

Willow Green Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week here at Willow Green and the preparations for Christmas have well and truly started. Throughout the week the corridors have been filled with Christmas songs as the classes have been preparing for our 'virtual carol concert'. I just want to say a huge well done to all of the children and staff who have worked so hard to make this happen, proving that we really won't let anything spoil Christmas at Willow Green this Year.

All around the school today I have also seen a variety of superb Christmas Jumpers and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts towards supporting the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We have also received lots of donations for the Knottingley Foodbank. Your generosity at this time of year in such challenging circumstances really is appreciated and your contributions really will make a difference to so many people and families this Christmas. Thank you.

As well as the festive activities and rehearsals the children have also been working hard in the final push to the holidays. There has been some really creative writing taking place and I have been so impressed by the creativity, content and presentation of the work that has been produced this week. As usual we have had some amazing art and music taking place - at one point I even spotted Mr Duncan playing the guitar - a real treat for the Y6s (I think!).

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend

Thank you for your continued support

Mr Parkinson

Golden Awards	
Year 1	Freddie H
Year 2	Mason
Year 3	Cherry
Year 4	Lacey
Year 5	Jamie-Leigh
Year 6	Stevie

Dates for your diary:
Thursday 17th December
Christmas Lunch
Last day of half term
Friday 18th December
INSET day. School closed to pupils
Monday 4th January
Start of half term

Christmas Jumper Day Donations

We have raised a brilliant **£129.05** for Save the Children!

Thank you to everyone who donated.

Attendance and Lates – Our Attendance Target for the year is 97%						
This week: 97% and 18 late.			Year to date: 97.1%.			
Reception 97.5%, 4 late	Year 1 95.9%, 5 late	Year 2 98.5%, 2 late	Year 3 97.9%, 1 late	Year 4 94.3%, 3 late	Year 5 97.2%, 3 late	Year 6 98.5%, 0 late

This week's Dojo points

Reception
100

Year 1
246

Year 2
278

Year 3
381

Year 4
382

Year 5
125

Year 6
100

EYFS

This week in literacy we have been reading the book 'Gruffalo's Child'. We have retold the story using actions and created a class story map. In Maths, we have been learning how to use mathematical language to describe 'position'. We have used the language 'on top of, under/below, next to/at the side of, behind, in front of and in between/in the middle. For our topic this week, we have been learning about the Jewish celebration 'Hanukah'. We have talked about how they celebrate, what they eat and the traditions that they have.

Year 1

We have had a fabulous week in Year 1 this week, we have been innovating our class story Hey Charlie! to Hey Santa! We have been writing sentences with the conjunctions 'and' and 'because' in. In Maths we have been looking at place value to 20. I want to say a huge thank you to Year 1 for their super generous donations to the food bank.

Year 2

This week in Year 2, we brought our topic on The Great Fire of London to a close. We learnt about Samuel Pepys and created our own diaries as if we were really there. We smelt the thick smoke and felt the flames on our faces. We saw brave people climbing wooden ladders and throwing water at the fire and heard others shouting for help. We then thought about how we would rebuild London after the fire. We decided brick buildings would be much safer and we created much wider streets to stop the fire spreading so quickly!

Year 3

What a busy week it has been! We have been getting ourselves into the Christmas spirit, we have been working on lots of crafty activities including painting, sketching, colouring and collage. We have also been getting stuck into our writing about dragons. On Monday a mysterious egg turned up in our classroom without any explanation. We have worked on uplevelling our sentences using adverbs, adjectives, verbs and conjunctions. Next week we will be innovating our story and adding our own parts to it. Watch this space.

Year 4

This week in Maths we have been working on our 3 and 6 x tables and division facts. In English we have been gathering adverbs, adjectives and prepositions for our new story. We have also been working with commas in a list and expanded noun phrases. P.E. was Netball skills and in Topic we researched Anglo Saxon beliefs. Science was fun! We had to make our own light switch from cardboard, split pins and a paper clip to turn our bulbs on and off. Christmas arrived in style on Friday when we all came dressed in our Christmas jumpers. Another busy, hard working but fun packed week.



Year 5

This week, we have continued writing our story 'to defeat a monster'. Children have enjoyed innovating the story Beowulf to create their own story. Year 5 have invented some interesting monsters for their story from Japanese myths to Viking Legends. We have started our stories with a story telling introduction 'Hear and listen well my weary-warriors and I will tell you a tale that will chill you to the bone'.

Year 6

Year 6 have been showing their creativity this week by making their Christmas cards and 2021 calendars. We are pleased to be able to send our calendars out to local residents to show we are thinking about them at this time of year. Our calendars were inspired by an artist based in Leeds called Benjamin Craven. We sent him some of our work and he was very impressed – he chose a couple of examples which were Broden and Miley's who received a prize. We have been writing about a wintery setting from Home Alone as well. Next week, we will be looking at character descriptions of the Wet Bandits. We hope you enjoy our Christmas carol performances!

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.educateagainst hate.com