

Willow Brook News

18th November 2016



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Dear Parents/Carers

Children in Need

This year's Children in Need day was, as ever, full of laughter and fundraising spirit. Our theme for the day was heroes vs. villains and costumes were as brilliant as usual, thanks to your support. After our traditional costume parade, which saw many prizes awarded for creativity, children enjoyed their first cake of the day - thanks again for your contributions.

After break, children were divided into goodies and baddies according to their costumes and set about earning points in their teams while taking on a number of different challenges. After an incredibly close contest, it was the villains who (only just) earned themselves the most points... so unfortunately, on this day, good didn't conquer evil!

Our day was rounded off by a viewing of The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl – an old favourite – and more cakes were sold and enjoyed.

As the day drew to a close, two children earned themselves the title of Willow Brook superheroes – Caitlyn Ravenscroft & Max Lill were nominated by staff as they had both supported their teammates brilliantly throughout the day as well as throwing themselves into every part of the day with exactly the right attitude. They were awarded with a cuddly Pudsey and Ferne – thanks to Boots (and to Kerry Neill!) for donating these.

Most importantly, we raised over £300 for Children in Need – well done Willow Brook and thank you so much for your generosity.





Traction Man

In English lessons, children are really enjoying getting to know the character, Traction Man. In the story books, Traction Man finds himself in all kinds of adventurous situations with his loyal companion, Scrubbing Brush at his side – if you don't already know the stories by Mini Grey, they really are a delight! Walking into classrooms during English lessons this half term, I look forward to spotting him as I am greeted by excited voices telling me all about his latest mission. So far, I have found him trying to rescue the princess from Evil Frog; swinging from the ceiling to deliver the escaped farm animals back home; donning a diving suit to save Scrubbing Brush from the clutches of

Poisonous Dishcloth... to name but a few scenarios! I have heard so much about the children's writing through this topic – they have been really inspired to get their ideas onto paper. From Reception children adding their own speech bubbles to pictures from the story to Year 6 learning about subordinate clauses as they craft their own Traction Man adventures, the book has been perfect for supporting the teaching of writing across the whole school.

Love in a Box

Thank you so much to those of you who contributed to this appeal – 40 boxes arrived during this week and we were, as ever, overwhelmed by your generosity. I am so glad that we could continue to support this wonderful charity despite not being able to run the event in school as we have in previous years.



Headteacher Recruitment - Update

Just to let you know that the application process to find Willow Brook's new headteacher will begin before Christmas with interviews taking place at the end of January. Our school governors will be working together with members of staff during this time to make sure that exactly the right person is appointed to lead the school forward whilst maintaining the ethos of the school. The children will also be involved in the interview process and governors will be keen to seek their views.

Christmas Fair Preparations... and another non-uniform day!

Our Christmas Fair is only a few weeks away now and Friends are busy planning and organising the morning. We will be holding another **non-uniform day** for the children in two weeks' time on **Friday 2nd December**. In return, we ask if you could provide a donation for our Fair – either something chocolately or a bottle of something for our tombola stalls. Both are incredibly popular and your contributions are so appreciated. In terms of chocolate, packs of Funsie bars or similar, smaller items would be especially welcome.

Christmas Dinner and the End of Term

This year's Christmas dinner will be held on **Monday 19th December**. As the food needs to be ordered, we do need to have an indication of numbers for the day. The menu is a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and an ice cream dessert. We think that the easiest method of calculating numbers is to ask parents to let us know on the form at the end of this letter if their child(ren) **will not** be having a Christmas dinner and will be bringing a packed lunch instead.

For children in classes 3, 4, 5 and 6, the cost of a Christmas dinner is £2.22. If this money could be sent on Monday 12th December, we would be very grateful.

As has become tradition, Christmas jumpers (and other festive accessories) can be worn on our Christmas dinner day.



And on Tuesday 20th December, our last day of term, the Salvation Army will be joining us on the playground for a carol service from 2.45pm. Parents, grandparents and friends are welcome to join us. Any money collected will be very gratefully received by the Salvation Army to support them in the work they do, helping individuals and families in the local community.

Christmas Production – The Amazing Adventures of Superstan

The children have impressed us all during rehearsals this year and the production is coming together really well but time is flying by at top speed and in no time at all, we know that performance week will be upon us! Performances this year will be on **Tuesday 6th December at 6.30pm; Wednesday 7th December at 2.00pm and 6.30pm** and on **Thursday 8th December at 6.30pm**. We hope that all children – from Y2 to Y6 - will be able to take part in every evening performance. If, for any reason, your child is unable to attend any of the dates above, please let us know next week.



Classes R & 1 Nativity – Lights. Camel. Action!

Classes R & 1 are also working hard, learning songs and lines from 'Lights. Camel. Action!' - the nativity story with added glamour and sequins! They will be performing on **Tuesday 13th December at 2pm** and at **6.30pm**.

Letters about tickets will come home on Monday 28th November.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Ly Toom

PLEASE ONLY RETURN IF YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE HAVING A CHRISTMAS DINNER ON MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER.

Name(s) of child(ren) _____

Class(es) _____

My child(ren) will be having sandwiches on Monday 19th December

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