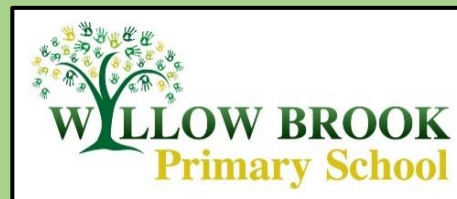


Willow Brook News

December 1st 2017



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Dear Parents and Carers,

December has arrived! Miss Johnston, in her role as the teacher who gets most excited about advent, has the festive music on and the mince pies out and, in the words of Johnny Mathis, it's beginning to feel a bit like Christmas! I hope this newsletter explains quite comprehensively what's happening in school over the next three weeks so that you and the children can get ready and enjoy all that is planned.

As you may know, next Friday (**8th December**) has been declared a wear your own clothes day in return for a bottle or chocolate for the stalls at the Christmas Fair. A team from the Friends of Willow Brook do a superb job and their work to prepare for the event on Saturday **16th December** has already begun.

You should have received a letter today with an order form for tickets for our two Christmas productions. The Junior performance, starring Year 2 to Year 6 takes place on the evenings of **12th, 13th and 14th December** at 6.30pm with an afternoon performance on Wednesday 13th at 2pm. Rehearsals are well under way and the children are excited and can't wait to transport you to the alpine village of Stumbledore! Children are asked to be back at school no earlier than 6.10pm on these evenings. Our after-school club finishes at 6pm and children will not be able to come into school before that time. Tickets and seats are numbered to prevent the need for an audience rush! As you may know, tickets are always in demand for our school plays and we'd love to open the doors to as many members of the family as we can. We do our best to run a very fair allocation system and ask that you are patient as we make sure that all families have a chance to buy two tickets before we sell the rest.

Miss Hackett has already sent out requests for help with costumes and we thank you for your kindness in sourcing some unusual items of Bavarian dress! Costumes can be brought into school from Monday next week and we hope that everyone will be kitted out by our dress rehearsal on **Monday 11th**. If you have any difficulties, PLEASE contact Miss Hackett or your child's class teacher before this date and we will do our best to help.

Our infant production, which this year also features some marvellous little performers from our pre-school, will transport you to Bethlehem on **Tuesday 19th December** at 2.15pm and 6.30. The same procedures apply when it comes to timings and tickets.

Once rehearsals are over, there are plenty of events planned during school time until the end of term. On Wednesday **20th December** we are having our traditional whole school Christmas party. Children will be encouraged to bring their party gear and a small contribution to a light buffet and party the afternoon away in festive style!

On Thursday **21st December** the whole school sits down together to eat Christmas dinner! This is served by the teachers and T.A.s and always makes for a happy hour. Dinner has been ordered for your child unless you have told the office that you do not wish to have a hot meal. The cost of the meal is £2.29 for all pupils who pay for dinners. To add to the Christmas sparkle, we have declared this our Christmas jumper day! Perk your uniform up with some festive knit wear and bring a donation of £1, which will be given to the wonderful Salvation Army charity collection.

Finishing the term with the Salvation Army Band is one of the highlights of my year. For those of you celebrating their first Christmas at Willow Brook, we gather in the playground on Friday **22nd December** at 2.45pm and enjoy carolling together. Former Willow Brook families still like to return to start the holidays with us and you would be most welcome.

Year 3 have been busily mastering the art of violin playing this term and have really enjoyed plucking and bowing! (Much to their own surprise as well as their parents!) If your child is in Class 3 and you would like to hear their final performance, there will be a short showcase of their talent on **Friday 15th December** at 9.15am. Similarly, if your child has been in the Rattle and Roll lunchtime classes this term they will be showing off a few of their best pieces in an assembly on **Thursday 7th December** at 9.15am. You are more than welcome to join us and applaud their achievements. Children in Class 5 will be working with employees from Mars (as in the chocolate company, not the planet...) on **December 14th** and I know that Miss Hackett will be sending details to her parents so that they can share their culinary skills at the end of that school day. Watch out for further details.

Hopefully, this covers all that you need to know... it's quite a list... but please get in touch if you are unsure of any arrangements or if this is your first Willow Brook Christmas and I haven't explained things clearly enough. A calendar of events is available on our website, so if this letter falls off the fridge door, dates and times are published. There will, of course, be plenty of other things happening... our Willow Brook Christmas quiz... a wonderfully warm afternoon of carols by candlelight...the choir singing for Probus in the village, to name but a few... but these things are especially for the children and I'm sure they will enjoy every minute.

A newsletter would not be complete without a plea from the office and this time they would like to remind you that, should your child be absent from school, we would be grateful if you would telephone or email the office before registers are finished at 9.30am. This call needs to be made every day until your child returns. It is our policy to contact you if your child is not registered by 9.15am – this is especially important to ensure the safety of older children who are walking to school by themselves.

I hope you enjoy all that has been planned as we head towards the end of term. Keep an eye on the website for reports and updates about our busy days. Thank you too, for your support and help.

Enjoy!

With best wishes,