

Willow Green Academy

Dear Parents / Carers,

We come to the end of our first term and there is so much for us to reflect on and to celebrate. First and foremost is our attendance. The overall attendance figure for Autumn 1 stands at **96.9%** which is superb. This in itself is evidence that the children at Willow Green are being given the best possible opportunity to progress in their learning and development. Thank you to all of the parents and families who have helped ensure our children are back in school enjoying their learning.

Even though 'School Life' has involved lots of changes involving different routines and procedures I am so proud of the quality and breadth of learning that has been taking place. The half term has been full of so much exciting learning and it has been wonderful to see the children being involved in so many different activities: there has been some superb **reading** happening all across school; the children have been working hard on their **maths** and their times tables and some of the **writing** across school has been incredible. In addition to this we have seen **science, art, computing, music** lessons (including ukulele and percussion) **PE** (including after schools sports clubs) along with **French, R.E** and even **Forest Schools** - there is no surprise the children are tired! Of course all of this cannot happen without the dedication and commitment of all of our staff. I would like to say a thank you for a superb effort by everyone: Mrs Hipkiss and Mrs Haigh in the office, the teachers and support staff, the kitchen and lunchtime staff, and not forgetting Mr Talbot and the cleaning staff.

Overall a great half term in very challenging circumstances.

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe half term.

Thank you for your continued support

Mr Parkinson

Golden Awards	
Year 1	Rosie
Year 2	Grace
Year 3	Nathan
Year 4	Riley
Year 5	Bella
Year 6	Scarlett

Dates for your diary:
Friday 23rd October End of half term
Monday 2nd November Start of half term
Monday 9th November Tempest photography. Individual Photos. If your child has PE on Monday 9th, they will need to come to school in their uniform and bring their PE kit to change into.
Thursday 10th December Flu vaccination mop up

Attendance and Lates – Our Attendance Target for the year is 97%						
This week: 98% and 13 late.			Year to date: 96.9%.			
Reception 95.4%, 0 late	Year 1 98.6%, 0 late	Year 2 99.2%, 1 late	Year 3 94.6%, 3 late	Year 4 97.1%, 5 late	Year 5 98.6%, 4 late	Year 6 100%, 0 late

This week's Dojo points

Reception
102

Year 1
208

Year 2
207

Year 3
120

Year 4
348

Year 5
103

Year 6
173

EYFS

We have been practising our fine motor skills in Reception, strengthening our fingers to help with our writing, using the tweezers, cutting and lots more. The book we have looked at this week is Winnie the witch and the amazing pumpkin, in number time we have been counting creatures into Winnie's cauldrons and adding two amounts together. Another fantastic week!



Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been working super hard in maths on our subtraction skills. We have been practicing the crossing out method to find the answer. In English we have ended the week by writing the story of The Magic Paintbrush and we have done a wonderful job of retelling the key parts of the story. We have ended our first term in Year 1 with a spooky Halloween party to celebrate all of our hard work!



Year 2

We have had a very busy final week in year two, we have written spooky acrostic poems using the word ghost and learnt all about our number bonds. In science, we have been learning all about slimy snails! Mrs Moreton found us some snails and we have been investigating their favourite food! We tried cucumber, cabbage, leaves, pear and orange. It turns out they really, really like cucumber but they didn't even try the orange!



Year 3

What a long half term it has been! I just want to say a huge well done to all the children in Year 3 for working so hard and making great progress despite the circumstances. It has been lovely to see each child gain confidence in all areas and we have had lots of fun. Some of the highlights of this half term have been; hands on science investigations involving plants, percussion lessons, tag rugby with Elite and of course dressing up for Halloween.

I hope you all enjoy a well deserved rest!

Year 4

This week we have been using word waiters to help us add description to our written work thinking about verbs and adverbs which wouldn't normally be used together but can make a really big impact on the reader. In science, we have thought about endangered species and how we can make little changes to make a big difference to the world around us. This week has been a wonderful end to what has proved to be a wonderful half term. The children have settled in so well to our new ways in Year 4 – well done all! Have a fantastic and fun half term, you deserve it!

Year 5

We have had a fantastic start to Year 5 and have had such a busy half term! After completing our abstract unit, the children have now created their own piece of art based on a piece of music. We have also enjoyed learning about Victorian inventions, industry, lifestyle and royal family. Watch out for our other units after the holidays!



Year 6

We have been studying about the Civil Rights Movement this week and using a book called 'The Unde-feated' by Kwame Alexander. The children have been learning about segregation, and how the Civil Rights Movement has impacted upon the rights of others. We have also had some excellent discussions about justice, freedom and opportunities - the poetry that the class has produced has been fantastic. Check our school twitter page for some of them being performed!

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