

Willow Brook News

May 11th 2018



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Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been a fortnight full of adventure at Willow Brook and plenty of new experiences and successes! I know that I only have the space to cover but a few in a newsletter but here goes...

Last night I had the pleasure of taking our two teams of netballers to the schools' tournament. After a term full of excellent coaching they certainly showed their potential and all had a splendid evening together. Tamsin and Tammy have been instrumental in bringing a great sport back to Willow Brook and I think that this time next year, they will have a winning team!



Whilst I was busy shouting on the side-lines of the netball courts, Miss Weston and Miss Hackett were making their way back from Skegness with a coach full of tired Year 2's! I understand that they did, indeed, 'like to be beside the seaside'! They visited the Seal Sanctuary, the Wildlife Park and the RLNI station as well as the beach and I know from your emails and kind messages that they had a super day! I think my favourite photos were full of children with legs buried in the sand and eating sandy picnics. In an age where children are so often attached to phones and screens, it was a great reminder that just being out with friends and having some traditional fun is still a fantastic way to spend the day. Last night school received a message from the RLNI which simply read, *'We hope you enjoyed your visit to our lifeboat station and that what we provided met your expectations. We certainly enjoyed having you and the children were a credit to both you and the school.'* That made me very proud. Thank you again to the 11 parents who braved the day and added to our safeguarding. Your time and energy was very much appreciated.



We always like to hear of children's successes outside of school and often celebrate by showing medals and certificates in assembly. Since I last wrote, Kayla and Chellie have competed in an RDA horse riding and dressage event. Whilst Chellie was a former national champion and performed really well again, this time Kayla took first place and will be moving on to the next rounds. Well done to both of you! You look incredibly smart!



As I write, some of the Friends of Willow Brook are busily preparing for tomorrow's Spring Fair and Plant Sale. With the Keyworth Trail Run happening at the same time, it is going to be a busy morning! The Fair will be open between 10 and 12 – do come along and support the school. The funds that the Friends group raise help us to afford the 'wish-list' that is often beyond the reach of the budget. Our plans to install an outside canopy and all weather play area on the field over the summer will be the next project that funding will support.



Next week our Year 6 children will take their end of key stage 2 SATs tests. As is always the case, we recognise the importance of this milestone but also know that the 40 minutes that they beaver away in a maths test after 7 hard-working years is in no way a perfect reflection of their talents and progress. Our Teacher Assessments stand alongside their official results and I know that their end of year reports will a reflect a whole host of successes that summarise their time with us. We have every faith that next week they will do their best and, in doing that, we will be proud. They are ready and raring to go! Their morning's next week are as detailed below. May I ask parents of Year 6 children to notify us early if there are any problems with illness or late arrival.

Monday 14 th May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling test Paper 1: short answer questions (45 minutes) Paper 2: spelling (15 minutes)
Tuesday 15 th May	English reading test Paper 1: Reading comprehension (60 minutes)
Wednesday 16 th May	Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic (30 minutes) Paper 2: reasoning (40 minutes)
Thursday 17 th May	Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning (40 minutes)

Our Year 2 pupils will take part in key stage 1 SATs before the end of May. Whilst reading and maths have official test papers, they serve to help us to form teacher assessments and we deliver the papers in a way that will cause no pressure and little worry.

Before I finish, may I just take this opportunity to remind you that the Monday after half term (June 4th) is an inset day. All other diary dates are listed in April newsletters, which can be found on the school website.

Thank you once again for all that you do to support us. Trips and sports, fairs and trail runs would not be possible without your time and effort.

Enjoy the weekend!

Louise Ballard