

Dear Parents

Carnival of the Animals

Yesterday afternoon we were blessed with more glorious sunshine for our Carnival of the Animals. Class R led the parade with their chickens and roosters – the fluffy, yellow onesies were adorable... if a little hot! They were followed by Class 2's sparkly tortoises and Class 3's huge and colourful elephants; some of Pre School's jumping kangaroos kept bouncing all the way along the track! Class 5's forest canopies caught the wind and nearly took to the sky, leaving their aviary of colourful birds behind. Class 1 brought out the whole aquarium (those jellyfish were inspired!) and Class 6's majestic birds were the perfectly elegant ending to the procession.

Thank you for sending us your boxes – I hope you'll agree they were well and truly transformed! Thank you as well to those of you who were able to come and join us for the afternoon – the children were very happy to show off their incredible artwork to you all. And lastly, thank you to classroom staff who added some rather special, creative magic to the theme. Photographs of the event will be posted on our website soon.

Sports Days

Our Sports Day earlier this week saw all children in school giving it their all – racing with determination as well as cheering on and supporting their friends. After much deliberation, staff chose Olivia Baker (Year 5) and Benjamin Turnbull (Year 6) for our sporting awards this year. The children received their beautiful, glass trophies in assembly earlier today. Both were selected for their commitment to sport – both Miss Johnston and Mr Jones were full of praise for their dedicated approach – whatever the weather! They are both also very supportive of their peers and watching them cheering on and encouraging their friends during recent sporting events has confirmed this. Well done! In addition to this, all of the children in school received a small sporting prize for their enthusiasm and involvement in sporting activities during the last few weeks – these were very kindly donated by Sainsbury's. From potted sports to sports day; from Olympic sports week to summer PE lessons, it has been a happy and active half term.

Farewell and Good Luck Year 6!

I know that our year 6 children still have another Willow Brook day to enjoy before they prepare for their move to 'big school' but I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of them our very best wishes for the future. Many of them started at Willow Brook at the same time as me and it has been a pleasure getting to know each and every one of them and watching them grow into fine young people very much ready for the next stage of their education. They are a talented bunch – with plenty of sporting, creative and academic success between them and we look forward to hearing news of their future achievements.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank our Year 6 parents for their support over the years – particularly those who will be reading my newsletter for the last time.

Leave of Absence During Term Time

Many thanks for your continued support in terms of making leave of absence requests during term time. As you are aware, we are only able to support your requests where there are 'exceptional circumstances' – this could mean that, due to the nature of your work, you are *unable* to take leave during the school holidays. It is unlikely that a request for a leave of absence longer than 5 days or one made for the start of a new school year or during a statutory assessment period would be authorised. Our policy does ask that you do not book a holiday before submitting your request. Please do not hesitate to email or chat to me if you have any further questions regarding this topic.

And lastly, if I don't get the chance to see you tomorrow, can I wish you all a wonderful summer holiday. We will see you back at school on Wednesday 7th September.

Many thanks for your continued support this year.

Ly Toom