

Willow Brook News

March 31st 2017



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that it's the end of term already! It has been a very busy twelve weeks that have been full to the brim with all sorts of learning and a whole host of activities.

This week has seen the culmination of our Roald Dahl topic, which, as one Year 2 child told me today, has been 'just the best!' As well as providing us with different angles for science and topic work, it has livened up writing and art and been the foundation of many problem solving maths tasks. Design and technology has merged with sculpture as each class responded to the Roly-Poly Bird challenge. I hope you had chance to see each wonderful creation yesterday or today...although there were a few wayward birds who had to be brought inside thanks to the spring breeze! Whilst I am in no way biased, I have to mention Year 6's caravan from *Danny the Champion of the World!* I have loved watching the children put each part together over the weeks and work with such pride on its decoration... not to mention making sure the Roly-Poly bird stuck out of the roof and its tail out of the chimney!



Our five lucky golden ticket winners had a fabulous day in the chocolate factory with Mrs Hollingshead yesterday! They made a huge fudge cake, chip cookies, truffles and Easter egg cupcakes with over a kilo of chocolate at their disposal. What's more, they enjoyed each other's company and had a very happy time honing their culinary skills.



There were a couple of thwarted moments of championship glory this week. The Willow Brook team lost in the semi-finals of the village quiz on Monday night and our talented girls' football team were narrowly beaten in the semi-finals of the inter-schools' cup. Mr Jones was incredibly proud of the footballing talents of his team and I was equally impressed with the knowledge of my team...especially when it came to identifying the sides of mountains and cliffs!

One person who was triumphant this week though, was Miss Tarrant. It was a great honour to be invited to her presentation evening on Wednesday when she received her certificate for her National SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) award. Rebecca has been dedicated to her studies over the past couple of years and her knowledge and work with this area of our provision continues to go from strength to strength. Miss Hackett is also working on her Masters at Nottingham University and is furthering her skills in leading creative learning and English. I am incredibly proud of how hard each member of the staff team works at Willow Brook and think that their endless ambition, energy and drive is just incredible.



It was also good to meet with the Friends of Willow Brook last week and oversee my first school disco! The next event on the calendar is the annual Plant Sale on Saturday May 20th and any green fingered help getting ready for that event would be gratefully received. Please get in touch. The Trail Run was a great success, thanks to the hours of organisation put in by the Hall family and the hours of preparation put in by their team. The event has already been added to the calendar for next year.



I hope you have had a chance to read our Comic Relief update on the school website. Thanks to our money box venture and your amazing generosity with donations and cakes, we raised just under £700! This, of course, does not include the money that would have added to the total thanks to your red nose purchases. Thank you very much. As you can imagine, it was a day full of fun.

There is a lot in the diary already for next term. We will (hopefully) be appointing a new deputy head and I am looking forward to adding to our staff team. As you may know, Louise Smith will be leaving Willow Brook at the end of April, which means we will also be advertising for a new class teacher. Both appointments will start in September. I am sure you will join us in wishing Louise all the best for her new ventures.

Year 2 and Year 6 will take their SATs tests in May and a leaflet with further details of dates and how this happens should have been sent to you this week. Should you need any further clarification you are very welcome to come and ask, but I can recommend two simple but informative videos produced by the Department for Education that can be found by following these links:

For Year 2 <https://youtu.be/3VXMlI3fT5g>

For Year 6 <https://youtu.be/IRYo2sFGHsY>

You should also have received nomination papers for the two vacancies for parents on our governing board today. I know that Neil Rabbitts (our chair) has already outlined the responsibilities of a parent governor in my last newsletter, but if you are interested and have any questions please get in touch with Neil or me via email. Nominations should be returned to school by 10am on Tuesday 18th April.

Individual teachers have added photos and more news items to our website to keep you up to speed with what has been happening in different classes – please take a look.

It only remains for me to wish you a very happy holiday and hope that there is a fortnight full of spring sunshine for you to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you bright eyed on Tuesday 18th April for the start of the new term.

Enjoy!

Louise Ballard

Summer Term Dates in the Diary

May 4 th	School closed for local elections
May 8 th	Key stage 2 SATs week
May 12 th	Non-Uniform day for donations to the plant sale
May 20 th	Plant sale
May 29 th	Half term holidays
June 5 th	School closed for Inset day
June 9 th	Class photographs
June 12 th	Mad Science Club starts
June 16 th	School Disco
June 21 st	6pm Meeting re Year 5/6 Residential
June 21 st	7pm Friends' meeting
July 3 rd	School closed for Inset day
July 3 rd /4 th	Year 6 visits to South Wolds
July 5 th	School reports out
July 6 th	Open afternoon
July 10 th – 12 th	Year 5/6 residential trip
July 14 th	Summer Social
July 18 th	Sports Day
July 25 th	Last day of term

Please note that we will be holding our Potted Sports afternoon in early September so that our new Reception children and parents can join us.