



WILLOW DENE SCHOOL

Friday 8th March 2024



year!

We hope you had a fun February half term. At Willow Dene Swingate Lane, we spent some time in the holidays working with Growing Green, the charity who are supporting some of our environmental projects. After our half term planting project, we are now proud to say that we have a young native hedgerow beginning to grow at the side of the school along the fence line. Growing Green kindly provided us with a wooden sign saying what is growing and we hope that we will be able to watch as it becomes more mature and supports the local wildlife. Our Environment Committee are currently supporting local bird life following their part in the Great British Bird Watch, by taking care of bird feeders around the school. Look out for them at the Spring Fling and have a go at their bean bag toss game to win your own bag of bird seed!

We have been the lucky recipients of funding as part of the Local London Careers Hub Impact Fund, which will support our Sixth Form business ventures with exciting new resources including a sublimation printer for our Forever Friends pet business, an air fryer for our Willow's Delish Cafe business and a greenhouse for our Compost Crew. The first few weeks of this half term have been extremely busy. Finally, we are nearing completion of our new Sixth Form building. This week we took part in the final 'walk around' of the nearly completed building with colleagues from Royal Greenwich, and our own staff team along with the contractors.

Although there is still minor work to be done inside and landscaping outside, we have been able to set a provisional date to move in. Subject to final agreements being in place, our move-in will take place on Monday 11th March after school with young people having their first day in the new building on Tuesday 12th March.

We know lots of you will be keen to see inside. Our first priority for visitors will be our patient and supportive Sixth

Head Teacher's Message

This is the first newsletter of the second part of spring term. We are officially halfway through the

Form parents, but very quickly after this we will offer a date for an open day. We are very excited about the opportunities this new building will bring.

Our other focus in the last three weeks has been the completion of the formal application to be the provider for Royal Greenwich's new free school for children with autism. The application form itself is extremely detailed, and we have had a team of staff working on this to ensure that all the details that we want to share are included. Now that we have submitted the formal application, we are preparing ourselves for the school tour, this tour which will take place at Oakmere Road and Swingate Lane simultaneously on Tuesday 12th March. Following this we will be attending an interview and giving a presentation about our intentions on Friday 22nd March. Of course, we will keep you informed of our progress.

This Thursday, some of us travelled to Liverpool to attend the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) annual conference which is taking place today and tomorrow. Our Chief Executive Officer, John Camp OBE is president of ASCL this year and so we are particularly excited to hear his keynote speech. You all know that earlier in the year our children were involved in creating a display of writing, art and photographs celebrating the poem 'And a Tree' by Kate Wakeling. We will be feeling very proud of our children and young people when we see their work on display for all the delegates at the conference.

In the last few weeks all of our corridor displays have been updated. There are some fantastic displays of learning on the walls of both schools. If you are visiting us, then we hope you will get the chance to look at some of them. Look out for the opportunity to buy children's artwork coming soon. This opportunity has come from feedback from visitors admiring the children's artwork and looking for opportunities for our young artists to be recognised more widely.

The mornings and evenings are getting lighter and all around Willow Dene, things are growing. We are looking forward to seeing more sunshine in the weeks before the next newsletter.

Rachel



Within the next few weeks, final preparations will be taking place for our participation in the annual Shakespeare for Schools Festival which will be culminating in a public performance at the Albany Theatre in Deptford alongside children and young people from other schools. This year our cast of performers are our Sixth Form, and they will be performing Romeo and Juliet. We are very excited to be in the audience at the performance.



On Saturday 23rd March we will be opening our gates to families, staff and local communities for our annual Spring Fling along with the opportunity to talk, laugh and have fun there will be photograph opportunities, things to buy and the latest siblings competition. Last Spring our Spring Fling attracted record numbers of visitors so we are hoping to see all of you there.

Sixth Form News

Our Sixth Formers have established and adapted to their new routines and timetable structure. Each business has been busy in making products, liaising with Willow Dene customers and improving their skills.

This half term our Willow's Delish will be cooking air fryer recipes, catering for school events and developing their confidence in baking. Our Forever Friend's pets team are making soft toys ready for world book day and continuing to make products for the Spring Fling event at the end of March. The Compost Crew are in planting season and having established areas at both Swingate Lane and Oakmere Road they will learn the process and plant ready for the upcoming better weather.

Our Sixth Formers are also taking part in the Shakespeare for Schools festival and they are rehearsing regularly within each of their roles. We also look forward to further visits from the British Library to Meadow class and weekly outings in Moorland class to develop our community living curriculum.



Pupil Voice - Skylark

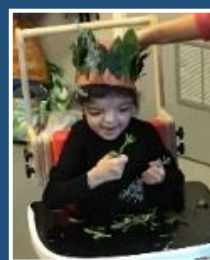
What a fun but busy term for Skylark class.

We started the year with a sensory Chinese New Year story complete with a dancing dragon and confetti. Jayden loved watching the confetti fall and screeched in anticipation and excitement. Everyone liked exploring the interesting dimensions and textures of the dragon's head, especially the bulging nose and fluffy eyebrows.

In science we have been creating electronic sound experiments and manipulating them to see how the sound changes. Irem has really enjoyed this subject, particularly when changing the pitch on the spectrogram. She realised that when she moved her pen to the top the sound was really squeaky and when she moved her pen to the bottom, the sound got very low. She found it hilarious and tried to mimic the sounds as she created them.

In DT, we all have enjoyed conducting product research and production of our own eco-friendly self-care products. Max liked mixing the oats in the water and Mohamed showed strong reactions to the different essential oils. He really liked the sweet smelling vanilla and laughed, smacking his lips.

Lots of movement fun too trying out different equipment to encourage core strength, balance and endurance. Toby had a great time racing round the hall whilst balancing on his board, independently turning himself on the spinner and climbing the frame to catch his friends on the other side.



Jackdaw Class

As the spring term continues Jackdaw class have no plans of slowing down. We have lots of exciting activities ahead of us including our citizenship project all about animal welfare. However, before we get to that, we would like to recap and show you what we got up to on our class trip to a soft play centre last half term. Our topic in science was called 'on the move' and it allowed us to explore different types of motion including, spinning, sliding, bouncing and rolling. Each week in school the children conducted simple motion-based experiments or engaged in play-based activities to explore movement. To consolidate everything we had learned, we travelled to a soft play centre to put it all into action!! As you can see, the children had an amazing afternoon exploring the equipment to...you guessed it, spin, slide, bounce and roll!! Well done Jackdaws.



CELEBRATING OUR SIBLINGS

By Nancy



PIC•COLLAGE

I love Sonny sosososo much.

I like to do arts and crafts with him.

I also like to go on his eye pad and play all different games and listen to music with him. Sometimes I sleep in his bed beside him and give him kisses and cuddles. Sonny is my big brother and he has always looked after me. We love spending time together when ever we can and we definitely like to go on holiday together with our family. Sonny is the best big brother ever. I like to visit Willow Dene school and see him having fun. It is so much better to be around my big brother. I love him Sonny so so much.

Jokes

What did the hat say to the other?

You wait there and I will go on ahead.

Why doesn't the circus lions eat the clowns?

Because they taste funny.

Where do cows go on a Friday night?

They go to the mooovies

What kind of cat likes living in water?

An Octo-puss

WE NEED YOU!

CAN YOU HELP FRIENDS OF WILLOW DENE?



We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our dedicated team at Friends of Willow Dene. Our purpose is to raise money so that our children can have additional opportunities and resources.

You can give as much or as little time as you want.

We need help with:

- Fundraising ideas
- Sourcing prizes and donations
- Supporting at events
- Serving refreshments ...and much, much more!

Why not come along to our first meeting of the year or contact us to find out more?

Contact Katie Dooley on 0208 854 9841 or kdooley@willowdene.compassps.uk



Friends of Willow Dene
Charity Number: 1139449

Would you like to share your expertise and help shape our provision for children with SEND?

Join our Compass SEND Parent Forum

As part of our continuing focus on how we work to best meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities and their families, we would like parental representatives from across our schools to have the opportunity to work with leaders to offer input on aspects of policy and practice.

This would involve meeting at least three times a year, providing input on policy development as well as considering government guidance and research and how these impact on practice within our schools.

If this is something you are interested in, please email a brief personal statement, explaining your experience and why you are interested in joining the group, to mbernard@compassps.uk

THE
COMPASS
PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS



DID YOU KNOW

You can send messages via the My Child at School app.

my child at school .com

When your child is absent, and you have not got time to call the school to inform us, you can send a message through the app which will be sent to the Admin Team.

✉

Log onto the app and click on the envelope icon.

To send a message, click on the drop-down box next to "New conversation" and select "Willow Dene School", enter your message at the bottom of the screen and click on the Flight icon. (Example, see below)

IMPORTANT DATES	
Red Nose Day	15 th March 2024
Spring Fling Event	23 rd March 2024 (11am-2pm)
Shakespeare for Schools, Albany Theatre	27 th March 2024 (TBC)
Last day of term	28 th March 2024 at 1:30pm
Easter break	29 th March 2024-14 th April 2024
Return to school	15 th April 2024
Polling day – School closed	2 nd May 2024
Bank Holiday	6 th May 2024
May half term	27 th – 31 st May

If you are considering a house move, you will need to reapply for transport and be aware applications take 28 working days to process before transport is provided.

If you require a transport application, please follow this link:
[Application for Travel Assistance | Instructions \(royalgreenwich.gov.uk\)](#)

Important Information

School number - 020 8854 9841

Greenwich Transport - 020 8932 8652

School website: [Willow Dene School - Home \(compassps.uk\)](#)

School Vacancies

Join our Talent Pool

We do not currently have any vacancies available at Willow Dene School. Please visit our careers page at MyNewTerm to join our talent pool and we will review your application.

WILLOW DENE
SCHOOL

Join Talent Pool

Please follow the link to apply [Willow Dene School - Vacancies \(compassps.uk\)](#)

FREE FOOTBALL TICKETS



SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH
KICK-OFF 2PM
AT THE VALLEY STADIUM
SE8 7BL
GATES OPEN FROM 12PM



FAMILY FRIENDLY



FOOD AND DRINK

27,111 SEAT STADIUM!



**SCAN HERE
FOR TICKETS!**



WHAT'S ON

Please remember we are a nut free school!

We need donations of CAKES & SWEET TREATS

Can you help? We need donations of cakes and sweet treats for our Friends of Willow Dene cake sale at our Spring Fling on Saturday 23rd March 2024

Please send all donations into school by Thursday 21st March for attention of Stephanie in the office. Thank you for your ongoing support!



To celebrate Comic Relief/Red Nose Day, we are asking children and staff to dress in red, making a voluntary donation £1.

IN THE GARDEN...

Our Special Place...
Sibling Photography Project

In the forest...

Snap a photograph of a place that is special to you and your sibling, it could be a favourite place, somewhere that holds special memories or just at home on the sofa!

Send the photo to us with a sentence explaining why it is a special place.

All work will be exhibited at our Spring Fling on Saturday 23rd March 2024.

Prizes for the top 3 entries

Submit entries by Wednesday 21st March 2024 to Joshua
jgarrett-smith@willowdene.compassps.uk