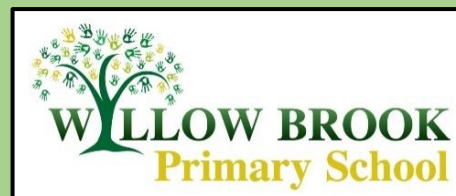


# Willow Brook News

February 2nd 2018

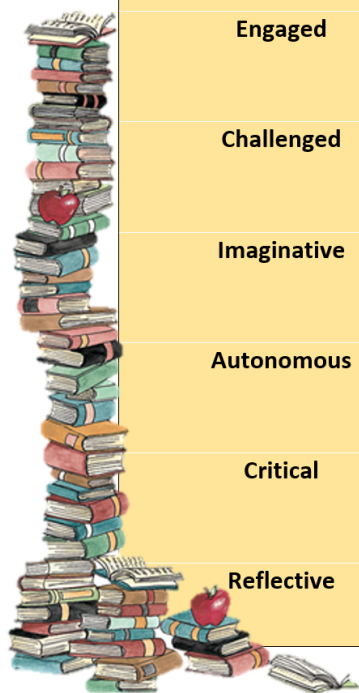


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Dear Parents and Carers,

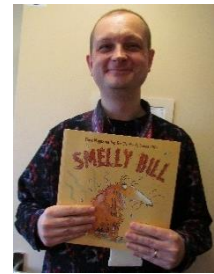
We are coming to the end of a rather busy couple of weeks at Willow Brook and days have been filled with plenty of hard work and out of the ordinary goings-on!

Thank you for all the positive feedback following our Reading Information Evening earlier this week. Explaining the Willow Brook vision as well as giving you an insight into how you can work in partnership with us, was a positive step forward. I have had requests for handouts from the evening from a number of parents who could not attend and would just like to say that the PowerPoint used (with brief notes) will be uploaded to our school website. To re-ignite the love of some good books, as well as introducing some new titles, the teachers have each produced a Top Ten of recommended books for their year group. These will also be uploaded on the website and the children should all receive posters this week to bring home. I'd like to leave you with a document that we have at the heart of our school improvement plan – our vision statement for reading. Again, this is included on the school website, but in the light of all that has been shared this week, I thought it would be good for you to have it to hand.



<b>A Willow Brook reader is...</b>	<b>A Willow Brook reader is encouraged to...</b>	<b>Teachers foster readers at Willow Brook by...</b>	<b>Parents foster readers at Willow Brook by...</b>
<b>Resilient</b>	Regularly <b>explore</b> different text types	Providing <b>authentic opportunities</b> for reading <u>on a daily basis</u>	<b>Reading with their child</b> throughout all primary school years as much as possible
<b>Engaged</b>	<b>Choose</b> their preferred styles of books	Having a <b>genuine and consistent</b> interests into children's' reading	Encouraging reading to be an <b>enjoyable experience</b> at home where stories can be <b>shared</b>
<b>Challenged</b>	<b>Recall</b> their favourite authors/books	<b>Committing</b> to being up to date and fresh with <b>children's literature</b>	<b>Discussing and talking</b> about stories and the meanings behind them
<b>Imaginative</b>	<b>Know</b> their preferred styles and conditions for reading	<b>Reading aloud</b> to their class <u>on a daily basis</u> to open up the world of story telling	Encouraging <b>meaning making</b> by exploring all aspects of a story including the pictures
<b>Autonomous</b>	Have <b>ownership</b> over their reading	Planning and delivering skilled lessons that <b>promote achievement</b> in reading	<b>Reading stories aloud</b> to their children, modelling storytelling
<b>Critical</b>	Know <b>their rights</b> as a reader	<b>Modelling</b> themselves as readers in the classroom	Allowing children access to a <b>wide range of texts</b> , becoming familiar with local libraries
<b>Reflective</b>	<b>Engage</b> with recommendations and advice for reading	Promoting a <b>positive, accessible, inviting</b> reading environment	Promoting a <b>positive attitude</b> towards reading that focuses on the motivation to read

Thursday's 'Read Aloud Day' was another cracking success! Parents and governors did just that... and the school was alive with the sound of stories. Mr Rabbitts and Mr Harris added to the joy in assembly by reading their favourite childhood books and the children loved the comedy of their stories before Miss Hackett settled down in the reading chair to introduce our main book for the morning – *How to Live Forever*.



Children responded with guided activities, artwork and then retold ingenious tales of their own. To all those who joined us for the last session of the day and read aloud to groups and individuals, we thank you most sincerely! Your enthusiasm and interaction was just marvellous. Whenever possible, every classroom at Willow Brook ends its day with a story – there's nothing better than that feeling of not being able to wait for the next chapter or relaxing and hearing a great tale. Our Read Aloud Day proved just that!



Another reminder that March 1<sup>st</sup> is, of course, World Book Day and our Dr Seuss themed 'Oh the Places You'll Go!' will celebrate the different worlds where good stories are set. You may decide to stick to the Seuss theme and twist a costume out of one of his stories... a Horton or a Who... a red fish (or blue?), a Lorax or a Fox in Socks or maybe have a Wocket for your Pocket... Should this not inspire, your thinking may wander off to create a 'place you might go' and dress up ready for the destination of another good book. Whatever your book, imagine an outfit to show it off!

Years 3 and 4 are packed and ready to go on their residential on February 14th. There was certainly an air of excitement at last night's preparation meeting and the children (and teachers!) are looking forward to sleepless night and plenty of adventure and fun! May I politely remind those in debt that the final balance of £61 is now due and should be returned, together with your completed medical and consent forms, before departure.

Miss Johnston has battled through some poorly days this week but has made sure that her teams did not miss out on evenings of cricket and Football! It is great to see so many growing talents in our extra-curricular clubs - I particularly enjoyed watching some familiar netball skills coming back into play on Friday evening with our parent run club. (Well done, Tamsin and Tammy!) I must also mention Junior Hayden in year 4 who has been asked to attend county trials for chess. Mr Williams is very proud of his clever team! I am so grateful (and I imagine you will share my sentiment) that Willow Brook staff continue to work above and beyond their teaching week and spend their evenings and lunchtimes running clubs and introducing new interests and opportunities – their positive enthusiasm motivates so many.

Have a very happy weekend. I hope you get time to relax and enjoy a good book...

*Louise Ballard*