

WILLOW DENE NEWS



Willow Dene
SCHOOL

FRIDAY 9th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! We hope you had a fun filled, happy and healthy half term break. As always, we were very happy to see so many smiling faces on Monday morning.

We have an exciting half term planned beginning with a new topic. 'Horrible Histories' will give us all some fun contexts for learning in the coming months. In every classroom you will see a 'topic descriptor' which is a guide to how each class is approaching the topic and what they will be doing in each subject area. Look out for these in your child's class.

This week our displays are changing to showcase our learning from last half term and our topic 'Mould and Make'. Look out for the giant pencil in reception marking the beginning of a story trail for the story 'Iggy Peck, Architect' by Andrea Beatty.

You will be able to see more of our new displays on Wednesday 14th November when we will be holding our annual parents evening. The parents evening will run from 4pm until 6pm and you will have chance to meet with your child's teacher to talk about your child's progress, look at some of their work and ask any questions. Other people who work with your child will also be available to talk to. There will be refreshments and the chance to meet up with other parents too. Look out for letters coming home shortly.

This year, in conjunction with parents evening we will be asking you to provide us with some important information. Changes to safeguarding legislation mean that all schools now must keep two emergency contact numbers for each child. The emergency contacts do not need to live near the school but need to be someone you trust who would be available as a point of contact if we were unable to contact you. At parents evening we will ask you to update your emergency contact information.

It is also the time of year when we ask you to complete our Parent Survey so that we can find out more about your views of the school. It really helped us talking to you at a Speakeasy earlier this term to see what you would like included in our survey. This year we will be offering you the chance to complete the survey online if you would prefer and details of how to do this will come home soon.

A lot has happened since the start of this half term. Last Tuesday we had our first Challenge and Support Morning where we were visited by Jo Atkins our Improvement Partner and John Camp our Chief Executive. Their job for the day was to look at our school with a critical eye, follow lines of enquiry about the quality of provision and check that we are accurate in the way we evaluate our performance as a school. John and Jo visited both schools, did learning walks in classes and talked to a lot of teachers and leaders. It was an exhausting day, but we are very pleased that the feedback was really positive! We will share some of their report when we receive it.

Last Wednesday was completely different as we had a very fun Sensory Trick or Treat Day! There were some spectacularly spooky costumes and an exciting atmosphere as everyone

tried out the sensory activities on offer. Our photographs from the day can be found on Twitter @willowdenesch

On Monday we were in Darlington at The Education Village, training more teachers to use Willow Dene's Learning Journeys Assessment.

Today we are hosting a visit from Councillor Pat Greenwell who is visiting to find out more about Willow Dene and to meet some of the children and adults.

On 16th November we are holding our first Winter Health Workshop for Parents. We will be working with our Oxleas team to provide advice, tips and information on preventing respiratory conditions linked to the cold weather. If your child is vulnerable to illness in the winter months, then please do come along. We want a healthy winter period for everyone.

Excitement is building for our Shakespeare for Schools performance of Romeo & Juliet at The Albany Theatre in Deptford on 15th November. At the moment our cast are busily rehearsing, and we can't wait to see the result of all their hard work. Look out for Live Tweets from the venue on the night!

Rachel Harrison
Head Teacher

TWEET IN SPOTLIGHT

We have had lots of fun creating our collaborative pieces of Art as part of The Arts Week.



Willow Dene School @Willow... · 5 Nov

We have been very busy today creating a collaborative art piece to display in our playground! Day 1 complete, lots more art to come tomorrow! #CollaborativeArt



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To see more such exciting news about us follow us on twitter @willowdenesch.

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

ROBIN CLASS

In Robin Class we love Science! Halloween has given us the perfect opportunity to explore slimy, smelly and unusual things. We have been mixing different edible products to see how they react to each other.

Our favourite experiment was the Sick Pumpkin (Bleah!)

We loved mixing bicarbonate soda with vinegar and seeing all the fizzing. We also enjoyed mixing icing sugar with water and food colouring to create a slimy, but yummy, topping for our biscuits.



SaLT NEWS

The SaLT team wish to extend a warm welcome to the new students and families joining Willow Dene this term.

Team Updates:

Last term we said farewell to one of our speech and language therapists, Laura Sargent, as she made the decision to move out of London to pastures new. Anna Trebble, an experienced speech and language therapist with a wealth of early years experience, has now joined us - welcome Anna.

The Speech and Language Therapy team are based on the Willow Dene School site and a member of the team is here Monday - Friday.

Our team currently consists of:

- Cecily Vale (SaLT Team Lead)
- Gemma Britten (Speech and Language Therapist)
- Anna Trebble (Speech and Language Therapist)
- Pauline Casanovas (Speech and Language Therapy Assistant)

We support children's communication development throughout the day in their functional environment in a variety of ways.

If you would like to contact a member of the therapy team at any point to discuss your child's communication or their feeding safety then please do feel free to call us on 020 8317 8596 or write a note in your child's home school book for your child's class team to pass on.

POOL FROG CLASS

Hello from Pool Frog class! We have had a fab half term settling into our new classroom and getting to know new friends. We have had lots of fun making and moulding in our art sessions this half term using different media to create models of members of our family.



We used papier mache to mould and make shapes for the body parts we needed. We also made family members out of clay practising our gross and fine motor skills to roll, squash, pinch and stretch the clay into the shapes we desired. We have also enjoyed using our imaginations to create art pieces through junk modelling using recycled materials to make cars, rockets, trains and boats. We are looking forward to some messy sensory stories through our 'Horrible Histories' topic this half term too so watch this space!