

# Willow Brook News

February 9th 2017



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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week in the run up to half term and I know there are many people looking forward to a much deserved half term holiday! Whatever you have planned, we hope you enjoy a great week.

Everyone is going to need fully charged batteries for the second half of the spring term - the diary is packed! The Friends of Willow Brook have their marvellous Quiz Night on **Friday February 24<sup>th</sup>** and if that's something you have never experienced before, come and give it a go! It is great fun and there's the added challenge of beating the teachers' team... After its successful debut last year, the Keyworth Trail Run takes place on **Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>**. If you are able to assist in any way on the day, I am sure the event organisers would be more than happy to hear from you. Please get in touch via the office. The Friends have also organised a school disco for **24<sup>th</sup> March** and I look forward to dancing a Friday night away!

After half term you will be receiving invitations to meet with class teachers for our Parents' Evenings. These will take place on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress, share successes, raise any concerns and look at work. Teachers do their best to run to time, so if you feel that you need to raise issues that may take a little longer, please ask to make an alternative appointment.

Our whole school topic for the next half term is all about Roald Dahl. As one of our most celebrated authors, his stories are a must for primary children and have so many delicious plots, characters and creations to explore. The staff had a great evening together weaving plans that span the curriculum and include what we hope will be memorable learning opportunities. We are all looking forward to a Dahl twist to everything that happens at Willow Brook! Each class will champion their own Dahl book and there will be lots for you all to get involved with at home and at school. For now, you might like to be forewarned that we will be celebrating World Book Day this year (**Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>**) and will be asking the children to come dressed as anything Dahl! (The challenge is on for the best Mr Twit...or the most marvellous enormous crocodile!) Watch out for details of our whole school homework challenges and hope (like

Charlie Bucket) that if you earn a Wonka bar this half term it will contain a golden ticket...

Our School Council will be helping the staff to organise this term's charity fundraiser on Red Nose Day (**March 24<sup>th</sup>**) We encourage you all to donate to the charity by sporting red noses and t-shirts on the day and, I am sure, there will be plenty of ways to add to the total through the children's planned events.

On Tuesday this week the whole school marked Safer Internet Day – you may have seen our article on the website. As promised, I attach guidance published for parents about keeping primary aged children safe on the internet for your information.

The final words of my newsletter this half term have to go to Catherine Brown. You will all know that she is one of our fabulous T.A.s and has, in her wonderfully positive and warm way, made an impression on lots of little people at Willow Brook. Mrs Brown will be leaving us at the end of February, having decided that she would like to spend time at home with her family, and we will all miss her enormously. Mrs Brown first came to Willow Brook to experience life as a classroom assistant when I was teaching in Reception. We spent many happy terms together and she was my encourager and right hand lady! She never ran out of patience (with me or the children!) and, quite appropriately, as Roald Dahl once wrote about Miss Honey, *'there is no doubt she possessed that rare gift for being adored by every small child under her care'*. I know you will join me in wishing her nothing but the best. After interviews last Friday, we were delighted to offer Mrs Broadhead (who covered Mrs Brown's recent maternity leave) the vacant position.

Happy half term!

"And above all, watch with glittering eyes  
the whole world around you because the  
greatest secrets are always hidden in the  
most unlikely places.  
Those who don't believe in magic  
will never find it."

-Roald Dahl

