

Willow Brook News

14th October 2016



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Dear Parents

Harvest Festival

Next Friday, we will be holding our annual harvest assembly and we hope to be able to present another generous food parcel to the Friary Drop-in Centre in West Bridgford. We would be very grateful for any contributions you are able to send. Last year, we filled a number of boxes with produce and staff at the Drop-in Centre were very grateful for the donation. The centre volunteers work so hard to prepare food parcels and meals for those in need.

Please send contributions of tins or packets of food any time next week and fresh produce towards the end of the week. Staff and children will work together to create a display in the hall which will form the centrepiece for our service. Many thanks.

Crossdale Fun Run... and Other Sporting News

On Sunday 18th September, lots of keen Willow Brook children gathered at Crossdale Drive Primary School for their annual Fun Run. Mr Jones' persuasive efforts clearly worked as he was met by a fabulous number of volunteers ready to race and their collective efforts were rewarded as the team earned themselves the primary school trophy. All of the children involved were very happy and proud when showing off their individual medals in assembly. Well done to you all and many thanks to parents for getting up so early on a Sunday morning to support this great, local event. More photos are available to view on our school website.



On the football pitch, our girls took part in an event run by Keyworth United Football Club designed to promote involvement in girls' football – something which is already well embedded at Willow Brook. Girls from years 3 to 6 enjoyed an after school session at Platt Lane, training together with experienced coaches as well as playing in a match. Mr Jones says they are definitely a force to be reckoned with!

And lastly, our rowing club for children in years 5 and 6 starts after half term. Whether you're a seasoned professional or have never pulled an oar before, you are more than welcome. We meet in the school hall at 8.15am every Friday morning.

School Governors

Today, you should receive ballot papers for parent governor elections. Please be aware that this is a completely new selection process in response to **two** further vacancies which have become available. Each family has been issued with two ballot papers and voting closes at 10am on Monday 31st October. Our school governors are a really dedicated and hardworking group and they carry out a very important leadership role within school. I am so pleased that we have so many parents who are willing to volunteer their time to take on this responsibility.

School Council – Our New 5 Cs Committees

And on the subject of democracy... at the start of every school year, Mrs Ballard is always busy coordinating the election of a new Willow Brook School Council. This year, following some rather grown-up discussions in our whole school council assembly, the role started to look a little different.

At the heart of our school ethos are our 5 Cs – **Care, Community, Creativity, Confidence** and **Commitment** and the children thought that our council should be active in the promotion of these values. So, it was agreed that instead of having just one collective council, this year there would be separate committees, each one championing their different areas.

Every child in school was fully involved in the process. Everyone applied to a committee, letting class teachers know what they would bring to the role. Then, shortlisted candidates presented to their classmates as well as taking questions from the floor! And finally, following a secret ballot in each class, the following children were elected to each committee:

The Department of Care



The Department of Creativity



**The Department of Community
& Commitment**



...and each will show the **confidence** needed when representing their classmates. They are already wearing their shiny new black and gold badges with pride and looking forward to carrying out their new roles.

Dates

Just a couple of reminders about upcoming events:

Friday 14th October – School Disco... TONIGHT!

6.30 - 7.30 – Pre School, Reception and Years 1 & 2

7.45 – 8.45 – Years 3 – 6



Monday 17th October - Wrates Photographers taking individual and family group photos.

As well as individual photos, children with siblings in school or Pre School will have their photos taken during the school day. If you would like a picture taken with a younger (or older) sibling, not at Willow Brook, then the photographer will be in the school hall from 8.15am. Please be aware that the queue can get quite long as 8.45 approaches! On this morning, WB's will be based in the computer/kitchen area outside classes 2 and 3 – to be accessed through the school hall as usual.

Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th October – Parents Evenings

You should now have received a reply slip from your child's class teacher with details of your appointment. Please let us know if you have not yet received this.

Monday 24th – Friday 28th October - Half term

Punctuality

And lastly, we have noticed an increasing number of children arriving at school after their class lines have left the playground. Please be aware that school starts at 8.50am and support us in ensuring that your child arrives at school on time. Many thanks.

Ly Toom