

Willow Brook News

March 2nd 2017



Willow Brook, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5BB. Telephone: 01159149889. office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous start we have had to our whole school topic over the past couple of weeks! It has been an absolute pleasure to see children clutching Roald Dahl books and rushing into school to tell you the latest episode from their bedtime stories. Wonderful!

And then World Book Day arrived! Class 1 (and Miss Johnston) had been counting down the days to our great Dress up like Dahl event and it didn't disappoint. I love watching everyone arrive on dressing up days...you never quite know what is going to walk through the gates thanks to your creative genius and encouragement!



During the day, each class rose to the challenge of producing a review of their favourite Dahl book and having a go at penning some illustrations of their favourite characters. Year 6 even finished a week of maths by collecting some school data and working out the ratio of book characters represented in the school. Whilst there were plenty of fantastic foxes, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was by far the most popular (or so I was reliably informed!) By mid afternoon children were proudly flying to the office to show some incredibly beautiful work, the best of which is about to go on display in the hall. It really shows how inspired they were. Please take a look when you are in school next week for Parents Evening.

At morning break, the winners of our costume parade were rewarded with a slice of Mrs Holligshead's 'Bruce Bogtrotters chocolate fudge cake' (smothered in Flakes, Rolos, snowballs, caramel buttons and icing!) I can confirm it was worth dressing up as an Oompa Loompa for!



Last Thursday our Bench of Glory recognised the enthusiasm of readers and there was great anticipation as the first seven Wonka Bars were handed out.... and opened very slowly... (you could have heard a pin drop...) to reveal TWO GOLDEN TICKETS! As you can see from the photo, this made two lucky children very happy. (And the other 5 weren't too disappointed with the chocolate bars either!)



Yesterday 7 new Wonka bars were handed out as the Bench of Glory rewarded impressive book reviews...but not a glint of gold when the wrappers were torn off! As we head towards National Science Week, our next Bench may feature budding investigators as we try some of George's Marvellous experiments!

In other news...

The Willow Brook team representing the school in the village quiz have made it through to the quarter finals. Mr Armour's incredible speed on the bell and buzzer round is definitely our secret weapon! Our next round is on the 20th March at the village hall when we meet the Friends of Kadzinuni team. If you have never experienced the tension of the annual Keyworth Quiz, do come along – it's a great spectator sport and is quite nailbiting...off stage or on!

After a very successful time as chair of the Friends of Willow Brook, Daniela Queen has stepped down from leading the group to focus on other commitments. If you would be interested in joining our parent committee in any capacity, please get in touch via the school office or come along to the next meeting on March 20th at 6.30pm. You'd be more than welcome. Last week the Friends held their own annual quiz night. Although the teachers' team received more than their fair share of heckling, we had a great evening! The Carnells devised some challenging rounds and Plumtree Fish and Chips added supper to a successful fundraising Friday night. The Friends' next event, The Keyworth Trail Run, is on Sunday March 19th.

Having sorted through two lots of lost property over the past few weeks, could I urge you all to simply write a name in jumpers, cardigans and PE kits. We have a mounting pile of uniform that the children have not claimed and it seems such a shame when it has to be passed on to be recycled. We also have nine water bottles that have been abandoned in the hall since half term – again, a simple name would enable us to return them to their owners by the end of the day.

Due to several changes in Willow Brook's Governing Board, vacancies will be advertised soon for Parent Governors. Neil Rabbitts, our Chair, would be keen to tell you more. He said, "Being a governor is a very rewarding way to be more involved in the school: we get to see

how the school operates, understand some of the challenges it faces, and help to develop it further. We are at an exciting point having appointed our new Head Teacher, so it's a great time to get involved. We are fortunate to have a strong board with no immediate skills gaps, so would like to hear from anyone who is interested, but would be keen to strengthen our understanding of Special Educational Needs provision, and to have more contact with local businesses." There is lots of information about the role of the Board on the school website at <http://www.willowbrook.notts.sch.uk/v3/community/an-introduction-to-governance-at-willow-brook/> . If this is something you would consider but would like to understand the role of a school governor more fully, please get in touch with Neil (nrabbitts@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk) who would be more than happy to answer your questions or give you more information.

We look forward to meeting you all at Parents' Evening in the week beginning 14th March. If you have not received a letter inviting you to make an appointment, please get in touch with your child's teacher or the office.

I will leave you with a few more images from World Book Day. Trust me, Miss Trunchbull wasn't as scary as she looks...

Have a good weekend,

Louise Ballard

