

Willow Brook News

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Dear Parents and Carers,

If you were anywhere near Keyworth this morning I know that you will have heard Willow Brook sing! In a session full of Gary Barlow we absolutely raised the roof and the rest of the day has just been buzzing!

Every year group is currently having a splendid time on the *Island of Neverbelieve* and each child is producing a personal journal to go in their adventurers' pack. Lots of parents have asked me about the book we are basing our whole school topic on – it's called *The Land of Neverbelieve* and is by an artist called Norman Messenger. This week, I spent a happy time exploring the trees of the island with Year 1 – they were planting the seeds of the shoe trees and helping the residents harvest the spaghetti trees before the pasta got out of hand! (If only there were shoe trees...) Year 6 were making miniature stories for Book Mountain and Reception were scared to death by an outdoor experience where they met the flying dragons! Year 3 have spent the week in the hamlet and encountered some of the rather unusual residents. It is all sparking imagination and all sorts of creative thinking.

Talking of getting out and about to different places, years 5 and 6 are off to the cricket club and the tennis centre next week to take part in various tournaments and sessions. Staff are also busily preparing for the residential trip to Duke's Barn. Just a reminder that there will be a short meeting at 6pm on Wednesday next week to give parents a little more information about the centre and give you any appropriate forms and kit lists. Do not worry if you are unable to make this meeting – each child will have a named pack and if you do not pick yours up on Wednesday night, it will come home with your child on Thursday.

We have just received a limited first edition delivery of Willow Brook caps (they've taken rather longer than expect to arrive, but I am sure there is plenty of sunshine left!) and, as you can see from our models here, they look rather smart. They are available in two sizes and come either as a simple baseball cap (priced at £4 or with the legionnaire's flap on the back (priced at £4.50). If you would like to purchase one, please call in to the office or send your order with the money in an envelope and we will supply to fit and deliver! All I ask is that write a name your new hat... as you can appreciate, it will be hard to return lost items if everyone has the same and they are not labelled.



Lisa Morrow, our new deputy head, is hoping to spend next Wednesday in school to introduce herself to her new class and get to know Willow Brook a little more. She has a very busy end to the term at her current school and will, sadly, not be able to join us for our class swap day. She will be teaching Year 6 with Mrs Myring in September and can't wait to get started! Final interviews for our other teaching vacancy take place next week and, once we complete our teaching complement, I will be able to let you know the September class structure for the rest of the school.

Just two pleas as we head into the last few weeks of term: The playground seemed very empty this morning when the bell went at 8:50... there were many late marks on our registers and this is starting to become an increasing problem. Just to make you aware, lateness is monitored for each child alongside their attendance and, according to our school attendance policy (which you can read on the website) children are marked late if they are not in the classroom by the end of registration at 9am. Our electronic registers even keep a record of how many minutes late they are. At 9.15am registers are closed and the children are recorded as having an unauthorised absence. Having a good attitude to being on time, as well as being ready and in the right frame of mind for the day is a really good lesson to learn at primary school and I hope you will help the staff in encouraging this.

Secondly, could I ask any children who are wearing open-toed sandals to school over the summer to wear socks as well? I remember only too well an incident early on in my teaching career where a six year old in my class who was wearing open sandals, had her big toe nail ripped off in a playtime game and I don't want to ever see that again! I also recognise and appreciate that some parents are reluctant to replace worn out school shoes until September but, again, I am keen to maintain a standard and old converse trainers are creeping in...(quite literally!) Again, I would appreciate your help.

I'm looking forward to an exciting evening at the school disco tonight! Just a reminder that the infants are warmly invited from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and the juniors from 7.45pm to 8.45pm.

Have a great weekend in the sunshine!

Louise Ballard