

Willow Brook News

May 25th 2018



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I had the pleasure of bumping into a 21-year-old ex-Willow Brook pupil earlier this week who reminisced happily about summer days at primary school. He talked about the excitement of being allowed the space and freedom of the field... afternoon games of rounders and cricket... end of the day story sessions in the sunshine under the conker trees... bug hunting by the brook... all perfect childhood memories that disappear as you move on to secondary school. And in a world of education that moves on at such a pace, it made me smile to think that some of these small but essential pleasures are still, as you can see, very much at the heart of a Willow Brook summer's day. As year 6 embark on their last few weeks in our company, I hope that they will treasure similar moments.



The past fortnight has been full of test and assessments. A busy time indeed. I would like to congratulate our fabulous year 6 children who seemed to work their way through each hour with confidence and calm. We try our best to create a learning approach that reflects our high expectations but works alongside a carefully paced and unpressured working environment. Even our Year 2 children tackled reading and maths papers this week with their usual exuberance! Both classes are a credit to us all.

Year 6 are currently working hard on their D.A.R.E. graduation assembly on June 12th. They are excited at the thought of sharing their achievements with their parents... your invitations will be in the post! This will be at 9,30 am. Similarly, as always, parents of our leavers are welcome to the final assembly on the last Wednesday of the summer term (25th) at 10am. Make sure the dates are in your diary.

After a successful Spring Fair and Trail Run, our Friends of Willow Brook team are busily preparing for their next fundraising event. The Summer Social is a great evening for all the family and will take place on Friday 13th July. Order forms for tickets will be available after half term. The last school disco of the year is booked and children will be able to dance the night away on Friday 15th June!

The office is in the midst of preparing to sign up to a cashless system which will, hopefully by September, enable you to pay for dinners, trips and tickets online. We are going to trial a 30-day period at the end of June. Mrs Phillips won't know what to do with herself on a Monday, but I am sure that this will make life easier for you.

And so to next half term... our whole school topic... and one that many teachers are looking forward to. Learning Letters will give you fuller details during the first week back but here's a taste of our big idea...



'When convention and science offer us no answer, might we realise that there are realities we don't know yet and learn to explore the fantastic as a plausibility...' Agent Scully – the X Files. In this engaging whole school topic, we'll explore the possibility of the unexplained phenomena that has fascinated us over the centuries. For those who claim to have seen the Loch Ness Monster and a Yeti to the drama of extra-terrestrial possibilities, we'll wonder what happened to the crew of the Mary Celeste or inhabitants of the Lost City of Atlantis, debate whether mermaids or Hobbits exist, wonder how crop circles, deja vu and dreams occur and explore how storytellers and film crews can report, intrigue and persuade.

Get ahead of the game... do some investigating and thinking and who knows what might happen!

And finally... As many of you know, Miss Tarrant has a very special half term holiday ahead of her. She will get married on May 30th and return to us fully transformed into Mrs Sampson! I know she will not mind being called 'Miss Tarrant' by some little people until they get use to her new identity in September... I'm sure you will join with the staff in sending congratulations and wishing her all the best for a wonderful day. We will miss her daily 'wedding countdown' and the long range weather forecasts we have enjoyed of late...!

Please remember that the Monday after half term (June 4th) is an inset day. All other diary dates are listed in previous newsletters, which can be found on the school website. Please note that the school website will be down for a couple of days after the weekend so that it can 'move house' and fall in line with the new GDPR laws.

I wish you a wonderful half term break – enjoy your children's company and have plenty of adventures wherever you may find yourselves. I hope we get the sunshine back at some point!

Best wishes,

Louise Ballard