

# Willow Brook News

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2019



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

Welcome to spring! To flowers and light evenings, warmth and a new half term. The best welcome, however, has to be to Eleanor Bessie Sampson who arrived on the afternoon of 15<sup>th</sup> February! As you can see, she is absolutely perfect and Mr and Mrs Sampson are well and wonderfully proud. She weighed a healthy 3.3 kg and I can vouch for the fact that she has a strong pair of lungs! I am sure you'll join me in congratulating Mum and Dad and I have no doubt that as soon as she is mobile again, Mrs Sampson will be keen to come and show her to you all!



Our new whole school topic was launched this week and you'll be hearing all about the adventures of the Wacky Racers as we set off in a science and engineering direction towards the Easter finish line! Dick Dastardly and Muttley were very much a part of my childhood and the vehicles they raced against will be at the heart of the inspiration for the children's design boards as we dream up and build concept cars of our own. Our STEM topic has been sponsored by Rolls Royce, who have kindly given us a grant to purchase equipment to inspire our work. They came in to work with Year 5 on Monday and the morning was a great success! It was a revelation to the children that they manufacture more than luxury cars and Class 5 are now determined to take up the challenge of designing the world's first electric powered commercial airline... Amongst other things, the project team decided to invest in a variety of K'Nex kits as well as materials and tools to build our own prototype vehicles. As well as being skilled designers, the kits will teach our young engineers about forces and physics, energy sources and gears.



Mr Jones did a whole-school science lesson this morning and taught everyone the first law of thermodynamics. (After all, if you are going to build a moving vehicle, you can't go on without it!) As you can see, even our five year olds were hanging on every word!

Let the rally begin!

Another new venture that put smiles on faces this week was our first sit under the playground canopy! Whilst the muddy field is still recovering from the winter, the area comfortably seated 60 for lunch and there was an outdoor lesson this afternoon too. Our extended-playground-gym opened just before half term, and as you will see, is busy with enthusiastic exercising children every break time! I think the project was well worth the wait...



Our Friends of Willow Brook are busily organising the school quiz night for 29<sup>th</sup> March. If you do not have your team or ticket yet, please get in touch with the office. Your £10 contribution, which goes towards supporting the budget to buy those little extras for your children, will get you a great evening of entertainment and a fish and chip supper. If you are interested in being a part of the Friends group, you'd be made more than welcome at their planning meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

Next Thursday is World Book Day and we have already announced our plans for a day full of reading and fun. As well as dressing up as your favourite story character, we are asking for grown-ups (parents or grandparents) to come and read to/with the children in school. You might like to bring your favourite story to assembly at 9.30am or arrive at 2.15pm ready for our end of the day reading session in classrooms. We have already had a couple of volunteers already, so please get in touch with the office or your child's teacher if you are willing and able.

You should have received a letter about Parents Evenings next week. We look forward to meeting with you then (and with Year 1 parents on a later date). If you are unable to attend during these two days, please speak to your class teacher about an alternative appointment.

Finally, could I just point out that our website has moved to a new platform to comply with the new laws of GDPR. If the address is saved in your browser as the /v3 version then please update this to <https://willowbrook.notts.sch.uk> to make sure that all pages load in its new format. I know that some people have experienced errors in downloading forms. This may help.

Whilst I fear the rains are coming at the weekend, I hope the joys of the first glimpse of spring have lifted your spirits! It's hard to believe that on World Book Day last year we had to shut the school because of the 'Beast From the East'...

With kind regards,