

Willow Brook News

May 8th 2017



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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy start to the Summer Term... my determination to keep you up to date with what is happening around the school every fortnight was crushed as Friday arrived before I had a spare minute to put a word on a page...hence my Monday letter!

New Willow Brook Staff

I am pleased to tell you that last Friday we appointed our new deputy head. After a long and arduous day working with a strong field of candidates, I can now confirm that Lisa Morrow has accepted our job offer and will be joining the staff team in September. Lisa is currently an Acting Deputy Head at Abbey School in Mansfield and is excited at the thought of working at Willow Brook (who wouldn't be?!). She hopes to be able to visit to get to know us a little better before the end of term.

This week we are shortlisting for our key stage 2 class teacher vacancy and hope to complete our staff team before the end of this half term. More news of that as and when the process is complete.

The school council have been magnificent in all of our recent interview days. Their opinions are very important in the decision process and governors of the school are continually impressed with their maturity and understanding. Last week they organised lunch for the deputy head candidates and enjoyed engaging them in conversation before writing feedback to the panel. They were spot on!

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The Summer Term extra-curricular timetable kicked off in earnest after Easter and it was good to see gardening, chess, rounders, singing, drama, football, basketball, sewing, athletics, French, recorders and choir packed into after-school and lunchtime slots! Every member of staff supports our provision in one way or another and I am incredibly grateful that they are willing to share their talents and give up their time to add such an important element of primary school life. It's not too late if your child still wants to sign up.

Testing times...

Back in the classroom, Year 6 started their SATs week this morning and took everything in their stride. They are busily preparing for their DARE graduation next Thursday and are looking forward to the post-tests life! In a letter to them on Friday, I mentioned how proud I was of each and every one of them. They have tackled this year with determination and have adapted so maturely to the many challenges they

have had to face. As we celebrated the talents of some of our Reception children, (who had mastered the art of putting their numbers the right way round last week), we agreed that the fractions, algebra and grammar that Year 6 had got to grips with only five years later was quite a remarkable thing. Year 2 will be doing their own SATs papers as part of lessons before the end of May. Their tests are marked by the school and final levels are moderated using the work they do on a day to day basis. Our hope is that the whole process is as stress free for our young people as it can be.

Plant Sale

The Friends of Willow Brook are busily getting everything ready for the Plant Sale on May 20th. This Friday is a non-uniform day and they are asking each child to bring a bottle or some chocolate in return for the privilege! Please get in touch with the Friends' team via the school office if you can offer help in either preparing for the sale or by lending a hand on the day itself. I know that your offer will be very gratefully received.

Dukes Barn

One final request is from Mrs Phillips in the office. The second payment of £50 for the Year 5/6 residential is now due and she would be delighted to receive that as soon as possible. The total cost of the trip has now been finalised at £166.50 and the final balance is due on 9th June. A parents' meeting to fill you in on kit lists and final travel times will be held on June 20th at 6pm. If you need any further information in the meantime, please get in touch.

Elections

I know that parents have expressed opinions over the two election days that have meant the school has had to close this term. The matter was raised at a meeting of the Governing Board on Wednesday and the chair of this committee will be responding to your concerns in due course in the light of advice received from Rushcliffe Borough Council.

I apologise for what must seem like a whistle-stop tour through current news! If you require any greater detail please feel free to ask.

With kind regards,

Louise Ballard