



WILLOW DENE SCHOOL

Friday 18th November 2022

Head Teacher's Message

Such a lot has happened since our last newsletter. Having returned from the holiday and seeing so many happy faces on Monday 31st of October, we were surprised, nervous and pleased all at once when we received our call from Ofsted to say that Willow Dene's long awaited Section 5 inspection would take place on the 2nd and 3rd of November. For two days our inspection team looked in enormous depth at all aspects of our practise.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who supported us by completing the parent questionnaire, speaking to inspectors and sending us the most lovely messages of support. We were extremely grateful to be surrounded by our Willow Dene community and uplifted by your encouragement. Hopefully you've had the chance to watch our parents briefing and will know that we are currently awaiting the final outcome, which can take approximately 15 days from the date of the inspection. Whatever the outcome is, we are and will remain very proud of our school. When we hear anything you will be the first to know.

We are very happy that this Christmas there are lots of opportunities for Willow Dene families to be part of school life and get involved. You will soon be receiving our Christmas dates, which will tell you when we will be having our parties, visits from Santa and performances. Hopefully this year they will be COVID free and unrestricted and we will make the most of this!

You may also have seen our flyers encouraging families to join our search for Willow Dene's next Star Baker with the Festive Bake Off Challenge and an opportunity for brothers and sisters to join our sibling competition, celebrating the many brilliant relationships our children have with their brothers, sisters and other relative. If you missed the detail of either of these, please do contact the school office.

This year our Winter Wonderland Christmas fair will take place after school on Thursday the 1st of December at 5-7pm. There will be many stalls selling everything from goods that children have made to crafts, food and drink and many others. There will be a sing along and a range of activities available along with the opportunity to mix mingle and have fun together. We have never had a Christmas fair in the evening time before but thought it would be good to have a change this year and create an opportunity for the local community and parents who work to take part as well. We are very excited and thoroughly looking forward to it.

Many of us are venturing out of school on trips this term which have included an exciting piece of work with Greenwich Maritime Museum, who have involved our children in an arts project on the subject of sea monsters which involves a sensory art workshop at the museum. We will be excited to see our work on public display in a real life museum in the spring term. We are also planning a range of opportunities for visitors to join us in school. After the success of our theatre week in the summer term, all children will have the opportunity to see a sensory pantomime performance of Beauty and the Beast in school next week.

We look forward to seeing you in school in the very near future and if you were new to Willow Dene this September we hope to see you at our new parents meeting which has now been rearranged for Tuesday 22nd November 2022

Rachel



Don't forget
parents'
evening!

If you are visiting us you will notice that our displays have changed and there is a lovely lot of new learning on the walls all around the school. Hopefully you will get the opportunity to visitors for parents evening on Wednesday November the 23rd between 3:30 and 5:30 pm.

As well as having the opportunity to catch up with your child's teacher, school based specialists and therapists will be on hand in our hall to talk to you more about what they offer and to give advice and support. Also at parents evening, we will be sending you our annual parent's questionnaire So that we can get your views on how we are doing.



In the last two weeks we have been having some training in our pool with Liquid Vibrations who teaches us how to practise musical hydrotherapy, which encourages relaxation and improved posture and tone. The great thing about this training is that it involves children as well as adults so that we can get some new perspectives on stretches and flotation for individuals

Parents Briefing

You may also know from the parents briefing, that our public consultation about opening sixth form at Oakmere Road is now live and will remain open until the end of November. There is a parent meeting next Tuesday 22nd of November at 10am at Swingate Lane where we will be able to share more of our plans and answer some of your questions. If you would like to have your say, visit our website and follow the link for 'sixth form consultation'



Achievement Awards

On Friday the 4th of November, we were at Woolwich town hall celebrating the achievements

of three of our Willow Dene children who were nominated for Do the Right Thing Awards. We proudly cheered them on as they were presented a medal and certificate by the Mayor and their citations were read out along with those of other children from across Greenwich to explain why they had been chosen as outstanding citizens. Huge congratulations to Sophie, Avery and Charlie. We are very proud of you.



Some of you have been asking about school photographs and whether we will be having them this year. We can confirm that this has been booked for January and

we will let you know the date shortly. We hope you have enjoyed seeing your children's Christmas card designs coming home and that you support us by ordering your child's Christmas card using the unique artwork code on the back of the cards. Orders need to be placed by Monday the 21st of November at apfsorders.co.uk. We look forward to seeing the final versions arriving in school soon!



Milo (Dog Mentor)

During the school day, Milo has started his first sessions working with children. These have included a MOVE group, where

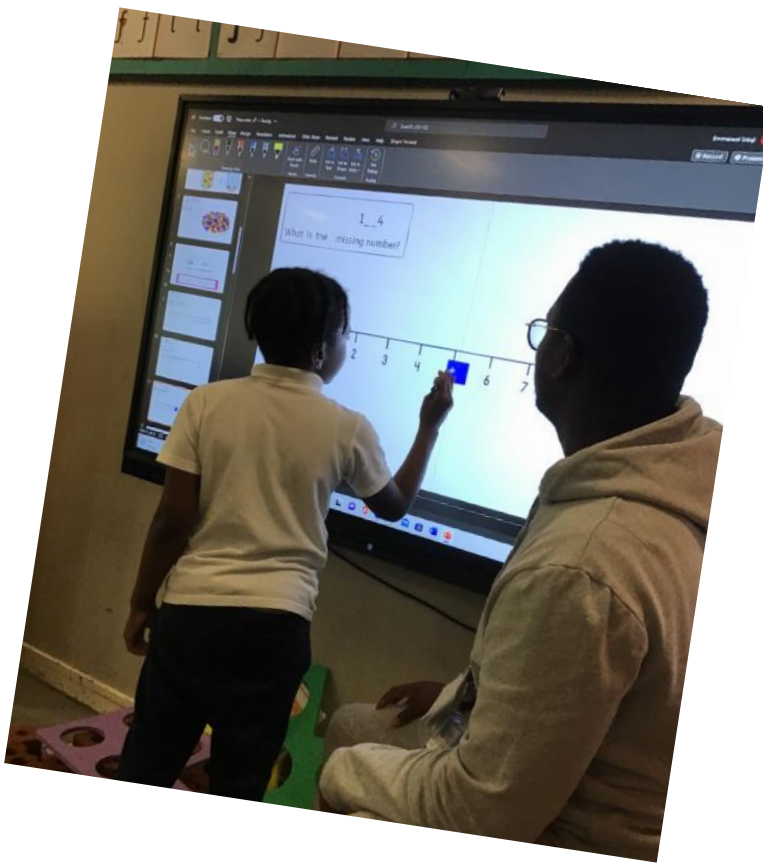
children practise their movement skills by stretching out their arms to pet him, turning our heads to see him and learning how to give him a treat for being a good boy. Milo is also joining individual children to support their transitions. we are finding he is great encouragement for children finding it hard to move from one place to another. He is also joining classes at the beginning and end of the day so that children can have some responsibility for looking after him for short periods of time.



**Transport Surgery on Parent
Evening – Wednesday 23rd
November**

Come along to Parents Evening and meet the transport team. We will have Anne Corpe and Grant Lawson from Passenger Services and Samantha Jinks and Megan Butler from SEN transport. If you have a query about how transport works, or issues with your child's bus come along and have a chat.



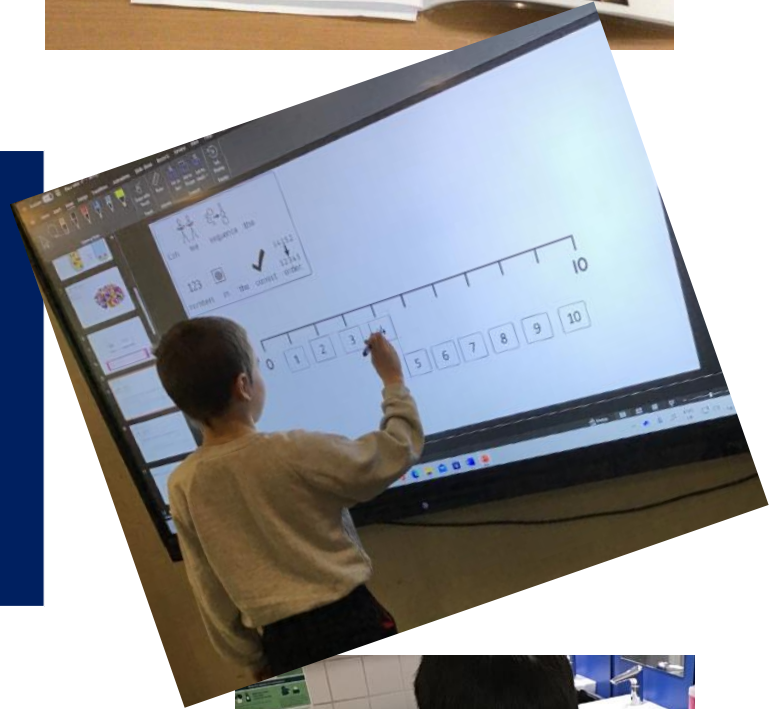


Starling Class

As Starling Class return for Autumn 2, we introduced an exciting way to add and subtract numbers in numeracy using different resources.

Our numeracy song has proven to be a success in class. The children have all enjoyed and is currently keeping the staff up at night. Our song is 'I love to Count' by Bino and Fino.

Learning is fun when fun is learning.



SWAN CLASS



Swan class have really enjoyed developing our sensory investigation skills during our discovery sessions where we have been learning all about our senses and identifying the most appropriate sense to use to interact with and explore objects, resources, and materials.

We had lots of fun trying out the different sensory stations by touching, looking, listening, tasting and smelling an array of different resources! Our favourite sensory based activities were most certainly exploring shiny and translucent materials on top of the light box, exploring sounds and vibrations by dropping materials on top of a giant drum, and tasting different textured and flavored condiments, sauces and dips to discover our preferences. What great fun we have had!



Transport

If your child is travelling to school by bus, you live in the Royal Borough of Greenwich and are moving within the borough, please make sure you reapply for transport as the process can take a minimum of 28 days.

Borough of Bexley children who are moving within the Bexley Borough, you will need to contact SEN on 020 3045 4431.

If you are moving out of the Borough please contact the school office, so we can talk you through the process. Thank you .

New address

Could you please make sure that once you have moved that you inform the office of your new address and telephone number, so we can update our systems.



The My Child at School (MCAS) is a website where you can pay for school dinners, school trips, school clubs and buy school uniform. You can also check attendance, other information and send a message to the school office if your child is absent. If you haven't signed up for or used your child's MCAS account, please contact the school office for an invitation code.

IMPORTANT DATES

Parent's Evening

Wednesday 23rd November 2022 (3:30pm-5pm)

Winter Wonderland - 1st December 2022

Christmas Performances

(Times to be confirmed)

12th December 2022

Goldcrest/Redwing/Bunting/Kestrel
Jackdaw/Staring/Chaffinch/Brambling
Pheasant/Partridge/Osprey

13th December 2022

Greenfinch/Heron/Sparrow/Nightingale
Merlin/Woodlark/Skylark/Robin/Woodpecker/Magpie
Falcon/Wren

15th December 2022

Swan/Lapwing/Puffin/Kingfisher

15th December 2022

Badger/Dormouse/Hedgehog/Otter/Squirrel/Pool Frog

Christmas Dinner/Parties - 14th December 2022

WHAT'S ON



THE SIBLING PROJECT

IT'S COMPETITION TIME!

Do you want to be in with a chance of winning a **£150 Amazon Voucher**?

Open to all Willow Dene children and their siblings, this is an opportunity to get creative together and make something that represents you and your relationship.

You could write a poem, create a song, make a video, paint, draw, photograph, create a sculpture, do a dance, the possibilities are endless!

Think outside the box and get creative to impress our judges.

Your work will be exhibited at our Winter Wonderland Event for all of the community to see!

Deadline for submissions:
24th November 2022

WE NEED YOUR OLD CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS COSTUMES!

Do you have old costumes that are in great condition but no longer fit?
We would love to have them!

As part of our Winter Wonderland Event to raise money for Friends of Willow Dene, one of our parent volunteers will be holding a fancy dress stall. Please send any donations into school by 30th November 2022



SAVE THE DATE

WINTER WONDERLAND

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2022
5-7PM
WILLOW DENE SCHOOL, SWINGATE LANE,
SE18 2JD



ARE YOU WILLOW DENE'S NEXT STAR BAKER?

ENTER OUR FESTIVE BAKE-OFF CHALLENGE!
FANTASTIC PRIZES FOR THE WINNER, INCLUDING A £50 VOUCHER
AND STAR BAKER APRON.

SUBMIT YOUR WINTER THEMED BAKES TO SCHOOL FOR JUDGING
AND TO BE SOLD AT OUR WINTER WONDERLAND EVENT BY

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2022

ONLY £3 TO ENTER

ALL BAKES MUST BE NUT FREE



For more information - contact Joshua - jgarrett-smith@willowdene.compassps.uk



MIGHTY ACORNS



Weekly group sessions, family support,
counselling and advocacy for parents and
carers of babies aged 0-2 with medical
conditions or disabilities

Email send@mums-aid.org or call/text 07758763908
to self-refer or refer a family for support

