

Willow Brook News

June 22nd 2018



Willow Brook, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5BB. Telephone: 01159149889. office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Meet our Year 6 DARE graduates! After an exciting 9 week course with P.C. Appleyard, they treated the rest of the school to a lively assembly full of the many life-lessons that they had mastered. Well done, Year 6!



In a bid to get the children engaged in story writing, we have launched our own 'Tales of the Unexpected' short story competition. The children should have received a letter inviting them to enter and all the details that they need and we hope that you will encourage them to put pen to paper! We are all about words and ideas and won't be worrying too much about spelling and grammar. In assembly this week we listened to the winners of the BBC's 500 Words competition and this inspired us. There's still plenty of more story examples to listen to if you go online. The top entries will be read in our grand final on **Friday 20th July** and parents of the finalists will be invited to share the moment.

With the final few weeks of the summer term in sight, there are other dates that should be on your calendar...

Our final inset day of the year takes place on **Monday 2nd July**. For your information inset days for the next academic year have now been set and approved by governors and will be:

Wednesday 5th September

Friday 15th February

Monday 3rd June

Monday 1st July

Wednesday 4th July is our whole school sports day. If you have never experienced this before, this is an afternoon where we encourage some gentle competition and stamina and enjoy cheering on the races! Please arrive at 1.20pm for a 1.30pm start.

Thursday 5th July is a busy day in school. Children will spend the morning visiting their new classrooms and hearing all about the exciting things (and the challenges!) that await them in September. They get a chance to ask questions and explore new surroundings as well as completing some work for their new teacher and usually arrive at lunchtime thoroughly excited about the year ahead!

This leads beautifully into our **Open Afternoon on that day** when you are invited to come and meet your child's new teacher and ask any questions that you may have. Whilst children bring their work home at the end of the school year, you are welcome to look through their books and, having received their annual written report the day before, you will have the opportunity to raise any issues or concerns. School will be open from 2.15pm and some classes are planning to share a few live performances with you from 2.30pm! Mrs Hollingshead will be serving her traditional cream teas, the uniform suppliers will be available to take your orders for September and the Scholastic Book Fair will be set up in the hall. Teachers will be available until 4.30pm. If you are unable to come due to other commitments and would like to have a

conversation with a member of staff, please get in touch and we would be more than happy to make arrangements.

Thursday 12th July is our annual Music Concert. As well as being wowed by our choir, children who take part in instrumental lessons will be invited to perform. It is always a popular evening and, I must admit, one of my favourites! This starts at 6.30pm and the final applause is usually around 8pm.

The Friends of Willow Brook have their Summer Social organised for **Friday 13th July**. Again, if this is something that you have never experienced, come and enjoy a family evening on the field. More details and tickets will be available from the committee in due course. They have raised a remarkable amount of money this year thanks to some dedicated and hard-working members! We are about to embark on our project to improve our outdoor facilities and their contributions will enable the school to add more to the vision. I am sure that if you feel inspired, Tom Caven-Atack, the chairman, would be more than willing to give you details of how you could get involved in next year's calendar.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children will be off on their residential trip to Whitby on **Monday 16th July**. There is a Parents Information Evening to give you details of what we have planned during the experience on Tuesday (**26th June**). Next Thursday and Friday our youngest children are experiencing their first residential as they camp together on the school field with the 'Wildthings' organisation. This will give lots of them the experience of staying away from home for the first time and enables them to learn so many new skills together in the guise of a sleepover! Education is not all about reading and writing and we are pleased that we have fulfilled our promise to provide all of our year groups with a residential AND a day trip. Important lessons about self-organisation and social interaction stand alongside new experiences and awareness of exciting places and people. We aim to do the same next year.

School breaks up for the summer holiday on **Wednesday 25th July**. This is traditionally a happy day that celebrates achievement and attendance and our Year 6 leavers' assembly will be a fitting goodbye to the 21 children who are moving on to secondary school. Their parents are invited to share this (often tearful) occasion at 9.45am.

Our new reception class join us for the first time on Monday afternoon. Their first time together gives parents as well as children a chance to get to know one another and experience Willow Brook for real! Mrs Sampson is looking forward to a full class! As we focus attention on next year it seems the right time to let you know where our other staff will be teaching next year:

Year R: Mrs Sampson
Year 1: Miss Weston
Year 2: Miss Johnston
Year 3: Miss Brearey
Year 4: Mr Jones
Year 5: Mrs Walsh
Year 6: Miss Hackett

As well as responding to the needs of different cohorts and teachers considering their own career developments, we look to play to the strengths of our current team and make changes if and as required. Sadly, Mrs Myring will be having a Willow Brook break after being a brilliant Year 6 job share over the last few years. Her experience and teaching talent will be missed, but it is exciting that she is moving on to start her own business where her strong skills will be put to good use in a totally different environment!

There's no doubt that the journey to the end of term will be a busy one! There's still a lot to learn and a calendar full of activities and events to get involved in. Let's hope the sun shines all the way!

Have a great weekend,

Louise Ballard