING CLASS

Redwing class had a great time in our forest school lesson! We loved collecting different items and placing them within our baskets to give ourselves crazy forest hair! We had lots of fun exploring our great outdoors which is right on our doorstep, where we play with our friends and supporting adults. We look forward to our future forest school lessons where we can climb trees, swing on hammocks and breathe in the fresh air!



ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING FOR PARENTS

The online world is posing ever-changing risks to children and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to keep children safer online. As educators and parents, we need to be aware of the risks when using the internet and how to minimise them. Willow Dene are working with National Online Safety to provide an interactive online workshop for parents and carers.



The course is online and can be accessed on a tablet, phone or computer. It covers the following topics:

- Information about online dangers and the newest platforms
- What online risks to look out for and how to protect your child
- Interactive quizzes to check your understanding

This is the link you need to visit: <https://lms.nationalonlinesafety.com/school/willowdene>

You will need to enter an email address and password to sign up and select "I am a: Parent" from the dropdown menu.

Once you have registered, you will be able to access the Online Safety for Parents and Carers' course and National Online Safety's Resources (which includes 50+ online platform guides on the latest social media channels and games). These resources aims to help empower parents with the knowledge to protect their children from the risks of the internet. If you have any questions, or trouble accessing the course please contact support@nationalonlinesafety.com

TWEET OF THE WEEK

Links with our local community are really important at Willow Dene and we were delighted this week that our local Morrisons Supermarket at Welling kindly donated two hampers of books for our children. Our wonderful staff teams help all our children and young adults to experience the joy of literature through stories, books and poems!

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](https://twitter.com/willowdenesch)

To join, simply go to www.twitter.co.uk, click 'Sign Up' and follow the prompts on screen.



Willow Dene School @WillowDeneSch · Mar 24

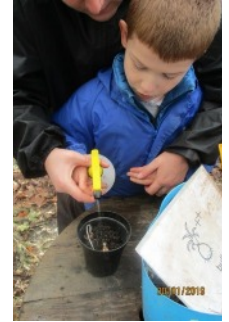
A big thank you to @Morrisons #Welling and their #communitychampion for donating two hampers of books for our children. We will really enjoy reading and sharing all the books!



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WREN CLASS

Wren class have had great fun at forest schools this term! We have really enjoyed participating in a range of different work activities- our favourites have included hammering sticks into the ground then weaving string to make a spiders web for 'Incey Wincey Spider' as well as planting and watering bulbs! During our free time, we have been very adventurous- climbing trees, going down the mud slide, collecting worms and balancing on the beams as well as investigating the sounds we can make at the music wall, digging, relaxing on the hammock and roasting marshmallows!



SWIM TEAM

The children have been working on their aquatic skills and co-ordination they practised their throwing skills by using different size balls and targets. They worked on going under a rainbow that rained on them, over a platform that they walked on and jumped off, under hoops at different levels in the water and picked up dive sticks and hoops from under the water.

Congratulations to David from Magpie class who enjoyed his first swim this week.

COMPASS NEWS

School Focus: South Rise

Last week at South Rise, our Year 3 children visited the Transport Museum in Covent Garden. The trip was planned to support their unit of learning 'On the Move' which focuses on different transport systems and how they are developed based on the needs of a community. The children travelled into London by train, which they found incredibly exciting in itself! The museum was very engaging and the children were fascinated to find out about vehicles from ancient times to modern day. They were very surprised to see that London taxis haven't changed much over the years!

Our Nursery children also visited the local fire station this week. They were very excited to sit inside a fire engine and loved watching the firemen sliding down the pole on their way to an 'emergency'.

Red Nose Day was also a huge success. Children wore an item of red clothes and had their nose painted for the day. The school manage to raise approximately £650 which is a phenomenal amount.

