

# Willow Brook News

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Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you have had a great Christmas and are slowly getting back into the January routine. Term has started on a very positive note and the week has already seen plenty of new things afoot! The Curriculum Enrichment Timetable for the half term ahead is attached and you'll see a range of clubs and activities for the children to get involved in. We try to cover a good variety of skills and ages and appreciate that, in a bid to fit everything into a week, there may be more than one activity on the same day. This is often due to staff availability, so we apologise if there are tricky choices to be made!

Miss Phillips has been busy promoting positive play at lunchtimes and our oldest children are now in training as her apprentices! She offers a programme of outside sports and games every day which makes the playground an energetic and happier place to be.

You should by now have received this half term's Learning Letter from your child's class teacher which details topic work and what's on the agenda for the next 6 weeks. Years 3 and 4 will be looking forward to their residential trip to Beaumanor Hall in the week before half term and Mr Jones and Miss Brearey will have further details on their plans next week. The Year 5 and 6 children have a new adventure to look forward to this summer – there's a trip to Whitby planned for the week of July 16<sup>th</sup> and staff will be in touch over this half term to give you more details. And not forgetting our younger children, Years 1 and 2 will have a small overnight camping adventure at Willow Brook in the last week of June. Exciting!

We have a number of dates in the school diary to promote our 2018 reading agenda and, to get this started, we would like to invite you to an information event on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January** at 6.30pm. Our aim is to share with you how reading is taught and tested throughout the school, the new plans we have to ensure reading at the heart of our school day and how home and school can work together to develop a life-long love of books. Wherever your child is in their Willow Brook journey, we hope you will find this informative and inspiring. Whilst we are on the theme, **February 1<sup>st</sup>** is national Read Aloud day and we hope to get you involved if you have the skills and passion to come and (as the name suggests...) read aloud! More details will follow.

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** is, of course, World Book Day and tentative plans are being made to have a Seuss themed 'Oh the Places You'll Go!' day. I know Mrs Roper and Mrs Phillips got quite excited at the prospect of being Thing 1 and Thing 2...

My final plea, as always, is from the office. As you know, if your child is absent from school, we ask that you ring in as soon as possible on each day of their absence. If you have brought a sibling to school, we'd be grateful if you would pop in and tell the office staff rather than simply reporting it to teachers in the playground. Often messages forget to be relayed. Thank you.

Here's to a happy and hard-working half term!