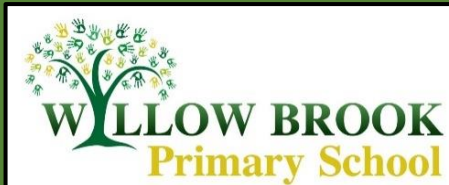


# Willow Brook News

November 30<sup>th</sup> 2018



Willow Brook, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5BB. Telephone: 01159149889. [office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

On the day before the start of advent, there is indeed a strong feeling and anticipation that 'it's about to arrive!' at Willow Brook...

The school productions are well underway and the hall flips between Stoney Street, Rock Bottom and High Street, Bethlehem quite effortlessly now! You should have received a letter about tickets today – the box office will be open on Monday. PLEASE make sure these order forms go back to your child's class teacher – they will take priority over any left at the office window. As is always the polite plea at this time of year, please be patient with this process. We aim to be fair and thoughtful with seating allocation but with a growing population in school, there will not be the space to offer many excess tickets. We will let you know as soon as any unsold tickets become available.

The choir have been fulfilling their Christmas tour dates to rave reviews! They opened last Friday's school fair with some bounce and will perform in the village square at 4.30pm tomorrow for Keyworth's festivities. With one more date in the diary to lead the BGS carol service on December 13<sup>th</sup> and solos to be performed at our annual Carols by Candlelight assembly, it's been a busy season! This Tuesday (4<sup>th</sup> December) will be our last choir rehearsal of the year.

For those of you who braved the happy crush of the Willow Brook Christmas Fair last week, I'd like to thank you for your support and for adding to a very happy, community focused event! I would like to thank Sam and Zoe for their determination in making the event happen and their organising skills; the team under the brilliant direction of Lucy Shears who worked in the chill and the fading light to serve luxury hot chocolate and hot dogs; for the many parents who gave up their afternoon to help us set up...move the piano in to the playground... glitter faces... and run some cracking stalls (how quickly did that chocolate raffle sell out?! ) and to Tamsin Armour who spent the rest of the evening counting the proceeds and who delivered the wonderful news that we had raised over £1,800! The four lots in the Silent Auction raised £291 alone and I'm looking forward to making sure these prizes are thoroughly enjoyed. The Christmas dinner Star Table will be golden, glittery and festive, the front row seats at the school play will be in pride of place, the Alonso children will have the honour of 'ringing out the old and ringing in the new' and I'm thoroughly looking forward to handing over my office for a morning in January to Miss Garcia-Hernandez who will be taking on the role of headteacher! Whilst the staff are gradually getting over not winning the giant teddy bear in the raffle, we understand it is being well loved in its new home. Miss Johnston eventually got used to the fact that she'd won a butchers voucher instead and I'm sure my gym pass will come in handy after the Christmas holidays... Yet again, your generosity in so many different ways will contribute towards making a difference in school for your children by allowing us to buy (as the Chancellor put it in his budget speech) 'those little extras'.

Many people have asked about whether the Salvation Army will be visiting Willow Brook on the last afternoon of term. As I always say, Christmas cannot begin until they have played 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', so they will be here on the afternoon of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Decemeber. The day before is our Christmas dinner day and I would like to suggest that this is also our Christmas jumper day and that the £1 traditionally collected for a nominated charity will be given to the Salvation Army on Friday. As well as making us very happy at the end of term, they do an incredible job as an organisation in supporting people in crisis and I couldn't think of a more deserving cause to receive our donations. **The office staff would be grateful if you would let them know if your child will NOT be having a Christmas dinner on 20<sup>th</sup> December.** For those who are new to Willow Brook, our Christmas dinner is the one day of the year the whole school sit together, (staff and children) and enjoy the traditional turkey, crackers and sprouts! It's not to be missed!

Year 1 and Class R had a wonderfully sunny wintry walk on Monday as they ventured off to Sherwood Forest. They were delighted to meet Robin Hood and came back full of tales of Christmas and the woods.



Mrs Sampson is nervously counting down the days to the start of her maternity leave. We keep trying to reassure her that once she has a little one of her own that she will stop worrying quite so much about the 28 little ones she is leaving behind! Last week I'm delighted to say that the school appointed 2 members of staff to share the EYFS teaching role in her absence. Mrs Natalie Cotton will be taking the lead and teaching for 3 days and Mrs Julia Nicholls will be working in partnership to complete the week. Natalie will be coming in to school to meet further with Mrs Sampson and will also meet the Year R parents before the end of term. I have no doubt that Reception are going to be just as happy in her care.

Have a great weekend and don't forget to come and support the Willow Brook choir tomorrow in the square! Sam Kaye has also organised a stall on behalf of The Friends of Willow Brook which will be selling the Christmas decorations that the children made this week and that you so kindly filled with treats. They look splendid!

With very best wishes,

Louise Ballard