



WILLOW DENE SCHOOL

Friday 20th January 2023

Head Teacher's Message



Welcome to this bumper edition of our newsletter, which is the first newsletter of 2023. Even though New Year feels like a long way away already, we would like to wish you all happiness and good fortune in 2023.

We enter 2023 as an officially Outstanding school, which still feels very new and exciting. One of the things that we expected to happen as a result of the Ofsted grading was that we would have an increased level of interest from other schools and professionals, and already we can see this unfolding. Last week we hosted leaders from all The Compass Partnership schools in both Greenwich and Essex. They spent the whole day at Willow Dene, including a full tour and meeting the children. They had lots of questions about our aspirations for our children, our positive relationships and how we interact with families. We hope these conversations will open up some new relationships and ways that we can help make positive changes for other children and families across the Trust. In the next two weeks we will be visited by The Consortium Academy Trust from Hull and Priory Woods School in Middlesbrough, as well as re-establishing our relationship supporting The Promise school in Devon. We look forward to sharing their

thoughts about Willow Dene in the next newsletter.

Hopefully, you have all received the link and been able to watch the first Parent Briefing of the term. In this you will hear that winter illness and COVID are both still causing disruption to school. COVID seems to be transmitting from one person to another very rapidly and can affect a whole class group very quickly. In order to try and minimise this we are emphasising the need to use our antiviral wipes for touch point cleaning, hand washing and hand gel regularly as well as considering ventilation, face coverings and social distance where appropriate. Current symptoms seem to be temperature and cold symptoms.

Yesterday we were informed that teaching union members have balloted and agreed to strike action. At the moment we are in the process of finding out what this will mean for Willow Dene and we will keep you informed as we approach the dates provided by the unions.

This is always a busy term so look out for our news on the website and Twitter @willowdenesch. There are some exciting events planned in the coming months and we are looking forward to sharing these with you!

Rachel





We started the term with two days of staff training which involved mandatory safeguarding, preparation time in class and also some team building, giving our teams the opportunity to spend some time together finding out more about each other and about Willow Dene!

After this we were very excited to see the children return and see their happy faces as they arrived through our doors. The school always feels joyous when we return from holidays, but particularly in the winter it is a relief to see everyone back safe and well.

Friends of Willow Dene School

We are looking forward to our next committee meeting on 31st January and have much to discuss about our future fundraising plans. We have received our donation from Michael Sandford who ran the London Marathon in support of us and have already had suggestions as to where this money should be spent- watch this space!

As always, we are keen to welcome any new members, please do get in touch with Katie Dooley if you would like to attend.

IMPORTANT DATES

26th January 2023 - Braiswick Photos

26th January 2023 – 6th Form Meeting

Half Term

Monday 13th February 2023

To

Friday 17th February 2023

Staff update

As always at Willow Dene we have plenty of staffing information to keep you updated on! Sadly, we are going to be saying goodbye to Brogan, our current school nurse at the end of January. We are hoping that we will be able to stay in touch with Brogan and use some of her other skills to support us moving forward. Judy and Jules, who some of you have already met will be leading the Willow Dene Nursing Team moving forwards.

Richard Murison, who has worked with us at Willow Dene within the Music Therapy team is also leaving us to take up a Team Leader post. Richard's many highlights include the Compass music concerts, Jammin' Group, virtual music therapy and some amazing relationships with children and staff. He will be very much missed but will stay in touch. Happily, Nicky O'Neil, who many of you know very well will be returning to the team to cover some of Richard's time.

If you are attending Parent Coffee mornings this half term you will meet Rebekah Forbes, who is our newest addition to the Family Support team. Rebekah will join Vicky and Michele for 3 days a week, adding capacity to the support and advice we can offer to families. Some of you will already know Rebekah, who knows the school well having previously worked at Willow Dene for a number of years.



6th Form Proposal Update

During the Christmas holidays we moved forward with our plans for sixth form, submitting our business case to the DfE and beginning the stages of planning approval that we will need to go ahead. Last week we saw drawings of the outside of the building for the first time which we were very excited about.

We are also excited to be able to share the drawings with you along with the plans for inside the building. There will be a meeting for parents on January 26th where will be inviting you to find out more. This will be held at Oakmere Road, and you should receive a parent mail with the details this week.

Falcon Class

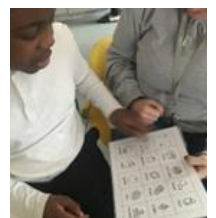
This week we ventured out as a class group into the community to go shopping at Morrisons. It was our first outing offsite and what a success it was! We will attend on a weekly basis as we develop our awareness of the layout of a typical supermarket and the different food categories by actively engaging in short shopping tasks. We will not only learn how to navigate our way around but learn to exchange money with shopkeepers in return for our goods.



Jackdaw Class

This term just like the last, Jackdaw class have been learning to develop our independence skills. We have made toast, cheese toasties, vegetable pizzas, fruit salads and even baked our very own bread. Pupils practiced cutting, spreading, sprinkling, and with limited adult support cleaning, up afterwards. The weekly lesson has allowed pupils to experience different foods through their senses with some children preferring hard crunchy foods and others soft squishy foods. All the pupils expressed their preference using their communication system as shown by the images below.

Out of the food we made and cooked we do have a favourite (vegetable pizza) and second favourite (fruit salad). We believe that with a little bit more practise we could have a Jackdaw's little chefs café.



SPECIAL SCHOOL NURSING NEWSLETTER



Our Special School Nursing Team works across Greenwich and Bexley comprising of Nurses, Nursery Nurses and Health Care Assistants



Vital support for seriously ill children and their families is being transformed thanks to a unique project between Oxleas and national charity, WellChild.

Our Greenwich and Bexley Children's Community Nursing teams are working closely with the families and carers of seriously ill children with complex needs to support them in giving care at home.

Brogan Willis is leaving School Nursing to join the Community Nursing Team and her last working day will be the 27th January 2023. Grace Setford is looking forward to commencing her maternity leave on the 24th February 2023.

Nursing are currently interviewing for two new band 5's to join our team as the newly appointed nurses, Judy Le and Julia Wilshire, will be stepping up into the band 6 roles.

Nursing provides many services including:

Phlebotomy, continence advice, annual nursing reviews, support for parents/carers and pupils, health assessments, health promotion, devising and updating care plans and hospital passports, safeguarding, collaborate working with education, allied health professionals, and parents/carers.

The Nursing Service supports with the transition process for children aged 14 to 18 years and works together with the transition and Learning Disabilities teams in order to ensure a smooth transition experience. Parents and education staff should contact the nursing team in their child's school to discuss this process.

Nursing support with hospital passports to ensure that the parents/guardians wishes are adhered to when they go to A&E. This also helps the adult teams to get to know the child better.



New patient online health record launched
We're excited to announce that our new patient online health record system has been formally launched.

We would like to inform you of a new 'App' called 'OX Care' which will enhance communication between parents/carers and health professionals. This App will give an overview of client details, care plans and assessments. It is still in the early stages of use and is currently being trialled by a few selected families. If anyone does have an interest in finding out more about this 'App' please contact the Nursing Team in your child's school.

To maintain nursing standards, we are proud to announce that we now have a purpose-built training simulation suite at our Goldie Leigh base, to ensure the highest training standards are achieved for all of our staff and parents alike.

Reminders for Parents/Carers

We have recently experienced an incident in one of the schools where a parent/carer had put their own personal medication in their child's school bag and had forgotten to take it out. This was left in the bag in the classroom most of the day, accessible to adults and children alike. So please can we take this opportunity to remind parents and carers to ensure that no personal medication is left in their child's school bag as this poses a health risk to their child and the other children in the school and on the buses.

Continence Queries



If any parent/carer has any continence queries, please can you contact:
Natalie Troy on 07990393723 or email continence on oxl-tr.cypcontinence.inclusion@nhs.net.

Finally, it is very important that the Special Schools Nursing Team continue to provide a good standard of practice for the children and families we look after. For our service to maintain these standards and make improvements it is necessary to ask for feedback. This happens in a variety of ways, word of mouth, paper surveys and electronic surveys.

If you are asked for feedback, please can you provide this as it helps us to improve the service we provide. All feedback received is welcomed and important to our service.

WHAT'S ON



Thank You From Involve

Oxleas
involve
at the heart of involvement

Please join us on Monday
23rd of January 2023 at
The Holiday Inn,
Bexley DA5 1ND

AGENDA

- 9.30 Registration, teas/coffees
- 9.45 Event opening– CEO Ify Okocha
- 10.00 Introductions from Involve Team
- 10.15 Involvement member experience
- 10.45 Break
- 11.00 Involve Mission Statement
- 11.15 Roundtable discussions
- 12.00 Close event- Neil Springham
- 12.10pm Lunch

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we're kind we're fair we listen we care

London Philharmonic Orchestra OPEN SOUND ENSEMBLE

MONDAY 13 & TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2023



lpo.org.uk/projects/open-sound
**APPLICATIONS
NOW OPEN!**

OPEN SOUND ENSEMBLE MONDAY 13 & TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Join the London Philharmonic Orchestra's free and inclusive music ensemble for young people of secondary school age with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents / carers.

Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 February
Woolwich Works, The Firework Factory,
Royal Arsenal, London SE18 6HD

Morning group: 10.30am–12.30pm | Afternoon group: 1.30–3.30pm

We will be making music in groups using both traditional and accessible digital instruments, playing alongside friendly musicians from the LPO.

"It was great to take part in such collaboration in creativity where it felt all involved were on the same level just having fun making music together regardless of skills or levels"

Open Sound Ensemble parent, Spring 2022

To find out more or to apply, visit

lpo.org.uk/projects/open-sound

If you have any questions please
get in touch with us:



Email: hannah.smith@lpo.org.uk or



Phone: 07793 837357

The LPO Open Sound Ensemble is generously funded by the John Horniman's Children's Trust, the John Thaw Foundation and The Viney Family