

Willow Brook News

16th September 2016



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Dear Parents

New-look Website & Publishing Photographs

Over the summer, our school website was upgraded. The new site is now more responsive to mobile phones and tablets; menus should prove easier to navigate and we also have better facility to embed media, such as film clips, to the website. There is still a little work to do in terms of tidying things up a bit, but we're almost there.

In the feedback we received from you in our curriculum consultation, some parents asked whether it would be possible to be notified when new items are posted to our website. To make this happen, we would like to create a Willow Brook facebook page which will be directly linked to our website. This would mean that every time a new post is added, parents will be notified via facebook. Willow Brook Pre-School already have their own group page and I know that parents really enjoy being able to access the photos and news in this way.

We do take internet safety very seriously and teach the children all about publishing information safely and sensibly. On our website, we also remind parents that if photographs are copied or shared, children should never be named without the consent from their parents or carers. However, we know that taking pictures and video images of children's achievements and activities is a wonderful way of capturing memories and promoting their successes. Teachers take many photos during each school year and one of the ways we share these with you is via our website. We never identify individuals by name in articles/captions that accompany photographs and would never 'tag' a child in an image.

We currently hold on file consent forms you have signed for the publication of photographs and film which already includes consent for publication of images on the internet – following the guidelines as set out in our 'Use of Children's Photographs Policy'. We have just carried out a review of these to make sure our information is correct and up-to-date.

We know that some of you have since provided verbal consent to members of staff where changes have occurred and, where this is the case, we will be asking for new forms to be completed and signed just so that we are clear when publishing images on our website.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

(Do have a peep at the website if you can as there are already lots of photos there for you to see!)

Curriculum Expectations

Today, you should receive an information booklet regarding the end of year expectations for your child's year group in both English and Maths. We produced these guides last year to help parents and carers understand the higher demands of the new curriculum. The objectives listed will be covered in class throughout the year and teachers will also recap and revise objectives from earlier year groups as appropriate. Please do not think that these guides should be treated as a ticklist for you to work through at home but we do very much value and appreciate your support in carrying out the home tasks which are set for your child. We review our Homework Policy annually, every September, and our latest version is published on our website in the 'Policies' section.

All of the guides are also published on our website, in the 'Curriculum' section.

Home School Agreement

Together with this letter you should receive a copy of our Home School Agreement which we distribute on an annual basis. This document sets out some of the ways in which we can all play our part to achieve a positive learning atmosphere. It is not a contract but expresses the willingness of all concerned to work together for the benefit of all young people in the school.

New Gate

Now that the electrical work is complete on the new gate, a new routine has been established at hometime and for the collection of children from our after-school activities.

Gates on the bottom playground will now be locked at 3.45pm. As well as WB's, we have a number of after school clubs taking place each week who make use of the playground/field areas. The fencing will also clearly direct all visitors to the front door. Parents/carers collecting from **all** after school clubs should now wait at the front of school as children will be brought here for handover.

We have spoken to the children about not using the play equipment on the field after school and would appreciate your co-operation with this. Thank you.

Accessibility

We have an Accessibility Policy in school which outlines our commitment to meeting the needs of children and adults with disabilities or those who require alternative access arrangements either permanently, or for a fixed term. One aspect of this policy is an action plan which we review on an annual basis. If you have any accessibility requirements, please let me know so that we can consider how we can best support you.

Defibrillator in School

We now have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in school. At our staff first aid training in June we were reminded of how important having access to this potentially lifesaving equipment can be. And following this training, two of our teaching assistants decided between them to purchase a defibrillator for the school; many thanks to both ladies for their very generous donation. We would like people in our local community to be aware of this resource and will be letting people know via the Keyworth News. We would be very happy for you to help us to promote this locally.



Art Club – Wrong Dates

Eagle-eyed parents noticed that on my Art Club letter, there was an error in the dates given. The correct dates are:

Thursday 15th September – Year 4

Thursday 22nd September – Year 4

Thursday 29th September – Years 5/6

Thursday 6th October – Years 5/6

And just to confirm that sessions finish at 5.00pm giving us enough time to finish our projects. Apologies for any confusion caused.

It's been another really positive week in school and plenty of merits are already being earned in recognition of this. Keep up the good work everyone!

Ly Toom

