

# Willow Brook News

July 24<sup>th</sup> 2017



Willow Brook, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5BB. Telephone: 01159149889. [office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

The past two weeks have been filled with all that makes Willow Brook a fabulous place to learn and grow! There has been sport and adventure, culture and partying, moments and memories shared with friends and families and a celebration of talents and performance.

Years 5 and 6 had a great three days away at Duke's Barn. When I popped up to see them on the Wednesday morning, they were enjoying the sunshine and scrambling through rivers and streams and came home in need of a good night's sleep! I hope you have had a chance to read all about their adventures on the school website.



Meanwhile, back at Willow Brook, the rest of the school had an adventure of their own as they cruised the world and stopped off in Italy, New Zealand, India, Greece and Peru! There was cooking and food tasting, music and mountaineering as well as a frightening Haka, some digeridoo playing and learning a bit of the local lingo!





Our whole school sports afternoon was as marvellous as ever, and was full of competitive spirit, encouragement and fun. Every sticker earned was worn with pride! Your cheers and applause were the icing on the cake – thank you so much for your support. In our last Bench of Glory assembly Matthew Jones and Cantik Rasoki were awarded with our 2017 Sports Awards for their contribution to school teams and activities – well done to both of you.



Please don't forget to put September 20<sup>th</sup> in your diary – weather permitting, it will be our afternoon of whole school potted sports and a perfect way to welcome our new reception children and their families to Willow Brook. I know Miss Johnston will be asking for your help in the first week of the autumn term.

The Willow Brook music concert was another cracking event last week and showcased a thirty-voiced junior choir as well as over 50 young musicians who impressed us all with their talents. From the youngest ukulele player (who was only six!) to our skilled Year 6 soloists, each played with pride and held their nerves and left the hall walking tall!

The Summer Social organised by the Friends of Willow Brook was also a great success. Thank you to every family who came and enjoyed the barbeque and shared a happy evening together on the field. The funds our Friends Group raise are put towards many projects and purchases that enhance teaching and provide equipment for your children. Year 6 were over the moon when Sarah Smithies came and presented the class with their leavers' hoodies before their trip to Duke's Barn...come rain or sweltering heat, they have not taken them off since! The Friends are also kindly contributing to the cost of our new computer suite, which will be fitted in September.



There are many other exciting projects planned over the next few weeks. The Year 4/5 cloakrooms will have a long-overdue make-over, as will the 'snug' area in the infants. Miss Tarrant has already taken delivery of her new outdoor furniture and is looking forward to filling her kitchen with mud...!

There are new sports and extra-curricular ventures planned for September – an extra afternoon every week of sports coaching and a first taste of Drumba at Willow Brook... Each class already has a trip to support their learning in the diary and three residential adventures have been booked. Brace yourself - it's going to be a busy year!

A couple of requests from staff...

- If you have any good quality PE kit that your child has grown out of (especially shorts or tracksuit bottoms), Miss Johnston would like to restock the spares drawer.
- Miss Tarrant has had to throw away some of her precious princess and dressing up outfits after seven years of love and wear! If you have any costumes that are in good condition but are no longer in use, I know some little people who would love to wear them!
- PLEASE make sure that all school reading books are returned by the end of term. Books often form sets for guided reading sessions and replacing a missing text is costly. Similarly, sports kits are a little depleted and we'd appreciate any returned items... especially socks!

Thank you for all those who have completed and returned a school questionnaire in the last week. Your words of encouragement as well as your concerns and suggestions will all help us to plan for the future. As I said, the year has been one of challenge and change and I would like to thank you most sincerely for your support during my first two terms of headship. We have a team of staff who are excited and ready for all that 2018 will bring and look forward to working with you.

And finally... have a wonderful summer and I hope you enjoy plenty of relaxation and precious family time. To all of our Year 6 children who are ready to move on (and their parents who tell me that they are not!) – hold fast to all that Willow Brook has taught you and the memories you have of your years here. You have been very special to us and we hope that you will stay in touch. We wish you nothing but the best for the next phase of your school life. For everyone else, we look forward to seeing you bright and early on Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup>.

With very best wishes,

*Louise Ballard*