



WILLOW DENE SCHOOL

Friday 18th October 2024

Issue 3

This newsletter will reach you just before we break up for half term next week. The days and weeks have flown past, and we cannot believe that we are already halfway through the autumn term.

School life is very busy and full of celebrations of learning and achievement. For some of our children and young people who joined us in September, we can already see progress and that their families are feeling happy with their child's new placement. This week our central displays are changing to reflect a new term of learning. Please do spend some time looking at these when you are visiting us in school.

In our last newsletter we told you about the visit from Oxford University researchers, Emma and Jeidi. We want to thank all of you who contributed to the parent's coffee morning which allowed them to find out more about Willow Dene. This experience was very moving and heartwarming for us. It shows how well our families know the school and also where we have been able to positively affect the lives of children and families. Jeidi and Emma are keen to return to do some workshops for parents and for staff and we are looking forward to our first planning date in December.

Our parent group have been extremely busy as they were involved in our first ever 'crab apple jelly making workshop' with Claire Barnes. Using the produce from our orchard our experimental chefs created and tasted several different types of crab apple jelly, with chilli and crab apple being very popular! This new pastime was contagious as Willows Delish heard about the jelly making and immediately signed up for a crash course in jam making which took place this week!

As Little Wandle's only SEND Champion school, part of our duty is to share with other schools how we use Little Wandle to teach phonics and early reading. We will be holding a live event on Friday 22nd November where visiting schools will be able to look around and see our children and staff in action!

We are currently researching with parents and carers whether there would be any interest in after school provision for your child. This is something we have tried before but were unable to sustain because families found it hard without transport being included. It feels like a good time to find out more about whether this has changed. Some of you will know from summer play scheme that we were involved in a one year project to provide short breaks for older children with complex medical needs for the first

time ever. This was well received by parents, and we have now been asked to trial a small cohort of Saturday and after school short breaks for the same pupil group. If your child is eligible, you will shortly be receiving a letter asking for an expression of interest.

In our last newsletter we talked about the consultation for Rowan Wood School. We have now held both consultation events and the consultation will close soon. Thank you to everybody who has contributed. The next stage will be to collate all of the comments and questions into a report which will be published on our website.

We are very excited to announce the outcome of the Rowan Wood Headteacher Designate interviews. The Head Teacher Designate, who will be working closely with me and the Willow Dene team is Dr Ross Silcock. Many of you will know Ross as Head Teacher at Wingfield School. We are delighted that he is joining the special schools team.

This week we held the first admission panels of 2024 / 25 for our children who will be secondary aged next school year. The information from these admission panels will inform onward placements and once final decisions are made families will be informed. This is usually around the time of February half term.

As we enter the last week of this half term, look out for a parent briefing coming this week which will give you more information on the items in this newsletter. Look out also for further information coming about our Siblings Events for this term and our 'Winter Warmer Event'. The school emergency phone number 07716 388634 will be available for you during the holiday if you need to speak to someone. Leave a message and a school leader will return your call.

Have a happy half term when it arrives.

Rachel



Lapwing Class

Lapwing class welcomed five new pupils at the start of the Autumn term. All of whom have settled in well, spending time getting to know each other, their

environment, taking part in new routines, forming relationships with adults. The children have been developing their exploratory and physical skills during play on the apparatus in the garden and playgrounds and involving themselves in a range of motivating activities within the classroom.

'Songs and Rhymes' has been a focus this half term with children choosing a favourite song from pictures or objects relating to 'Humpty Dumpty', 'Incy Wincy Spider', 'Hickory Dickory Dock', '5 in a bed', and '5 Little Frogs', during our daily group sessions.

The Attention Autism strategy has provided opportunities to develop focus and shared attention, with several pupils keen to take a turn at copying an adult modelling during the activity. Children have developed their physical and creative skills, using a range of implements to make marks with paint on templates linked to a focus songs. It has been a great start to the new academic year!



High on our agenda in the last two weeks has been Milo's 3rd Birthday! The eagle eyed amongst you may have spotted his birthday picture in the last newsletter. Milo had a lovely birthday with treats and a nice long walk, but he was soon back to work with Kingfisher Class focusing on body awareness. We cannot believe that Milo has been our school dog for 2 years and are enjoying some of the photographs and other evidence of the positive impact he has made on our children. He will be featuring in a National Move Conference seen focusing on his work with children.



As you will all be aware, budgets are tight for schools at present so any additional funds we can bring into school will make a big difference for us.

For anyone who shops at Asda, please check out the Asda rewards app. There is a 'cash pot for schools' rewards programme happening at present where Asda will donate 0.5% of your total shopping cost to your chosen school. It's easy to add the school in your cash pots section of the app (photo attached).

Please note, it does not always display Willow Dene but there is an option to search under the postcode 'SE18' and then type Willow Dene into the box for the school to appear.



Autumn term 2024	October	Fri 25 th	Last day of 1 st half of autumn term
		Mon 28 th	Half-term holiday begins
	November	Mon 4 th	First day of 2 nd half of autumn term
		Fri 20 th	Last day of 2 nd half of autumn term
	December	Mon 23 rd	Christmas holiday begins



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 \(royalgreenwich.gov.uk\)](https://royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

Important Information

School number - 020 8854 9841

Greenwich Transport - 020 8932 8652

School website: [Willow Dene School - Home \(compassps.uk\)](https://www.willowdene.compassps.uk)

Twitter(X): @WillowDeneSch

School Vacancies

We currently have 2 vacancies available at Willow Dene School:

powered by mynewterm

Lunchtime Learning Support Assistant

EDV/2024/WDS/93938

This role supports children at lunchtime, We are looking for a motivated person to join our Lunchtime team. 8.75 hours each day, Monday to Friday, 38 week per year (term time only).

📍 Swingate Lane, London, SE18 2JD

🕒 Permanent | Part-Time

£ £5,570.81 Annually (Actual)

Actual salary will be pro-rata based on hours and weeks worked

New • Apply by Midnight, Friday 28th Feb, 2025 • Job start: ASAP



Apply Now

Learning Support Assistant

EDV/2024/WDS/99838

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed individual to join our team to support children in their learning . Up to 32.50 hours per week, 39 weeks per year.

📍 Swingate Lane, London, SE18 2JD

🕒 Permanent | Part-Time

£ £21,241.07 Annually (Actual)

Actual salary will be pro-rata depending on hours / weeks worked.

New • Apply by Midnight, Friday 28th Feb, 2025 • Job start: ASAP



Apply Now

If we do not have any vacancies matching your interests, please join our Talent Pool at MyNewTerm and we will review your application - [click here](#) →

For further information please follow the link:

<https://www.willowdene.compassps.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=66>

WHAT'S ON



A vertical promotional graphic for Oxleas Children's Therapies. The top left corner has the Oxleas logo and 'Children's Therapies Greenwich'. The main text asks 'Have you seen our Instagram page?' and provides the handle '@GreenwichPaediatricsOTOxleas'. It encourages following on Instagram for ideas and activities. A QR code is provided with a 'Scan me!' icon. The bottom right features the text 'Give us a Follow!' and contact information for Goldie Leigh Children's Therapies. The footer contains the Oxleas motto 'we're kind we're fair we listen we care' and the website 'oxleas.nhs.uk'.

Greenwich SEND Survey for Parents and Carers

Our Area SEND inspection of the Greenwich Local Area Partnership in May 2023 gave us important insight to our SEND system and judged that our arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Our new SEND and Inclusion Partnership Strategy 2024 – 2029 sets out our vision and ambitions for children with special needs and disabilities and their families. We want to build on this work and put even more focus and momentum behind achieving the very best we can for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families and carers across the Borough.

Strategy: https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/greenwich/asch/files/1519091357_send_strategy_final-compressed_1.pdf

At the moment, there are too many things getting in the way of achieving this for all children. Like when processes don't support relational practice with parents; or when the right services, resources or right provision aren't available. There are many partners across the SEND system that are involved, and we all need to work together to get to the heart of what we can do differently so that we can achieve the best for every child and young person in Greenwich.

We want to put children and young people at the heart of this plan, and your views as a parent or carer are really important to make sure we're focusing on the right areas and focus on the key parts of our strategy.

If you have more than one child with a special educational need, please fill out the form for each of your children individually. This is aimed mainly at parents and carers of young people currently under 25.

This survey closes on 20/10/24 and only take 15 minutes to complete.

Please have your viewpoint heard by following the link below

[Greenwich SEND Survey for Parents and Carers \(office.com\)](#)