

Willow Brook News

February 8th 2019



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Dear Parents and Carers,

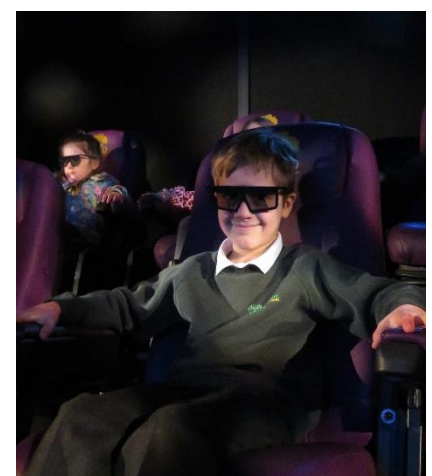
The end of the first half term of 2019 is just about in sight, and what a wonderfully packed and active few weeks it has proved to be!

I have enjoyed sharing a whole host of learning experiences with different classes since Christmas and this week I had the ultimate pleasure of Year 3's company at the chocolate factory! It is safe to say that we had a ball! The fact that Cadbury's Dairy Milk was lavished upon us every time we turned a corner just made the children's (and headteacher's) joy more complete. As you will see from the photos, we ate chocolate, wrote our names in chocolate, drank chocolate, watched grown-ups make chocolate and even went on 4D rides that launched us through chocolate skies... and all in the name of a fabulous half term topic.

Reception have had a number of visitors over the past week who have told them all about being an 'ordinary superhero' in their daily work. They have welcomed medics and town planners, and on Thursday Reception's rapture was complete as they piled into a police car, sounded the sirens and donned riot gear! Thank you to all of our parents who kindly gave their time to come and share their talents and careers with the children. You were inspiring.

As you may be aware, Miss Weston has been absent this half term due to mobility problems connected with her pregnancy. Mrs Jones has taken charge of Year 1 and their many Elmer adventures over the past couple of weeks have been exciting! Mrs Hollingshead and I had the pleasure of helping them to make and decorate Elmer biscuits and we soon discovered that patchwork icing was not easy...especially when Year 1 fingers kept poking the icing! As it is becoming more likely that Miss Weston's recovery will not be complete until after her baby has been born, Mrs Jones will be staying with Year 1 until our maternity cover teacher steps into her role at the end of March.

Looking forward to the weeks ahead, can I give you another reminder that next Friday the school will be closed due to inset training. I am also attaching full details of our World Book Day plan so that you can start thinking over the holidays! Last year, snow and Ofsted blighted so many of our ideas, so we will make sure that this year our celebration of great books and authors goes with a bang!



News from Friends

You will have received a list of future dates and events from our chair of Friends recently. Please make sure you have Friday 29th March in your diary for the school quiz! Get a formidable team together and see if you can come and beat the current champions. Your ticket will include a fish and chip supper and a fabulous evening's entertainment.

Work and traffic at Willow Brook

As the final touches are being made to our outdoor classroom, the early stages of our project to replace the ailing heating system are underway. A temporary boiler is currently in place, and work over half term and Easter breaks will mean that the school will be wonderfully warm next winter. This also means that the carpark has become a busy place, filled with contractors and moving machinery, and we would politely ask that parents do not use this space to collect or drop off children at the beginning or end of the school day. If you struggle for any reason, please telephone the office and a member of staff would be more than happy to accompany your child to make sure they get to you safely if you cannot get to them. Talking of cars and parking... thank you for responding to requests **not** to park opposite the zig-zag lines on Willow Brook. Whilst the local authority have visited and continue to monitor the traffic situation on Willow Brook, your decisions are crucial and your thoughtfulness for local residents and our children will make all the difference. I am sure you will agree that the safety of our young people is paramount.

Willow Brook's Medicine Policy

It has been a while since there has been a serious plea from the office staff, but our collective concerns over the past half term are perhaps worth a mention. Mrs Roper and Mrs Phillips work so very hard and will always step in (as we all would) to ensure those little extras that add to the care and happiness of your children are in place. Much of their short lunchtime has recently been spent sorting medication. Can we politely remind you that the school's Medicine Policy clearly states that staff should only administer **prescribed medication** to children with your written consent. Staff should never be asked to administer Calpol 'if necessary' and medication that can be given as a once a day morning dose (such as antihistamines) are the obvious option. Whilst we are sympathetic with and appreciate your determination to 'keep children going' when they are feeling slightly under the weather, if Calpol is needed it might just mean that a day at home to recover would be the best medicine. Please speak to us if you encounter any difficulty with the policy.

Safer Internet Day

This week Mr Jones led our focus on arming the children with positive approaches to work and play in a virtual world. What has clearly gained momentum over the past year (and was evident in the sessions the children did in their classes) is the unlimited access very young children have to a world of activity and information. We aim to follow up some of the work that was started on Tuesday and feed this back to you, but in the light of all that has been debated in the media recently, please continue to do all that you can to make your children's access and experience positive and healthy.

Have a very relaxing weekend. Enjoy your children's company and conversation and look forward to a half term holiday.

Louise Ballard

