

# NEWSLETTER

Michaelmas Term 2018

Issue 1

Friday, 21 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great start we have had to the new academic year! Children have settled straightaway and are once again demonstrating our core values in all they do.

You will have had the opportunity to meet with teachers at curriculum evening events, where the year's learning and expectations have been set out. Please do be in conversation with class teachers should you have any queries regarding your

child's learning; we are always available for a pre-arranged conversation.

Congratulations to Mr Fitzsimons, our resident children's author and Philosophy for Children (P4C) guru! He has just been awarded Level 2B by Sapere, a qualification which recognises his leadership of P4C in school and depth of knowledge. Well done, sir!

**Graham Clifford**  
Head

## School Reminder

This is just a reminder to all children and parents that all toys, balls and cards are banned from school. If a teacher sees a child with any of those items, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of half term. This includes fidget spinners, Pokémon cards, tennis balls and footballs. Also, we would like to remind all children that no ball games are allowed in the playground in the morning and riding bikes and scooters is not allowed – please push them, only. Thank you for your cooperation!



**STAYING  
SAFE  
ONLINE**

Willow Brook Primary School is a safe environment where we encourage online learning using recommended websites and school resources. Please remember that children must be over 13 years old to have an account on social media or Instant Messaging.



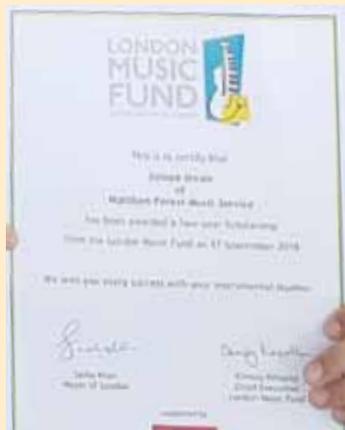
Follow Willow Brook Primary School on twitter  
**@WillowBrookGST**





## Willow Brook Pupil Awarded Music Scholarship

Well done to Zainab! She has just been awarded a Scholarship by the London Music Fund (formerly the Mayor's Music Fund). Scholars are nominated by their school and instrumental teacher because they have shown talent, commitment and enjoyment in their music-making. Each year only two or three of the very best students in the borough are recommended for a scholarship and it is therefore a great achievement to receive this award.



## Shout Out!

At Willow Brook we love reading! That is why over the past three years we have given away more than 3000 books as rewards! Many of these books are donations or are sourced from charity shops. If you have a book in a good condition, please do donate to the school so we can continue inspiring our children to read!



## Key Dates Michaelmas Term 2018

Half term

Monday 22 – 26 October 2018

Inset day

30 November 2018

End of Term

Friday 21 December 2018



[www.willowbrook-gst.org](http://www.willowbrook-gst.org) | @WillowBrookGST

# Summer School

This summer, thanks to funding from the National Lottery, Willow Brook was able to run a fun-packed week of experiences for thirty children.

The children spent their time keeping fit, being creative and designing and making their own healthy meals. They even visited the seaside!

Well done and thank you to all the staff who made this happen.



Pupils enjoy a week-long summer school at the end of July 2018.

## Big Draw Event Calling all creative adults

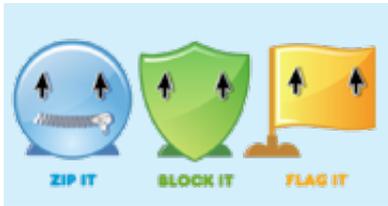
We are holding our annual Big Draw event this year on Saturday 13th October 10:00 – 14:00 and we are looking for any parents or carers with an artistic flare to help out. If you work within the arts or would just like to lend a hand on the day please do get in touch.

Email [arts@willowbrookprimary.org.uk](mailto:arts@willowbrookprimary.org.uk) to offer your support.



The **Griffin Schools Trust** is a family of primary and secondary schools in the Midlands and the South East of England. We are committed to providing an outstanding independent-style education for all students, predicated on breadth and excellence. All schools provide a rich programme of free extra-curricular activities, create an involving and stimulating physical environment and build a staff team of interesting people who are motivated to advance their own knowledge and skills as well as their pupils' achievement.

# Safety Online



Please remember all the messages we have been sending this year regarding keeping your children safe online. At all times, adults must be aware of what children are accessing online, and be especially vigilant regarding social media.

No primary-aged pupil can use social media sites. Mobile phones must be regulated and checked by parents ensure appropriate sites and communication is allowed only.



If your child has a medical condition, please ensure you have provided the office with new medication this month.

Please note that without current medication your child will be unable to attend any educational visits out of school.



## Philosophy for Children

### What is P4C?

At Willow Brook Primary School we have lessons called P4C. But what is P4C?

**Well, P4C actually stands for Philosophy for Children.**

What this does not mean is children will be studying different philosophers each week. What it does mean is the activity of philosophizing. Philosophizing is when you examine reasons and presuppositions, you reflect on concepts, explore meanings and values, and consider significant questions leading to a decision over what to think and how to act.

In everyday life, there is often a basic version of spontaneous philosophizing. It is often when children ask the question WHY? 'Why are some people poorer than others? Why do some people have too little to eat and some don't have enough? Why is it wrong to steal? Why should we listen to our parents?'

Philosophizing questions also often use words like: is, real, should, fair, know, beauty, purpose – words that suggest the speaker is making a judgement about existence, morality, knowledge, aesthetics and ends of life. Questions linked to these ideas we think of as the 'big questions.'

In P4C, the children generate the 'big question' they want to explore following a stimulus which may be a book, an image, a short film or a piece of music. The children then lead the direction the discussion follows with the teacher acting as a facilitator. At the end of the discussion, the children come to their own decision regarding the question. They are not told what to think. They make their own value judgement based on their own reasoning and exploration of the question.

Parents/Carers should take every opportunity that arises to explore big questions at home. You will be surprised at some of the things your children tell you!



**WILLOW BROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

190 Church Road, Leyton, London, E10 7BH

T. 020 8539 1428 | F. 020 8558 1925

school@willowbrook.waltham.sch.uk | www.willowbrook-gst.org | @WillowBrookGST

