

Willow Brook News

July 13th 2018



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Dear Parents and Carers,

The school year is starting to feel complete, and with a residential trip and our Leavers' Assemblies left on the calendar, that long list of dates is coming to a close!



Our new children have now made three visits to school and have enjoyed getting to know their surroundings and older children in the Willow Brook family. They were so grown up as they came to their first assembly and seemed very 'at home'!



Our Open Afternoon was a busy one and children were proud to show off their work as well as venture into their new classrooms. The children moving up with Miss Hackett and Miss Johnston enjoyed a morning in their new space. Again, I apologise for Miss Bearey's absence – the plan is still to have Year 2 make a second visit and meet her next week so that they feel prepared and ready for the new term. Willow Brook staff work as such a close knit team there are rarely problems with moving on. They know teachers well through joint projects and after school's clubs and year groups often mix and share topic work. This is all designed with transition in mind and has such a positive impact.

Your support at the Book Fair on Open Afternoon was much appreciated and generated commission of over £450 for the school to spend on new titles – the staff enjoyed their shop! Mrs Hollingshead made a fabulous £125 selling cream teas and this has been donated to Cancer Research.



Sports Day was, as ever, a splendid afternoon full of fun and friendly rivalry. It is good to see that the competitive talk was high but stood alongside plenty of smiles and handshakes as the prizes were awarded! Even the Parents' Race showed true grit and high Olympic

values! Miss Johnston and Miss Phillips did a great job of putting together a mix of speed, team and fun and I am very grateful for their talents and energy. Thank you for joining us and enjoying a sunny Willow Brook afternoon.



On Tuesday afternoon, our skilled bridge teams took part in their first competition. With the rise of our chess success this year, we were looking forward to seeing if this new game of strategy was as exciting. It didn't disappoint and our young bridge players were full of great skill and cunning!

As you'll see from the photo, the winning team was very proud of the trophy and is already scheming and working out its strategies for September. The wonderful ladies who run the club are offering a 3 week beginners course at the start of the next year and I'm sure the squad will soon be complete.



The Music Concert last night was a perfect end to the week! Always one of my favourite Willow Brook evenings, it showed off the talents and confidence of young performers and, more than ever, showed the power of music to bring pleasure and raise self-esteem. Our youngest performer was Ava who is just 5 years old – she was a marvellous member of the ukulele group! Jonah, from Year 1 took the hall by storm drumming his way through 'We Will Rock You!' and then our seasoned professionals from higher up the school showed us what 5 more years of experience sounded like! The Junior Choir continues to impress with its volume and standard and, whilst they were all very marvellous, Grace in Year 6 did an amazing job of a solo in Hey Jude. I was extremely proud. Well done, Willow Brook musicians – you really are a talented lot!

Talking of talent, today the staff have finished shortlisting from the mass of entries for the Willow Brook 2018 Short Story competition. It's been a tough choice, but hopefully our final next Friday will be an exciting one. There are some weird and wonderful tales of the unexpected and it has been great to see how this half term's topic has inspired the imagination!



All that's left is to remind you of some events over the weekend...Tonight is our Summer Social - please join us on the field between 6 and 9pm. All of our children have pieces of art entered in the Keyworth Show and I'm looking forward to hearing tomorrow that we have some winners! Years 5 and 6 have their bags to pack ready for Monday – they are going to have a fabulous adventure in Whitby and we wish them a safe and happy trip.

Have a great weekend,

Louise Ballard