

WILLOW DENE NEWS



FRIDAY 15th June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the first newsletter of the final half term of this academic year. We hope you had a fun and safe holiday. As you will already know we started last week with the very sad news of the sudden death of Samuel in Woodlark class. Samuel was our very first child in Toucan class in 2015 and we have had the pleasure of working with him since then. We will miss him so very much and send our love and thoughts to his family.

We are beginning to make plans for next year already! This year there are a large group of children in year 6 who will leave Willow Dene at the end of term. Some of them will go on to Willow Dene, Oakmere Road and some will begin their secondary school experience at Charlton Park Academy or other schools. Those children going to Charlton Park Academy went on the first of their four transition afternoons last week to see their new school. Children and families going to Oakmere Road will be invited to a family picnic afternoon later in the half term. If you are the parent of a child currently in year 4 or 5 then look out for invitations to our Oakmere Road Tour coming soon.

As our older children prepare to move on to new adventures, we are preparing to welcome a lot of new children and families to Willow Dene. This September we estimate that approximately 35 new families will join us and last week we were at the Willow Dene, Swingate Lane admissions panel where we were able to consider the requests for places. We are looking forward to meeting our new arrivals at our parents evening later in the term.

The first day of term was busy for 50 children from Willow Dene who went to Hastings with The Albany Taxi Charity. This is an exciting and special adventure for our children who have the opportunity to take part in a day out planned just for them! Take a look at some pictures from the day on Twitter.

We also had our very first sports day with activities ranging from a sensory trail and foam party to bungee ropes and races. Huge thanks go to Teviot's football committee for allowing us to use their playing field. We had a lot of fun and it was lovely that so many families could come and join us.

This week we have welcomed our school governors to Willow Dene Oakmere Road for their termly monitoring morning. This term they are looking closely at the progress we have made towards the school Core Priority which is about developing our key stage 4 curriculum. Governors had a presentation about our exciting plans and a tour of the school. Parents of children in key stage 4 next year will be invited to our first options evening soon.

If you are visiting school you will notice new displays in the corridors and central areas. This term our corridor displays reflect children's work in English and Mathematics. Take the chance to have a look at the variety of learning taking place across the school. Our new topic is 'Sail the Seven Seas', preparing us all for adventuring and travelling and moving from place to place.

Tonight we will be at the Do the Right Thing Awards at the Town Hall celebrating Emmanuel, Aryan and Mohammed's

achievements as outstanding young citizens and exceptional role models. Look out for photographs coming soon! While this is happening some of us will be at Willow Dene, Oakmere Road for our first ever 'Big School Sleepover'. There are lots of exciting things planned including ordering food, film night and Saturday breakfast. We are very excited! This week has been a 'Specialist Week' with a focus on one of our curriculum enrichment areas. Our amazing multicultural food week has supported learning in the area of food technology and has including cooking workshops from parents and a range of school staff. We finished the week off with a whole school picnic to which every class contributed by making and bringing a dip to share!

Carolyn Vagg (Co-Head Teacher) will be retiring from her work at Willow Dene at the end of this term. Carolyn has played a fundamental role in the transformation of Willow Dene into the school it is today. Her professionalism, knowledge and empathy have been highly valued by us all and we will miss her very much. We will be holding a summer celebration in school on June 29th. This will be an opportunity for families from Willow Dene's present and past, staff and other colleagues to come and celebrate Carolyn's contribution to Willow Dene and say goodbye. Invitations to this event will be coming home to you soon.

We are looking forward to an exciting and very busy June and July.

John Camp
Executive Headteacher
Compass Partnership

Rachel Harrison
Headteacher
Willow Dene

TWEET IN SPOTLIGHT

We headed off on our annual trip to Hastings at the beginning of term. 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, click 'Sign Up' and follow the prompts on screen.



LIVE TWEET: we are off to Hastings with @Albanycharity fingers crossed the sun comes out! Have a fun filled day everyone!



1:15 AM - 4 Jun 2018

6 Retweets 17 Likes



FALCON CLASS

"From the day we arrive on the planet, and blinking, step into the sun, There's more to see than can ever be seen, More to do than can ever be done"

Last term's topic was the 'Circle of life' and we were very busy exploring and learning about the animals in the world around us! Collectively, one of our favourite films and music is the Lion King, so this topic was perfect for us to learn and grow! In Literacy we were able to develop our role-play and embody animals. We were busy recreating animal movements with our bodies and through the use of props using the story 'Animal Boogie' by Debbie Hartner.



This term the topic is "Sail the seven seas". We cannot wait to jump aboard for an adventure as we explore life aboard a pirate ship, and an island of treasures so we can experience the sights, sounds and wonders that we can find.

"Are you a Pirate, on the ship? Are you a mermaid, in the sea? Are you a parrot, on captain's shoulder? It is a Pirates Life for Me!"

STARLING CLASS

This half term our topic is 'Sail the seven seas'. Starling class are very excited about this as they love boats, the sea and pirates. The topic has been incorporated in to all of our our learning and we have had lots fun with it.

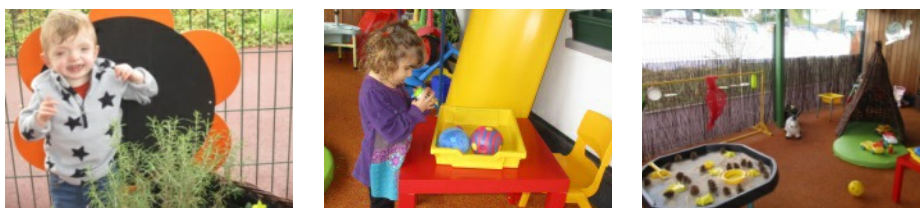
In literacy we have been reading a story called 'Black eyed Bill', through this we have experienced the sensory elements of sailing the sea, looking for buried treasure and meeting sea creatures. In addition to this we have been practicing our geographical skills by following directions to different areas of the school and going on treasure hunts.

In Art we have also been working as independently as possible, ripping, cutting and sticking different materials to create beautiful collages of the sea. Look at our photos to see some of the fun we have had!



TOUCAN CLASS

The children in Toucan are enjoying playing outside. Activities outside offers another way of practicing all the new skills they are learning. We offer free flow between the classroom and outside area. Some of the children now recognise the object of reference or symbol for the garden and will request going outside. The children have enjoyed planting flowers and herbs in the garden and our families have sent some of these in as well as some lovely mobiles which the children enjoy watching. We really value all the outside areas we are able to use and see such enjoyment and benefit for all the children.



SENSORY PROCESSING - Music & Movement

Offer class have been practising and leaning lots of new skills during music and movement, working on body awareness, core strength, co-ordination, timing and grading, also using both sides of their body, left and right. The class have been developing individual skipping exercises, helping with self-regulation, grounding and feeling great, improving their own wellbeing. WELL DONE.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Last day of summer term

Friday 20th July 2018