



FRIDAY 23rd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to another busy newsletter. The school has been a hub of activity in the last few weeks and there has been a real sense of energy and excitement everywhere. This newsletter is full of quotes which sum up the recent events at Willow Dene!

We have now received our report from our 'Challenge and Support' morning which comprised of a review of our practice by John Camp and Jo Atkins. The morning was hugely useful for us and we were very happy with the report. We have included some quotes for you to read below:

'The quality of teaching observed was outstanding - progression was clearly evident across the school and children's very different and complex needs were incredibly well managed and supported by all adults. Routines were so well embedded that children were supported to be independent learners in everything they did - regardless of need'

'All adult interactions were ones of enablement - they were focused on supporting children's communication, confidence and independence'.

We are very proud of this report.

On November 5th we were in Darlington at The Education Village providing training for teachers to use our 'Learning Journeys' assessment system. The teachers from The Education Village sent us this email to say thank you:

'Thank you for the training you delivered on Monday. All staff have commented how fantastic it was and how enthused we all feel to begin to introduce this in our school'

We are looking forward to hearing of their progress in the next few months.

We also received an email from Councillor Pat Greenwell after her visit to Willow Dene on Friday 9th November. Councillor Greenwell was with us for the whole morning and spent time talking to children and adults. In her email Councillor Greenwell says: 'I just wanted to say thank you very much for letting me visit your school last Friday, it was a very humbling experience. It is very obvious that the staff are extremely dedicated'

Councillor Greenwell has already booked her next visit to Willow Dene before the end of term!

We had a fabulous Arts Week with all children having a wide breadth of experiences with sculpture. There were some amazing art works produced which culminated in a stunning art exhibition in our hall. Parents, family members and visitors came to look at our gallery and on Twitter @willowdenesch you can see some of their lovely comments. The gallery stayed for a little while longer to enable more parents to see it. Thank you to everyone who came.

We have also had our autumn Parents Evening which was extremely well attended. For the first time ever, we released our annual parents survey online as well as on paper and we are looking forward to seeing which method you prefer. Please do complete the survey to tell us how you think we are doing. If you would like a paper copy and do not have one already, please do let us know and we will send one home. It is important that we get as many parent views as possible.

We are very proud of our Shakespeare for Schools Festival cast of Romeo and Juliet. Their performance at the Albany Theatre in Deptford was amazing and we are very proud of them. Thank

you to all members of the school community who came to watch in impressive numbers. We really appreciate your support.

We supported Children in Need 2018 in comfortable and cosy style in our pyjamas! We are looking forward to sharing how much money we raised to support the campaign.

Look out for details of our important winter dates coming soon and a huge thank you to everyone who attended our winter health Speakeasy and winter health workshops which we hope will help all our children stay safe and well this winter.

Rachel Harrison
Head Teacher

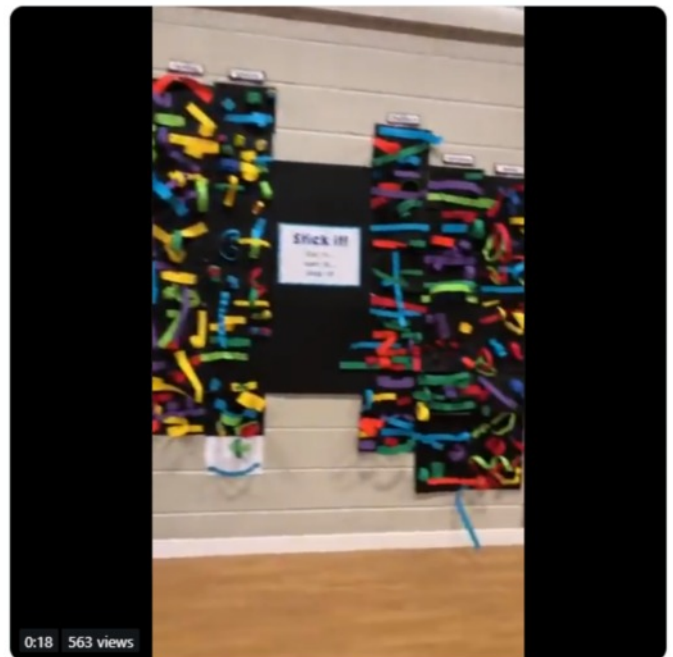
TWEET IN SPOTLIGHT

Take a look at the video of our Art Gallery if you didn't get a chance to visit! To see more tweets like this, stay up to date with what is happening as it happens and get useful information and links, follow us on twitter @willowdenesch



Willow Dene School
@WillowDeneSch

Our Art Gallery is ready for viewing! We are looking forward to seeing our children's reactions to their work on display this morning, and sharing our gallery with our families and friends this afternoon!



1:20 AM - 9 Nov 2018

9 Retweets 33 Likes



6 9 33

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

CHAFFINCH CLASS

Chaffinch class are enjoying exploring our topic- 'Horrible Histories'. In art, we're using paint to recreate famous art work from the past. In history, we enjoy our sensory journey through the past, where we get to experience music, artefacts and food from the past. We particularly enjoy smelling, licking and eating the different foods! We are enjoying our weekly sensory group sessions, where we are following instructions to take part in lots of different sensory activities to music. We particularly enjoyed taking turns with the metal hoop toy- we all loved feeling it on our arms and watching it spin.



We're also enjoying keeping fit with daily exercise sessions. We like following instructions to march, jump, skip, bend and clap.



PHYSIOTHERAPY NEWS

A big 'Hello' from the Children's Physiotherapy team. As we head towards the end of Term 1 we can feed back that, as is usual after the Summer break, we have focused a lot of our time on making sure that all of the students equipment is the right size, fitting well and working positively to help. We have met and welcomed all the new starters to the school and have begun our therapy blocks for students that would benefit from some additional physical support.

We have been working without one key member of our team since September so this has significantly affected our capacity, but we are pleased to say that we have recruited to the post and are expecting the new member of staff to be in post sometime soon after Christmas. We will introduce them as they arrive but please ask if you have any questions about how this change may affect your child or your class physiotherapy provision.

We are always working on new initiatives and we are currently in the planning stages of scheduling some joint assessments for our students that require support from all three of our integrated therapy services - Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy and Speech & Language therapy. We are hoping that this new format of assessment will help us to improve our joint working and enable us to better represent the holistic needs of students.

If you have any questions about any of the work that Physiotherapy is carrying out in school, if you would like to pop in for a chat, or if you would like to arrange a home visit for your child (if they are on our caseload) please do not hesitate to get in touch Claire.higgins1@nhs.net

Wishing all families and staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year when you get there :0)

Claire

SWIM TEAM NEWS

We have been reading the story of Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson and this has been our theme. We have been travelling on our broom sticks to develop our core strength and balance. We have followed the story to find and collect the cat, hat, dog, bow, wand, bird and frog, in order to develop our stamina and coordination.

Our Liquid Vibration sessions are proving to be popular and beneficial to those taking part. We are hoping to expand these sessions and include more children.

Congratulations to Kentar in Jackdaw class who has received our first distance award of 5 metres this term. Well done.

The Swim Team

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 14th Dec	Foundation Concert
Monday 17th Dec	KS1 Concert
Tuesday 18th Dec	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 19th Dec	Frosty Christmas Fair & Christmas Parties
Thursday 20th Dec	KS 3&4 Christmas Market with Choir
Friday 21st Dec	KS2 Concert

Times to be confirmed