

Willow Green Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, this week we have experienced our first bubble closure at Willow Green. Although this is a worrying time for all concerned, I am pleased to say that the control measures and processes we have in place worked well. We were in a position to close the bubble efficiently and also provide a continuation of education for the children affected by the closure. I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved in this process, in particular: the EYFS staffing team who have shown incredible dedication to the children and their families; to Mrs Hipkiss and Mrs Haigh who ensured that all of the logistics, the communication and the resourcing was organised to support families and to help facilitate remote learning; and for all of the parents and carers who have worked with us during this challenging time to ensure their children are accessing home learning. I know that the children in EYFS are enjoying their remote learning sessions and I have seen some wonderful work being produced.

Across the rest of the school it has been 'business as usual' and the children have been working tremendously hard in lessons. There has been some excellent writing taking place this week, and those of you who follow us on twitter @WillowGreenAcad will have seen some excellent examples of the children's work, including some performance poetry this week. There has also been some great Artwork taking place including in Y4 where they have produced some outstanding 'Iron Man' silhouette paintings.

Christmas Activities and Events

Clearly this year Christmas is going to look and feel different for everyone. However, we are keen to ensure that we do whatever we can to celebrate this time of year and retain some of the key elements in school.

- We will be putting up our large Christmas tree by the window in the Main Hall for all of the parents and children to view and enjoy as they leave the school site. Children in each class will also be producing a decorative bauble that will be displayed on the Hall windows too.
- We will be raising money for the Save The Children Christmas Jumper day on the **11th December**
- We will once again be collecting for the Food Bank Christmas collection.
- There will also be a Christmas carol concert that will be recorded and shared with parents on **11th December**
- Children will be able to bring Christmas cards into school for our Christmas post box. These cards will be quarantined and given out through a COVID-secure process. Christmas cards can be brought into school from **30th November - Friday 11th December**.

Individual classes will also be holding other small Christmas themed events and Class teachers will contact parents about these too.

I hope you have a safe and restful weekend. Thank you for your continued support. Mr Parkinson

Golden Awards

Year 1	Grace W
Year 2	Samuel
Year 3	Finley
Year 4	Jacob
Year 5	Jayden
Year 6	Ava

Dates for your diary:

Monday 30th November

First day to bring Christmas cards to school (See above)

Thursday 10th December

Flu vaccination mop up

Friday 11th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Last day to bring Christmas cards to school.

Friday 18th December

End of half term

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

This week: 98.1% and 12 late.

Year to date: 96.9%.

Reception
Isolating

Year 1
98.9%, 2 late

Year 2
98.1%, 3 late

Year 3
97.1%, 0 late

Year 4
96.7%, 6 late

Year 5
99.7%, 1 late

Year 6
97.8%, 0 late

This week's Dojo points

Reception
131

Year 1
211

Year 2
209

Year 3
100

Year 4
464

Year 5
100

Year 6
175

EYFS

This week we have been reading the fabulous story 'The Gruffalo'. We've learnt about woodland animals and played Guess Who for the characters from our story. As Shape Detectives we've explored 3D shapes and their properties. Did you know spheres and cylinders can roll because they have curves! Story time has seen us joining in with actions for Tappity Tap What Was That? - do you know what to do if the monster of the woods comes calling? If not ask one of us.

Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been focussing on the structure of a good story. We have been beginning our stories with once upon a time and including our key story language such as who, unfortunately, luckily, and finally. We have come up with some fantastic plans of our invented stories and have been retelling them to our friends. Well done on a great week Year 1, keep using those fabulous imaginations and invent some stories of your own over the weekend to share with your grown-ups.

Year 2

It has been another busy week in Year 2, with plenty of successes to celebrate! In Science, we have been learning about materials and this week we investigated the term magnetic. We loved searching inside and outside for objects that were magnetic. Why not ask the children what they learnt about magnetic materials? In History, we have continued our work on The Great Fire of London and this week we found out all about Samuel Pepys with a little help from Magic Grandad. Alongside all of this, Year 2 also completed the phonics screening test. Everyone worked very hard and showed how much they have progressed since they started Year 1. We are all very proud of them!

Year 3

This week we have been getting stuck into our Romans topic. We learnt about the Celts who lived in Britain before the Romans and had a fantastic debate about Queen Boudica and her war against the Romans. Some of us even got into character! In our art lessons we have begun to look at mosaics and are now in the process of designing and creating our own. In writing we brought our warning tale unit to an end by writing our own stories using Little Red Riding Hood as a model. What an improvement we have made over the last couple of weeks. Keep it up Year 3.

Year 4

In Year 4 we started our week by sharing our ideas for a new story we are going to write based on Adventure at Sandy Cove. Some fabulously inventive ideas from everyone. In Maths we have been multiplying and dividing numbers by 10 and 100. In topic we tried to sell an Anglo-Saxon mud hut using descriptive and persuasive language. I think we have some budding estate agents here in class. We used water colours and silhouettes to create a fantastic piece of art based on the Iron Man and great fun was had by everyone with the Elite guys in P.E. We finished off the week with a scientific investigation regarding - What happens when you add more components to a simple series circuit? Ask your child if they can explain what does happen. Another busy, jam packed and fun week!



Year 5

This week in Year 5, we have been learning about day and night in our Science lessons. We explored the different theories children had, then identified that the Earth's rotation created the change. In Art, we have completed some nature drawing as the Victorians would. Children really enjoyed drawing the smaller details of the leaf, that they might not have noticed before.

Year 6

We have been busy writing our own stories this week, based on the text 'Kidnapped'. There have been some eerie settings: abandoned schools, terrifying farms and horrifying basements. The children have really enjoyed using all the elements of suspense to really keep the reader guessing if the character is going to make it out safely!

Earlier in the week, we were able to make some WW2 recipes which included: curried carrots and mock brains! We will get to taste them today, so ask us how they were. We could make them at home if you really want to try them! We weren't sure if it was the thought of tasting the recipes or the strong onions, that brought a tear to our eyes!



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