

## Dear Parents

### School Closure

I apologise for the inconvenience caused by the school closure earlier this week and appreciate your understanding and support. When we saw the pictures of the burst water main on Station Rd and watched the story unfold on the local news, we realised how significant the issue was. Severn Trent Water kept us updated throughout the day and into the evening and it was good to be finally informed at 8pm that the repair work was complete.

### Sporting News

Our annual Potted Sports afternoon was another great success and we even managed to pick the sunniest day of the week! Children looked after and supported each other brilliantly as well as having lots of fun! Thank you so much to parents, grandparents and siblings who joined us and helped to run the different games – we couldn't have done it without you.

However, when it comes to our traditional sports day, we never seem to have as much luck and always manage to forecast a rainy day! I know that many of you enjoy coming to watch this event and I appreciate it isn't always easy to make last minute changes to plans when you have other commitments to juggle. Unfortunately though, we do find ourselves in the position of being at the mercy of the British weather!

A few years ago, when we were plagued with an exceptionally wet summer, we pursued the option of seeking an alternative, indoor venue and approached South Wolds Academy. They explained that, for a few different reasons, they would be unable to host. Firstly, in the event of wet weather, all of their PE and sports lessons are brought inside so it is highly likely that their sports hall would be in use during any part of the school day. In addition, they also told us that the venue is not big enough to accommodate both our children and parent spectators.

We always plan an alternative date in the event of wet weather and next year, I will make sure that I publicise this so that parents have the second date written into diaries at an earlier point in the year.

Currently, the forecast for next week looks a lot better and so we are hopeful that our Sports Day will be able to take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Children from Pre School to Year 6 are looking forward to giving it their all and cheering on and supporting their friends. The afternoon's programme will begin at 2pm - please come along and join us for the afternoon if you can.

Also on a sporting theme, this week, as part of our Rio topic, children are participating in a 'Willow Brook Olympics' week and are trying out a range of different sports and activities such as ultimate frisbee, 'hammer' throwing and seated volleyball amongst others. Children will be working with different teachers throughout the week – hopefully, you'll hear lots more about it.

For the first time last year, we introduced a new sporting award for children who participate with excellent sportsmanship, demonstrating the Olympic Values at all times. Choosing last year's winners was a very tricky task and I'm sure that it will be equally tough this year. The winners will be announced in our end of year assembly next week.



## Music Concert

Last Thursday evening, we held our annual music concert. As well as hearing from our ever-growing and fabulous choir, children entertained the jam-packed hall with their recorder, drum, flute, clarinet, keyboard, saxophone, ukulele and piano playing. We are very proud to be a school blessed with so many talented young people – well done to you all! More photos are available to view on our website.



## Crossdale 10k and Fun Run

The Crossdale 10k and Fun Run are scheduled for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September. This year, the Fun Run will take place at 9.45am with the 10k following at 10.15am.

The 10k course follows a pleasant, traffic-free, out-and-back route and I know that plenty of our parents enjoy the race. The fun run is planned to provide a little exercise and fun for all ages. The short (2.3 km) course is entirely off-road, and follows an out-and-back route between Crossdale School and Plumtree Cricket Club. For further details of the event and for booking information visit: [www.crossdale10k.co.uk](http://www.crossdale10k.co.uk). Hopefully, we can field another strong and enthusiastic team!

## Assessment

During the past year, I have tried to keep you all informed of the changes that have been taking place in terms of the curriculum we teach and the way children are assessed. All schools are going through a period of significant change in terms of national curriculum developments, assessment and testing and because of these changes, assessment figures for 2016 are simply not comparable to those for earlier years. Last year, I explained that there would be children, who had previously been described as working at age related expectations who may not have met the same standard this year as a result of considerably more demanding tests based on a far more challenging curriculum. It **will** take time for these higher expectations to be properly embedded – this additional content cannot all be crammed into the space of a year!

One of the reasons given for introducing a new system of describing attainment is that the old system of levels was too complicated and difficult for parents to access. However, certainly for this year, we have found that the new descriptors and methods of reporting attainment have been equally (if not more) tricky to comprehend – particularly as the systems are all slightly different for different year groups! Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher, if you would like any further explanation of your child's attainment summary.

This year's outcomes for Years 2 and 6, when they are finalised and published, do need to be viewed in context and therefore I offer you these points of comment and reflection. The national statistical first release indicates that just 53% of Year 6 pupils nationally reached the new expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics. This means that 47% of children will be starting secondary school having not met the new expected standard in at least one of the three areas mentioned above. As was expected, the provisional national outcome at the end of Key Stage 2 shows a marked drop in the proportions of pupils reaching the expected standard compared to previous years. When the national results went to press on the 5th July, Nicky Morgan (Education Secretary) stated that lower results should not be interpreted as a decline in performance by pupils and I cannot stress this enough. We are as proud as ever of our Willow Brook children and their hardworking, brilliant attitudes to learning.

## Summer Holidays – School Improvement Works

We have a few different projects scheduled to take place during the summer holidays this year.

Our bottom court play area is being resurfaced together with the front path – the current surface has deteriorated in recent years and is definitely ready to be replaced. Following this, in the autumn term, we hope to be successful in securing funding to provide us with new playground markings. Apparently, new tarmac has to be given time to settle before any paint can be added but we have already had plans drawn up for lots of lovely new games and activities as well as for new seating.

In addition, we are having some new fencing installed at the front of school which will separate our playground from the main path to the school office as well as an extra fence at the side of school, behind the staff car park, which will provide classes 2, 3 and 6 with a secure outdoor space. The fencing at the front of school will be open style, green mesh and will run through the large flower bed and across the hill towards the hedge at the front of school. There will be two gates to provide access onto the playground, for example at drop-off and pick-up times, but these will be secured during the school day. There will also be gated access at the side of school. The Local Authority is supporting us with this project as it will make our whole site more secure.

And lastly, we are having two of our cloakroom/toilet blocks totally refurbished – a project we have been saving up for a few years! The areas between Class R/1 and Class 2/3 will be completely transformed this summer and we hope to complete this project next year, with the final cloakroom being revamped then. Classroom sink areas are also being modernised to provide better storage and washing/draining facilities.

## Open Afternoon

It was great to see so many of you at our open afternoon last week. Our café raised £110 for MacMillan Cancer Support. Mrs Hollingshead and Mrs Zawodniak have asked me to pass on their thanks to you all.

## Keyworth Show – Art Competition

Well done to the winners of the Keyworth Show art competition – Willow Brook's entries were particularly beautiful this year and we shared the winning pictures with everyone in assembly this morning. Imogen Bramley-Maye won first prize in the Reception category with her picture of Queen Elizabeth II; Ella Sandey's fairy princess took third prize in the Y1/2 group; In the Year 3/4 category, Harry Whiteley took 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Jorja Ellis won the 1<sup>st</sup> place award with their detailed castle pictures and in the Y5/6 competition, we had a clean sweep with Blaize Miller in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Gemma Wilson in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Aimee Brown taking the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize. The winning pictures are all available to view on our website and I'm sure you'll agree they were worthy winners!

## Picnic in the Park - Queen

Our children have been invited to perform at the Keyworth Parish Council Community Celebration organised for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this weekend on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July. If your child is in Year 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and would like to join in, we are scheduled to perform at 11.30am and will be singing a few songs that we have practised during the last few Friday singing sessions. All are welcome – the more the merrier - and Mrs Ballard will meet you there shortly before this time. This link provides more information about the event - <http://www.keyworthparishcouncil.org/queens-birthday-celebration.html>.

## INSET Days for 2016/17

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

Many thanks for your continued support,

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