

# Willow Brook News

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2017



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! And for the many new parents and children who have walked through the school gates for the first time this week, welcome to Willow Brook!

It was such a positive day full of smiles and excitement on the playground and eager learners taking brave steps in their new classrooms. As well as our 27 reception children, (who, I might add, have been completely amazing) we welcomed a few other new faces yesterday. Mercedes and Carmen have joined Year 3 and Year 1, having moved from Madrid over the summer. Miss Johnston and Miss Brearey have brushed up on a little Spanish over the holidays... Rosie has also joined Year 1 and, although her move from Kinoulton was not quite as far as a move from Spain, it was, nevertheless, just as big a step! Welcome to all of you.



There have been many new projects going on in and around the school over the summer. There were lots of positive comments about the new playground yesterday morning and the children were completely caught up in inventing games to play, although, after a couple of collisions, we will have to teach them about driving on the left hand side of the road! Year 6 have some new outdoor furniture...although the weather has not given them a moment to explore it yet! Years 4 and 5 have bright new cloakrooms and the reception children have new mud kitchens awaiting some al fresco cooking! The 'snug' area in key stage one is decorated and ready for the installation of a new teaching/learning area on Monday and the blank canvas that once was the ICT suite will be refurbished with new desks and computers before the end of the month. Whilst we were hoping to have both projects ready for the start of the year, I am

sure it will be worth the wait. A great deal has been updated and cleared out over the holiday and school is starting to look quite smart.

With this letter you should also receive a copy of our extra-curricular timetable detailing what happens above and beyond classroom learning. As you will see, we have a full programme of events for the autumn term, having found new providers to work alongside a very willing staff team who are offering a range of different activities. There will also be netball (thanks to two marvellous parent coaches!) once the goal posts arrive and members of the local bridge club will be introducing 'Mini Bridge' after half term. We recognise that our reception children are busily settling into school this term so there will be activities for them once they have found their feet later in the year, but there should be something for everyone, whether it's a sporting pursuit or something creative. We have also included details of the music tuition on offer at Willow Brook, which you



may or may not be aware of. Please note that some activities led by external providers are paid for – further details are available from the office. One of our 5 C's included in our school aims is 'commitment' and we would like to encourage children to 'stick at' an activity they join for at least the half term. You will receive a letter and permission slip from the member of staff organising an after-school event and registers are taken. Unless we hear otherwise, we presume your child is attending the club for the half term they have signed up for.

We are also sending out a new copy of our home/school agreement. This may be the first time you have received this or it may be an updated version of a letter you vaguely recall from the past. September is a good time to re-establish a positive understanding of how we all determine to work together. Whilst this is not the signed agreement it once was, we hope, nevertheless, it forms the basis of a strong partnership.



Without meaning to bombard you, the final piece of paper coming your way is a summary of the feedback received on our July parent questionnaires. Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the form and offer us your honest opinions. Your positivity was reassuring and your suggestions have given us food for thought. The children will be giving us their own opinions in a pupil questionnaire in a couple of weeks' time which all adds to future discussions and plans.

I'd like to give you advanced warning of a couple of events in September for your diaries. We are holding a whole school potted sports afternoon on September 20<sup>th</sup>. We usually do this in July but felt that it would be great to get the new reception class involved in the fun. Miss Johnston will be in the playground looking to sign up volunteers for the different events. It is a fun afternoon so please get involved if you can. On September 29<sup>th</sup>

we will be hosting our annual McMillan coffee morning (which perhaps ought to be called McMillan cake breakfast!) You are very welcome to come along before, during or after the school drop off and support this great cause. I know that ever since she was in the infants, Grace S in Year 6 thinks this is the best morning of the school year!

Other future dates will feature on the school calendar in the website – keep an eye on what we are all up to on [www.willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](http://www.willowbrook.notts.sch.uk)

Have a lovely weekend. I imagine after all the excitement and nervous energy that the first week back at school brings, there will be some tired children!

With best wishes,

*Louise Ballard*

