

Willow Brook News

March 17th 2017



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you for coming to meet with your child's teacher this week. It has been three full days, but staff agreed that it was good to get your feedback and discuss progress.

Yesterday was a day full of creativity and some incredibly imaginative persuasive writing was done, alongside Quentin Blake style drawings as part of our Roald Dahl topic. Jack Sharp's pen and ink drawing of the Bonecruncher from the BFG was an immediate favourite and a copy now takes pride of place in a frame in my office. Whilst our assembly already celebrated some of the most original persuasive writing ideas, each teacher will be picking at least five of their favourites to take part in the class debates next week. Each class will then go on to vote for their most convincing entry and these pieces will be read in the grand final in front of an esteemed panel of judges in the last week of term. Having the confidence to stand and deliver such a speech is no mean feat, but an incredible life skill to have at such a young age. The continuing battle to find that third golden ticket is now reaching fever pitch...with only two weeks to go, there are still three tickets to be found!



This week Years 5 and 6 spent the morning at BGS, taking part in their Science Week event. They enjoyed the adventure and practical investigations and were full of their morning's learning. Jumping with all your might to shake the floor to create volcanic tremors and panning for gold seemed to be the favourite activities, even if they later discovered that their precious hoard was fools' gold!

Not to be outdone, Year 2 had a great time on Wednesday afternoon testing their skills of 'thinking like scientists' with balloons, fizzy and bicarbonate of soda... They were having a fabulous time and came up with some marvellous predictions and observations. It was, indeed, one of George's Marvellous Experiments.



Reception and Class 1 have been marvelling over the arrival of quails, who pecked their way out of their shells to make a perfectly timed 'life cycles' science experience over the week. They were busily testing the theory of being able to calm new chicks by reading them stories on Wednesday... they didn't seem to like the one about the great Fire of London...

Our Achievement Assembly this week was filled with glowing reports and certificates after a fortnight of after school competitions. Mr Williams (who runs our chess club) couldn't wait to tell me on Wednesday morning how proud he was of the sportsmanship and talents of his team when they played in their tournament at Crossdale School. Watching them play in their session, bright and early on Wednesday, it was clear to see that his 'grand master tactic teaching' was really paying off – the concentration was incredible!

Miss Johnston had certificates for the Year 3/4 children who had taken part in last week's 'Invasion Festival'. After being reassured that this did not involve Vikings or warfare and was merely a sporting term, we were delighted to award certificates to yet more fabulous Willow Brook representatives who had enjoyed an evening of sport and, for some of them, had represented the school for the very first time.

Our final awards of the day went to twelve children who had been recognised in a writing competition held by the local Rotary Club. In particular we need to mention Robert Broadhead in our Reception class and Ellie Cooke in Year 6, who won first place prizes and positively beamed as they came out to receive them. (Actually Ellie threw her arms up in a mix of shock and elation...and then beamed!) It is clear that we have some very talented children who take pleasure in their achievements and make us all very proud.

Next Friday is Red Nose Day and there's a lot of talk about 'deeley boppers', pug red nose t-shirts and general fundraising revelry! Just a reminder that we would encourage you to donate to this great cause by buying a red nose from Sainsbury's and match it to a red nose/red coloured outfit and we will be a vision in red! The children have already asked if there can be cakes, which will be sold/exchanged for a worthy donation to this great cause. Get planning, baking and preparing for a happy Friday.



Just a couple of requests from teachers and the office...

We have tightened up on PE kit over the last couple of weeks and everyone looks far better equipped to safely scale the heights of the new apparatus. Please make sure that PE kits are kept in school so that children have access to them every day – we are even happy to house them over the weekends. Sometimes lessons are moved and extra sessions added and it can be difficult to find spare kits if bags have been taken home.

Mrs Phillips would like to make a plea for dinner money to be sent with your child on a Monday if possible. Whilst you can always add dinner requests midweek if necessary, it makes admin much quicker and saves some children being confused about what they are having.

The Friends of Willow Brook are busy with the Trail Run this Sunday – please feel free to offer some help if you have chance. They also have a meeting on Monday evening at 6.30pm if you are interested in joining the group. And, of course, next Friday is the school disco!

Have a great weekend.

Louise Ballard