

# Willow Green Academy

Dear Parents / Carers

I usually begin the newsletter by saying that 'it's been a busy week here at Willow Green' (and in fact it has) but I do feel that I should really add that it has been a busy week at home too! The amount of engagement and work that has been seen this week through home learning is incredible – we know that home learning is not always easy for families and children, which makes this even more impressive. On behalf of all of the staff here at Willow Green I thank you for your continued support.

## Pupil and Parent Feedback

I would also like to thank all parents and pupils who have responded to the survey I sent out this week - we have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback and generous comments we have received and have really taken on board your comments and suggestions on how we can further develop our home learning. As with parents and pupils, staff are working incredibly hard at the moment and I know the boost they get from the positive comments they receive – thank you. If you have not completed the survey there is still time and we would love to hear your thoughts.

## Children's mental health week and Digital detox

At Willow Green Academy, we value the importance of mental health and never has this been more important. Next week is **Children's Mental health week** and we will be looking at ways in which we can learn and think about supporting the well-being of pupils, staff and the wider community.

As part of our commitment to well-being and mental health we will be asking all pupils to take part in a **'Digital Detox'**. Whilst we appreciate the incredible opportunities digital technology can provide, we are fully aware that the amount of time being spent on devices and technology has significantly increased in recent times. We are also very conscious of our role in this through our remote learning offer. One way we aim to counteract this is by having a **'Digital Detox'** each week. On a Digital Detox day, our challenge to you is to spend **a whole school day** without using any technology (tablet, phones, television etc). Many parents have expressed concern, through their survey feedback, about the amount time pupils are spending on zoom etc and many have talked about pupils' needing a break/ down time. We feel as though the Digital Detox is the perfect way to help with this and to also educate children about the importance of key personal and social skills.

To help you with the Digital Detox day, teachers are preparing a schedule of activities and challenges for the children to undertake. These will be focussed specifically on areas that will support good mental health and wellbeing, including: Mindfulness, empathy/thoughtfulness, physical fitness, resilience and perseverance, creativity and social interactions/togetherness. The day will also include the Willow Green Bake-Off challenge! Our first digital detox will take place next **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb** and class teachers will provide you with all the information about how that will work for each class. You will still receive information about the zoom sessions for every other day. We are really excited about this initiative and hope to work with you all to support the well-being of the children, parents and staff. I also can't wait to see some of the cakes!

## Reading

One of the most important things that your child can be doing during lockdown is Reading. It is the one thing that is going to have the most impact on their continued progress and development and is also integral to developing their language and vocabulary, understanding of the world and overall thirst for learning. Please encourage your child to read frequently and read with them where possible, it really is the key to success.

I hope you all have a safe and restful weekend

Many thanks

Mr Parkinson

## Remote Learning Weekly Attendance Figures

**Whole School Remote Learning Attendance: 89%**



# This week's Dojo points

**Reception**  
538

**Year 1**  
418

**Year 2**  
344

**Year 3**  
348

**Year 4**  
291

**Year 5**  
157

**Year 6**  
100

## EYFS

We've had a fabulous week preparing for our teddy bears picnic today - we've made snacks, chairs for our bears, wrote out menus and invited our teddy to our party. Great fun for all! We've also been learning how to make bird feeders and how to recognise Robins, Blue tits and Black birds. Did you know the female black bird is actually brown! Happy Big Bird Watching this weekend everyone.



## Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have worked really hard but had so much fun too! We have been designing and making chef hats for our tortilla pizza roll cooking afternoon on Wednesday. We have been dancing, playing games and taking part in yoga. Our cooking session was fabulous, and the end result was delicious. Well done on another superb week Year 1, I am so very proud of you all.



## Year 2

It has been another amazing week for Year 2. We have packed in all sorts of fantastic learning activities. In Maths, we have completed our work on money, in English, we have begun writing our stories about a monster's adventure, in science, we have been thinking about what we eat and designing healthy meals and in geography we have been finding out about England. We have also managed to squeeze in some work on what makes us special and we have designed the most incredible musical instruments! I can't wait to see what we get up to next week!



## Year 3

What a busy week it's been. We've now been zooming for the last 4 weeks! It's been so busy but you have all worked so incredibly hard. This week we moved on from our Bottlenose Whale reports but I have to mention how fantastic the finished reports you made were- we had PowerPoints, handwritten reports, videos and even voice recordings. This week have been getting stuck into our science lessons and trying out a new feature called sway. It's not all been plain sailing but we have worked hard together! We learnt all about skeletons in both humans and animals and used some fantastic vocabulary. Well done! ☺

## Year 4

Lots going on in Year 4 as always, this week. In Reading, we started our new class reading book The Krindlekrax, about a boy called Ruskin who wants to be an actor in his school play. In Maths we were multiplying 2 digits by 1 digit as well as practicing our times tables. We have really improved and even won the TTRS competition against Year 2! In writing we have been researching Martin Luther King and learning all about his Civil Rights Movement. Also writing about our heroes and favourite actors. In Topic we have learned about Jewish festivals, cyberbullying and made bird feeders for The Big Garden Bird Watch. The birds enjoyed them too! Here is a robin on Winston's feeder.

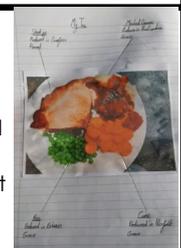


## Year 5

In Year 5 this week we have been very busy. All children, both in school and remote learners at home have worked incredibly hard to complete their work plus extra challenges they have been set. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoon we participated in some Rainforest Yoga, recreating poses of different animals from the Amazon Rainforest that we had been learning about in our Topic lessons. Our favourite animal yoga pose was the stalking Jaguar. We found that it was very relaxing and great for our mood. We also made our very own bird feeders, to participate in the Big Garden Birdwatch event that runs this week, and placed them around the school grounds. We can't wait to see what birds are attracted to the feeders, throughout the coming week. Amazing effort from all of the children in Year 5. Keep it up ☺

## Year 6

This week Year 6 have been looking at food and where it comes from. As part of developing ways to reduce our carbon footprint, we looked at what was inside our kitchen cupboards and fridges to see if we could find any locally made produce. What we found was food from Guatemala, Belize, Netherlands, Poland as well as many others. Food that is imported from these countries results in more carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere when compared to local produce. In the next few weeks, we will be looking at ways we can buy locally and reduce our carbon footprint further.



## Safeguarding

Willow Green Academy considers the welfare of all our pupils to be of great importance and we hope that parents are confident about their children's health and safety whilst in our academy. We will always try to share any concerns we have with parents. However, there are times when we are legally obliged to share our concerns with other agencies, without first speaking to parents, or without the consent of parents. The safety and protection of our pupils is our most important concern and we wish to reassure you that any sharing of information is done with the children's best interest at heart. If you have any concerns about the welfare or safety of any child in our school, the Designated Child Protection Officer is Miss L Walker. In his absence, you should contact Mr C Parkinson. They can be contacted through the main office. The academy has a duty to inform parents that there is a prohibition on reporting or publishing details (including on social media) that could identify anyone who is subject to an allegation. The Government have launched a new website aimed at parents, teachers and school leaders to give practical advice on protecting young people from extremism and radicalisation. This was launched by the Education Secretary and contains information which address many questions / issues faced by parents and children. The website can be found at [www.educateagainsthate.com](http://www.educateagainsthate.com)