

Willow Green Academy

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we move through this second lockdown, I do hope you are all keeping safe and well. Many thanks to all of our families who continue to follow our procedures; we do **strongly recommend** that all parents and carers to wear a face covering when coming on to the school site at the start and end of the school day. You will have noticed that staff all now wear their face coverings whenever they come out of their bubble too.

Attendance

Once again I am able to say that attendance in school is pleasing as it currently stands at **96.8%**. As you know, we have high expectations for pupil attendance at Willow Green and are therefore continually monitoring non-Covid related absences to ensure that we can support families with maintaining good levels of attendance for our pupils. We appreciate all of your support with this and look forward to seeing the **96.8%** improve even further.

Anti-bullying week

This week at Willow Green the children have been taking part in discussions and activities in support of anti-bullying week. I have seen some excellent work taking place and this has demonstrated just how thoughtful, friendly and caring our pupils are. Their understanding around supporting and taking care of each other is superb – this is also demonstrated in their behaviour in and around school. Well done to everyone!

Year 6 role models

This week I do need to make a special mention to our Year 6's. The leader of the Forest Schools session came to see me yesterday after his afternoon working with the Year 6 groups. He told me that is was one of the best Forest Schools sessions he has ever taken! (and he has taken a lot of groups over the years). He commented on the attitude, behaviour, teamwork, effort and overall engagement in the work they were doing and said they were an absolute credit to the school. As the Headteacher this makes me feel very proud and all the Year 6's should be applauded for such a glowing review. Real role models for our school. Well done!

All in all, another successful week at Willow Green.

Have a great weekend

Mr Parkinson

Golden Awards

Year 1	G
Year 2	E
Year 3	Islay
Year 4	Laney
Year 5	Abigail
Year 6	Heidi and Kai

Dinner Money Reminder

We have a number of dinner money accounts with outstanding balances at the moment. We would be grateful if all dinner money is paid in advance or on the day that the meal is taken. If you owe dinner money, please could you clear this as soon as possible. Thank you

Dates for your diary:

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: 98% and 10 late.

Year to date: 96.8%.

Reception 97.9%, 0 late	Year 1 97.9%, 1 late	Year 2 98.5%, 1 late	Year 3 93.8%, 1 late	Year 4 99.7%, 5 late	Year 5 98.9%, 2 late	Year 6 99.2%, 0 late
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This week's Dojo points

Reception
96

Year 1
230

Year 2
124

Year 3
90

Year 4
472

Year 5
183

Year 6
140

EYFS

This week in literacy we have recreated and retold the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff by changing the goats into chickens and the Troll into a dinosaur. The children have also created their own story map, changing the characters. This week in maths, we have been learning how to subtract. We have been using the mathematical language of 'take away' and 'equals' and have created actions to help us remember these words. Our current topic is 'People who help us'. The children have talked about the different people who help us and how and what these people do to help us. We also sang a song to the tune of 'The Wheels on the Bus' about people who help us. Yesterday, we read the book 'Vet' to help us understand the role of a vet and the different ways they help animals.

Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been focussing on our reading and blending in phonics. We have been working super hard to blend longer real and nonsense words and in our reading sessions, reading with more volume and expression. This week is anti-bullying week and we have done lots of work on being kind to others and to ourselves. We have been designing odd socks and have been using conversation cards to discuss responses to different situations. Our quote of the week from Dakota is 'fighting isn't the answer, love is'. We have shown great maturity and understanding this week and are working very hard on increasing our confidence and independence across all subjects - well done Year 1!

Year 2

We had a great start to the week with our happiness assembly. The children were very nervous but they overcame their fears and enjoyed sharing their thoughts on happiness. The film is on Dojo if you haven't already seen it. In the afternoons, we have continued our learning on The Great Fire of London. This week, we investigated how they tried to put the fire out. We found out that school children helped by using leather buckets to put out the fire so we investigated how easy this would have been. We quickly found out that it was exhausting running backwards and forwards and the wind did not help! It turned out more water landed on us than on the fire!



Year 3

This week has been anti-bullying week. We kicked off the week with a range of fabulous odd socks. We also created and decorated our own Jigsaw pieces supplied by Anti-Bullying Alliance with positive messages and have put these on the playground to be shared with all the children. We had some very interesting debates throughout the week with questions such as 'if I'm being bullied, should I close my online account? Everyone shared their thoughts and opinions and we had such a grown-up discussion. We also thought about being kind and what this means.



Year 4

We have been developing our writing skills this week, using similes, alliteration and a word activity called City of Stars. Can you imagine 'an atmosphere of terror' or 'flood of confusion' just some of the phrases the children came up with. In maths we have been finding the perimeter of squares and rectangles. We've also enjoyed P.E. with Elite and labelling an Anglo-Saxon house. Did you know they had a hole in the roof for the smoke to escape? Have you seen our Anti-bullying jigsaw on the fence in playground?



Year 5

This week we have discussed ways to contribute to the world in a positive way. Firstly, we have identified the causes of climate change and solutions to try and stop any further damages to our planet. We have also spent some time in class discussing bullying. We have all made an agreement to play a part in trying to stop bullying around the world and try make the world a better place.

Year 6

We had some wonderful feedback from our Forest Schools leader, John, who informed Mr Parkinson that our class have been the best children he has worked with, in all the schools he has been in! It is a great credit to the hard work that they are putting in and to be recognised by others who visit school is something to be really proud of. In our topic we have looked at rationing and next week will begin to look at recipes used during WW2. We are hoping to make some of our own to try how they tasted! There have been some slight changes to our home learning. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated and as always, if you have any questions please get in touch by Class Dojo. Thanks, Mr Duncan.

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