

Willow Green Academy

Newsletter and update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another incredibly busy week at Willow Green and more excellent examples of home learning activities taking place. I have myself had first-hand experience of remote teaching as I have had the pleasure of working with the Year 3 pupils. I have to say – I now truly appreciate how hard everyone, staff, parents and pupils are working to ensure this learning is a success. I think everyone has earned a well-deserved break this week.

I have been really pleased with all the positive feedback we have received from parents, carers and pupils about the learning and the lessons that have taken place this week. You have commented on the quality, variety and breadth of the learning that is taking place and this is really good to hear. However, we are continually trying to improve our offer and our practice. We have this week introduced a new method of working known as **Sway**. I'm sure a lot of you will have experienced this this week and I would really like to hear from you about how this is working for you and your children.

Remote learning reminders:

- Pupils should be working in a place that is comfortable and allows them to concentrate fully. Sitting at a table is ideal.
- Pupils should follow instructions from the teachers on the zoom at all times – high levels of courtesy and behaviour are expected at all times.
- Pupils should be dressed appropriately ie not in pyjamas etc

Retaining these expectations is really important to the impact of the sessions for the children.

Again, please could I ask you to continue to share your thoughts about home learning – we love to hear your feedback and how things are going for the children. I will be sending out a link to a questionnaire next week which will also help us to establish what is working well and how we can improve our offer.

I hope you have a safe and restful weekend.

Many thanks,

Mr Parkinson

Remote Learning Weekly Attendance Figures

Whole School Remote Learning Attendance: **87%**



This week's Dojo points

Reception
338

Year 1
341

Year 2
259

Year 3
190

Year 4
202

Year 5
100

Year 6
100

EYFS

This week we continued our theme of bears and discovered a character called Goldilocks who did a few things that weren't quite right which led to our Wanted Posters! Have you seen this girl? Watch out she might eat your breakfast! In maths we had fun with our positional bingo and ended the week sharing cookies, sweets and pasta swirls equally. Looking forward to the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch next week!



Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have particularly enjoyed making nature paintbrushes. We went on a hunt for the resources we would need and made them on zoom with our friends at home. We thought they turned out fantastic and we had lots and lots of fun painting with them too!



Year 2

It has been a very busy week in Year 2. We have been reading a poem about a king that made a really horrible cake, learnt about money, made our own games of tennis, searched our cupboards for healthy and unhealthy foods and thought about different feelings we might experience during lockdown. In English, we have designed and created our own monsters and have written comic strips about what would happen if the monster came to visit our home. They have been sliding down the stair case, eating all our food, jumping on our beds and playing with our toys! I can't wait to see the stories next week!



Year 3

Year 3 have worked really hard on their writing and maths this week. Mr Parkinson was even lucky enough to work with them for two days to see exactly how great they are, both in school and learning remotely. They finished the week by helping Mr Parkinson trial some Sway sessions and this involved interactive maths challenges and short burst writing about a flying whale. Great effort Year 3!



Year 4

We have had another great week in Year 4. We finished reading The Iron Man and then made models out of recycled materials. They were so amazing we had to give out more prizes! The overall winner was Rosie - she is the Iron Man. In Science we made crispy buns and gloopy slime, both showing the process of changing solid into liquid and vice versa. Mrs Atack joined us on Thursday for a live music lesson and on Friday we joined Joe Wicks for P.E. We finished off the week with a Treasure Hunt Challenge. Keep up the great attendance and participation Year 4.



Year 5

This week Year 5 took part in building challenge. They were challenged to build a bridge using only two materials. Ashkan created his from spaghetti and PVA glue, this must have pasta lot of time. Watch this space for the next building challenge.



Year 6

As part of our topic on extreme weather, Year 6 have been investigating how to create a tornado in a bottle. Our investigation can be found here: <https://sway.office.com/v2jjJgc7rurjZpjm?ref=Link> We have been also looking at how tornadoes are measured and used this information to create our own information text on this subject.



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.educateagainshtate.com