

WILLOW DENE NEWS



Willow Dene
SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 22nd May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

The last half term was a very short and slightly strange half term with two bank holidays and a polling day all in the space of a few weeks. This did not stand in the way of progress and there is a lot to report!

Our fruit and vegetable stall has started really positively with a lot of enthusiasm from staff and parents and sold out stock! Keep a look out on Twitter to see what is on offer each time and register with SimsPay to pay online and have your very reasonable priced order sent home.

We will soon be supplementing our stall with fresh eggs as 'Project Chicken' has been a huge success. The chicken coop is installed, and we are the owners of six beautiful chickens which have already started laying. During the day-time the chickens are out and about on the grass in their area near the playground and they are gradually being introduced to children. Some classes are already taking responsibility for caring for them and collecting the eggs. Our next environmentally responsible project is to install our beehives in the orchard. Our beekeepers are trained and ready with their special suits. Watch this space for more updates coming soon!

We have been out and about in lots of different contexts in the last few weeks. John and Rachel were invited to visit Selworthy School in Taunton by one of the review team from our Challenge Partners review. We were able to see similarities and differences in provision and to talk about Willow Dene's journey to their Leadership Team. We attend 'Inclusion in Action in Art and Culture' in Hammersmith which gave us lots of useful information on our journey as we work towards our ArtsMark with Arts Council England. During the Inset day on 24th May, some teachers and STAs will be out and about visiting other special schools, making new connections and then reflecting on the experience and what to share when they return to Willow Dene.

At Oakmere Road, there has been a careers focus as we have had the opportunity to make some amazing links which will help our children find new things to extend their interests and strengths. Our friends from Plumstead Police introduced us to a police dog and handler who spent the afternoon in school and met all the children. We have also linked up with 'expert.peer' a careers organisation who work to connect children and young adults with disabilities to professionals in their chosen field. We are looking forward to visits for our children to a range of professionals including a photographer, an eye gaze artist and a motivational speaker!

Our governors completed a monitoring morning to find out more about our Core Priority on 'enhancing and developing opportunities for exercise in order to improve children's physical and well-being'. They had the opportunity to meet Martin our personal trainer and find

out more about the work he does with children and staff and the impact of this.

The School Journey report from the recent Kingswood School Journey is now on Twitter @willowdenesch. It is a great read. Coming up after half term... will it be 'Little Night In' at our Swingate Lane Sleepover where we will be night swimming, line dancing and camp firing? or 'Big Night Out' at our Oakmere Road sleepover where we will be dining at the O2 before a night time trip on the cable cars? Watch this space to find out more.

Royal Borough of Greenwich have asked us to support them by providing a Saturday morning play club between now and the summer holiday after the original provider was not able to. We are pleased we have been able to put together an exciting plan at short notice and have willing staff to make it work so that the children and families involved have not been let down.

We had a visit from our school photographer and hope that beautiful photographs were taken that you will cherish. We can't wait to see them!

We are looking forward to celebrating National Move Day on 4th June which will have a Fairytale theme this year. The whole school will be involved in exciting opportunities to practice movement skills. This will be followed by Healthy Living week which culminates in Sports Day the following week. This will be a very busy week because at the same time our group of Willow Dene pioneers will be testing out our first ever School Journey outside the UK as they venture to Euro Disney. We are very excited and look forward to seeing what else the summer has in store!

Rachel Harrison
Head Teacher

NURSING TEAM NEWS

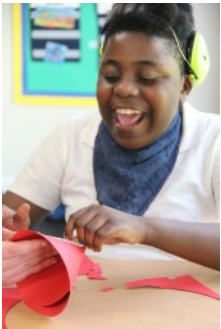
The Nursing Team continue to support all children at both Swingate Lane and Oakmere Road sites. Our new Nurse Laura has now fully settled into the role and is enjoying working with the children, families and staff!

Just a reminder about medication - any medication that comes into school for administration needs to have the correct dose on the Pharmacy label. Since we are coming into the summer months, please also note any children with asthma pumps need to have a pump designated to keep at School.

I would also like to advise you we are now able to offer nursing services such as taking bloods, wound dressings and injections (not vaccinations). Please contact Laura, Sue or Nancy directly on 0208 3161516 to discuss any needs you may have. The Nursing Team look forward to our continued collaborative working!

FALCON CLASS

The topic this term has been "Green Planet". With that in mind, we have been developing our understanding of recycling different materials. We have been learning which items we can and cannot recycle. We have also been using recyclable materials to make new toys and games, which we can share with our friends. Our favourite items that we have made so far are puppets and rockets. Come and watch us blast our rockets off into space!



We have also been using recyclable and renewable materials to build different structures such as ice cube towers, straw bridges, and sand dunes!

OT NEWS

It has been a busy 2 terms so far this year and the children have been learning and developing lots of new skills. Many children are continuing with sensory circuits and sensory strategies in school.

Natalie Ari (OT), Diana Bennett (OT), Jenny Jones (OT) and Susan Collier (OT assistant) are providing the OT provision for students on the CN caseload. Maria Copioso-Loto (OT) is a new member of staff who has joined the OT Service and she will be working with children with sensory needs; together with Mandy Baines (sensory coordinator).

The OT service assesses, orders and maintains specialist seating in the school which helps children with physical disabilities to achieve the best seating position possible. This specialist seating helps to protect their hips, spines and other joints, and also allows them to use their vision and upper limbs to the best of their abilities, and supports safe eating and drinking for those that are orally fed. The OT team also continues to support the Wheelchair clinic in school which is run by the Greenwich Wheelchair Services. We also give additional support for those children who have been issued with powered wheelchairs by the Wheelchair Services, to maximise their use in the school environment.

This year, many children have been given OT eating and drinking programmes to help them become more independent with feeding themselves. Many children also have specialist toileting equipment to help them become independent with toileting. Many children have been given fine motor programmes to help improve their ability to use their hands for play or functional self-care skills.

Please do feel free to contact our team if you would like to talk about your child on 020 8317 8596, or you could write to us through the home contact book.

TWEETS OF THE WEEK



Our chickens have arrived and we had great fun learning about and caring for them! 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, click 'Sign Up' and follow the prompts on screen.

COMPASS NEWS

Welcome to our new Trustee Anne-Marie Duguid

We are pleased to share that Anne-Marie Duguid has joined our Compass Board of Trustees. Anne-Marie is an experienced Director of Education with a demonstrated history of leading education at a national level. She is one of the founding Directors of the Royal College of Teaching (now the FCCT). Anne-Marie has developed strong partnerships and has expertise in designing and implementing strategy, evidence informed practice (working with lead academics and thought leaders), understanding the education system, and developing and training future leaders. She has experience in business development and its evaluation and impact. Most recently, Anne-Marie has worked alongside Professor John Hattie to evaluate the impact of Visible Learning on UK schools. An experienced governor, Anne-Marie is also committed to supporting education locally. Anne-Marie passionately believes in celebrating and developing the teaching profession and is a firm believer in social justice. We are delighted that she has joined our wonderful trustee team. Anne-Marie replaces Mandy Watson, to whom we send our thanks for her two invaluable years of service to the Board of Trustees.

Compass Events - open to all of our schools

School/Trust Event	Date & Time	Event
Willow Dene	Every Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30am	Speakeasy: Coffee morning with the chance to chat to other parents and listen to key speakers on a range of topics
Willow Dene	Every Friday 10.15am	EYFS Sharing Time: A chance to celebrate all the achievements in EYFS with family and friends
Wingfield	9 th May	Times tables and Early Maths (Parent Workshop)
Wingfield	10 th May	Quiz night
Alderwood	22 nd May 2.30pm	What is the Times Table Check? (Parent Meeting)
Wingfield	6 th June	Handwriting (Parent Workshop)
Compass Trust	13 th June	Compass Sports Day
Wingfield	19 th June	Summer Fayre
Wingfield	20 th June	Spelling (Parent Workshop)
Horn Park	29 th June	Summer Fayre
Wingfield	4 th July	Supporting Children with EAL (Parent Workshop)

IMPORTANT DATES

School closed to pupils

European Election Thursday 23rd May

Inset Day Friday 24th May

Children back to school

Monday 3rd June