



FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Dear Parents and Carers

Hello and welcome back to the summer term! We have a very busy and exciting half term ahead. We now know that this half term will be shorter than planned because of the European Elections taking place on Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both Willow Dene Swingate Lane and Oakmere Road will be used as polling stations on this day, meaning that we are unable to open the school to children. Therefore, the last day for children before the half term holiday will be Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Our topic this half term is 'Green Planet' and supports our Core Priority about becoming an environmentally responsible school. As part of this topic we have noticed lots of classes planting and growing things in their outdoor play area. So far, we have seen vegetables, flowers and some classes hatching butterflies! Look out for the topic descriptor in your child's class to see how your child will be approaching this topic.

If you follow us on Twitter @willowdenesch you will have been keeping up to date with our holiday projects. Last term, children at Oakmere Road took part in an art workshop where they expressed their thoughts and feelings about growing up and the future through their art work. Their art has now been transformed into beautiful wall art which you can see throughout the school from the main entrance all the way to the top floor! At Swingate Lane we have had our beautiful kinetic sculpture installed inside the school gates. We wanted something for the children to look at while waiting for the gates to open and close. Following our sculpture focused Arts Week in the Autumn term we felt that a sculpture would be just right and we are very happy with the result. Later this term we will be installing some floor shapes around the sculpture so look out for this!

During the first week of the summer term our first school journey set off for a two night stay at Kingswood in Ashford. Kingswood provides challenging and rewarding outdoor education and adventure experiences for children. Our group enjoyed team building, problem solving and adventurous activities such as zip lines, night lines and nature walks. We are very proud of our confident children, some of whom were having their first night away from home. We offer a range of school journeys to our older children so that there is something to suit everyone. Look out for news of our school journey to Downe, our first ever trip outside the UK, 'Little School Night In' and 'Big School Night Out' coming later this term.

As part of our Core Priority about safeguarding the wellbeing of our children and families out of school hours we have been busy making links with all your GPs. We think that it is important for GPs to know more about Willow Dene children and families so that they can offer a responsive and relevant service. Before the holiday, Michelle Flower our Health Support Worker contacted all

the GPs who see our children with information about our term dates, and the school and with an offer to visit and find out more. We have been really pleased that there has been a positive response to these letters and are hopeful that this will be the start of new relationships.

As part of our Core Priority about Environmental Sustainability we are trialling a fruit and veg stall for parents and staff this term. The stall will enable families and staff to buy local produce for a very reasonable price. If you aren't able to come to school to make your purchase, you can see what is available on the fruit and veg flyer every Tuesday and pay for your produce using SIMS Pay (<https://www.sims-pay.co.uk/Home>) so that your child can bring it home the same night. We will see how successful this term's trial is and decide whether to make this a longer term venture.

**Rachel Harrison**  
Head Teacher

## MAGPIE CLASS

Hello everyone, this term Magpie have been set a challenge to protect our planet! So we have been looking at ways to keep it green. To get the best picture of our mission we decided to design a rocket and fly up to the moon. Whilst we were there we ate some moon food which tasted a lot like sherbet and popping candy. The children in Magpie know it is really important to keep our planet clean, we have been practicing this by recycling different materials and completing lots of different sorting activities. I am sure they would love to help you sort the paper from the plastic at home.



## IMPORTANT DATES

**School Photographer** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May

**Children break-up for Half-term**  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**School closed to pupils**  
European Election Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
Inset Day Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

**Children back to school**  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

## TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Great fun working with a personal trainer to support wellbeing and physical development through exercise! 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 School**

@WillowDeneSch

All we need now are some chickens!



May 1, 2019



**Willow Dene School**

@WillowDeneSch

Setting up our 1st fruit and veg stall! Produce from @GCDAUK



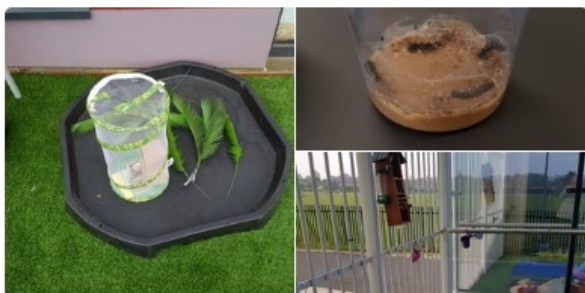
May 1, 2019



**Willow Dene School**

@WillowDeneSch

Our Painted Lady caterpillars arrived yesterday... currently munching through their food pot! We can't wait for them to be chrysalides and then emerge into beautiful butterflies on our wild balcony. Thank you @insectlore



Apr 30, 2019

## GOVERNOR NEWS

There's been a few more changes to the Local Governing Body since I last wrote.

Sadly we had to bid our fond farewells to Ann-Marie Organ in January. Ann-Marie had been a governor and parent at the school for over a decade, and was chair of governors until 2016 when she stepped down due to work commitments. Ann-Marie played a vital role in the school, helping build its reputation as one of national excellence and driving its expansion into secondary education. She was a great advocate for children's wellbeing and a supporter of both parents and staff. She stood down to concentrate more on her son's welfare and her work, and will be greatly missed by us all.

We were joined in November by Lynne Wainwright as a co-opted governor. Lynne is Senior Teaching Fellow at the Department of Child and Family Health at Kings College London, and has some previous experience of the school through placing students with us. Lynne is also an experienced school governor having been a parent governor at her children's school in Bexley.

We are about to be joined by Ben Sheridan, also as a co-opted governor. Ben is now Administrator for the Belvedere site of South East London Colleges. He started off in life working in electrical engineering before retraining as a teacher. He taught electrical engineering at the college before being promoted to site administrator and still teaches apprentices there. Ben has also been instrumental in setting up an education unit for post 16 SEND learners at the college.

Lynne and Ben join Kafayat, Natalie, Neil, Toyah, Keith and myself on the Local Governing Body. You can find out more details about us on the school website, and can contact us directly via the school if you wish.

There is still one remaining governor vacancy. We would love to hear from any parents who would be interested in joining us.

This last term is always such a lovely one for the children. Spring and summer is in the air, and we're on the countdown to the long summer holiday. Do have a good summer break when it comes.

With best wishes, Linda Perks, Chair of Governors



## COMPASS NEWS

### School Focus: Wingfield Primary School

We have been very cross curricular here at Wingfield and children have been applying their skills in lots of exciting ways.

Prior to the Easter break, Children had a history day where staff dressed as historical figures and children completed a range of historical learning, Year 1 went back in time to a Victorian school while Year 4 were taught by Julius Caesar.

Children have participated in Design and Technology cooking where they have made healthy bakes. Year 2 made banana cookies and in Reception they made vegan mango cakes using alternatives ingredients and discussing how this will make them healthier. We have collected all the recipes to make our own healthy bake recipe book which will be displayed in school.

Young explorers in Year 3 have explored the local landscape at Sutcliffe Park, this exciting expedition was followed by mountaineers' picnic in our forest school. Also, Year 2 have been to Greenwich Picture House to watch Hugo, based on a real-life film maker, to help their learning about the celebration of light. They have also made zoetrope to help understand the early ways of film making. We also had an exciting visit from a fire engine who parked up on the playground, nursery and reception got to see the fire engine up close and speak to the fire fighters.

Year 5 have turned their playscripts into documentaries on Rivers using i-movies, and Year 6 have been busy surviving the Hunger Games. Finally, our school council had a termly meeting and completed work towards our Gold Anti Quality Bullying Mark including collecting the pupil voice.

Finally, we ran a successful parent/carers and community Anti-bullying workshop which is helping us work towards our Anti-bullying award



**Please turn over for Willow Dene Term Dates for Academic Year 2019 - 2020.**



## WILLOW DENE SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019/2020

### AUTUMN TERM 2019

### OTHER SCHOOL CLOSURES

Term Time	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September – Staff INSET Day Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September – Staff INSET Day Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September – Staff INSET Day  Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September – Pupils Return
Half Term	<i>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October</i>	
Term Time	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	
Christmas Holiday	<i>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020</i>	

### SPRING TERM 2020

### OTHER SCHOOL CLOSURES

Term Time	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	
Half Term	<i>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</i>	
Term Time	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	
Easter Holiday	<i>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</i>	

### SUMMER TERM 2020

### OTHER SCHOOL CLOSURES

Term Time	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday
Half Term	<i>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</i>	
Term Time	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July – Last day for Pupils Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July – Staff INSET DAY Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July – Staff INSET DAY