

Willow Green Academy

Dear Parents / Carers

We have lots of things to celebrate at Willow Green Academy this week. First and foremost I must mention our school attendance as this continues to improve. Attendance for this year currently stands at 96.7% which is slightly above our minimum expectation of 96% and this great news for our academy.

Phonics and Reading

There have been lots of excellent and exciting learning activities taking place this week. I have seen some wonderful phonics work in Reception and Y1. Phonics is something we have a particular focus on at Willow Green and we are really starting to see the children getting to grips with their phonics sounds and blending. Indeed, phonics is something that lots of parents say that they enjoy practising with their children and we will soon be offering some parent workshops to help you when you are working with your child. If you have any questions about how you can support your child with phonics and reading please speak to your class teacher who would be happy to help and support.

We have noticed that lots of our children are reading every night at home and this is being recorded in their reading record books. Reading every night will have a huge impact on a child reading development and will also help to instil a love for reading. Your child will have with them two books, one of which is matched to their independent reading level and the other is a book of their choice that may be a book that you choose to read together. Teachers will continue to monitor home reading and there will be lots of prizes being given out for

Class Dojo

In the current climate we, as teachers, unfortunately do not have the opportunity to have the face-to-face conversation that we usually like to have with our parents. However, we do continue to understand the importance of parent and school communication. When this communication is strong it helps us to build great relationships and this ultimately benefits the children and families in our community. Class dojo is a very effective way of us maintaining communication between parents and the class teachers. We know that many of you already use the Class Dojo system and we would highly recommend that all of our parents log on and access Class Dojo. If you need any support with this please contact the school and we will be happy to help.

Children in Need

The children have enjoyed a wonderfully spotty children in need day today with lots of activities taking place across the school. We thank all of you who have taken part and contributed to our fund raising this year. I am proud to say that Willow Green this year have raised £237 for Children in Need. Well done to everyone and thank you.

I hope you all have a great weekend, Mr Parkinson

Golden Awards

Year 1	Dakota
Year 2	Charlie
Year 3	Kassie
Year 4	Harry
Year 5	Lydia
Year 6	Liam

Odd Socks Day!

Please wear odd socks on Monday 16th November to support National Anti-Bullying Week. No donations required, just wear odd socks!

Dates for your diary:

Monday 16th November

Odd Socks Day

Thursday 10th December

Flu vaccination mop up

Friday 18th December

End of half term

Attendance and Lates – Our Attendance Target for the year is 97%

This week: 96.4% and 17 late.

Year to date: 96.7%.

Reception
99.6%, 2 late

Year 1
98.9%, 2 late

Year 2
95.6%, 0 late

Year 3
90.4%, 3 late

Year 4
99.0%, 7 late

Year 5
95.4%, 3 late

Year 6
99.2%, 0 late

This week's Dojo points

Reception
101

Year 1
251

Year 2
94

Year 3
100

Year 4
314

Year 5
119

Year 6
210

EYFS

This week in literacy we have been continuing to retell the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. In maths we have been learning about 2D shapes. We have been naming them and using mathematical language to describe them. We have also made shape patterns and pictures. This week we talked about 'Poppy Day' and coloured in a poppy to help us remember and say thank you to all those who helped to keep us safe. Look out for our poppies which have been displayed on the dining hall and main hall windows! Thank you to Mrs Moreton for organising this. We have also talked about how Hindus celebrate Diwali, 'the festival of lights'. We read the story 'Dipal's Diwali' to show us how he prepared for Diwali by cleaning, then decorating his house and wore special clothes to gather for a 'feast' with his family.

Year 1

We have had a fantastic week in Year 1 this week. We have done some fantastic work on 2D and 3D shapes in maths, naming and sorting them into the correct groups. We have answered some very tricky word problems! In English we have innovated our story and changed the wolf into a wizard who turns the houses into jelly! We have had a fantastic fundraising day today and have been busy with lots of wellbeing activities that focus on being happy, healthy and strong!



Year 2

This week we have been thinking all about happiness and preparing for our very first class assembly. We have been learning a poem all about smiling and have spent a lot of time thinking about what makes us feel happy. We have loved sharing and talking about our happiness photographs and can't wait to share them with the rest of school. We have also been thinking about what we can do to make others happy and have some amazing ideas which we have been filming! Wish us luck for our assembly. We will let you know

Year 3

This week we have really been getting stuck into our writing based on Little Red Riding Hood. We wrote some fabulous descriptions using our senses along with adjectives, alliteration and similes. We have also been working hard learning about the Romans and how they invaded Britain and battled with the Celts. We have had so much fun for Children in Need day. We started the day by watching Joe Wicks and his exercise challenge and we all joined in. We also had a go at creating our own exercise routines. It was fabulous to see everyone looking spotty today!

Year 4

Lots of new things in Year 4 this week. In English we have mapped the story of 'A Sandy Cove' using pictures, simple words and symbols. It's all about two boys who go to the beach and find some treasure. It's quite tricky to do but great fun! In Maths we started working with different measures. MM, CM and M. Our new Science topic is Electricity and we have been sorting appliances according which power source they use. Finally we researched the Anglo Saxons and their houses. Friday has been a super fun day with Children in Need activities. A fabulously fun week!



Year 5

This week we have completed lots of work in Maths with a focus on multiplication and division. Additionally, we started our new narrative in English, writing a dangerous adventure. In Art, we have also started a new topic. To coincide with our science we have started looking at Peter Thorpe, who creates abstract space art. This week we completed our abstract planets.



Year 6

It has been another busy week for Year 6. Lots of exciting things going on once again. Children have loved their forest school sessions as well as the ukulele lessons too. All children have improved their arithmetic since returning in September and our class challenge is to achieve a score of 30+ by Christmas. I have sent children home with their latest test to show you what they are achieving, so any additional support on other questions would be greatly appreciated. In English, we have spent time studying In Flanders Field by John McCrae, which has inspired some great poetry. We have also been writing speech and looking at correct punctuation. Thank you for providing your children with kit for the forest school. There are some great pictures from these sessions and all our learning on our school Twitter page.

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.educateagainsthat.com