

Willow Brook News

January 18th 2019



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new year and to the Willow Brook Spring Term. For those families who have just joined us, you are especially welcome and I hope that you are already starting to feel at home! The theme of our assemblies and first 2019 Bench of Glory was '*best foot forward*' and there has already been some determined and impressive new year's work resolutions shining through.

You may notice that there were two teachers on the Bench on Monday... this was because we had two new headteachers for the morning who decided that they had rewards and certificates of their own to present! As winners of the silent auction at the Christmas Fair, Carmen and Mercedes put their best feet forward and spent a morning in my office working with great confidence! They delivered staff briefing and a great assembly before doing some lesson observations on some nervous teachers and health and safety checks with the site manager. They wisely fed the staff with orange cake at playtime and loved the fact that they could ring the bell and ask Mrs Roper and Mrs Phillips to bring them drinks! (I only wish this were something other headteachers could do!) I know that they both had a great morning and that perhaps they feel inspired to make it a reality one day.



You will be pleased to hear that Mrs Sampson has settled into a more relaxing life on maternity leave and is well. She has cleaned every cupboard, has a nursery decorated and ready, and has still found time just to check in every now and then to make sure that Reception are all just as busy as she is in her absence! Mrs Cotton and Mrs Nicholls have had a very happy week in the company of their new class and it has been lovely to pop in and see their Superhero topic getting off to a flying start!



By now, you should have received your child's new curriculum and Learning Letter for the half term ahead. Our redesigned plans have opened up a more interwoven and broad content and aim to provide challenge as well as a multi-skilled approach. All of our curriculum documents are available on the Willow Brook website and I would invite you to take a look at the many topics, ventures out of school and whole-school projects are planned in all year groups over this first half term. Year 3 were delighted to discover that they were off to explore Cadbury World as chocolate takes centre stage in their work over the next five weeks and Years 5 and 6 are already starting to talk about their 3 day outdoor adventure at Mount Cook that Miss Hackett shared with them on Monday... There is certainly a lot to look forward to!

The Village Quiz Needs You!

Once again, Willow Brook have entered the annual Keyworth Village Quiz – our first round match is on February 4th. All we need now is a team! After volunteering thinking it was a bit like a pub quiz, one of our governors was eager last year and was quite nervous to discover the buzzers and atmosphere was more akin to University Challenge! However, it is great fun and a super community event so if you feel like joining Team Willow Brook PLEASE get in touch.

Friends of Willow Brook

Our Friends Group are also planning to hold their own quiz evening later this term – a date and details to follow. The meeting that was on the Friends' calendar for next week (23rd January) will now take place on February 27th at 6pm. Please put it in your diary and join us.

Gym Membership!

After many weeks of waiting upon the services of the playground company completing the work on our field, it was fabulous to let the children use the completed gym area yesterday! Whilst the machines all looked fairly simple and effortless, even some of the older ones ran out of stamina and discovered they were not as fit as they first thought... (Not having used the gym vouchers I won in the Christmas raffle, I can sympathise!) More than anything, I hope that this just provides additional space and opportunity to be active will add to happy play times. We now patiently await delivery of the central canopy to finish the construction of the outdoor classroom.

Out of Hours

This half term's curriculum enrichment timetable has also given children in different year groups opportunities to try new things. Construction Club was quickly oversubscribed and Creative Club has already seen paint and poetry combine to provide some clever results! This is all working hand in hand with some of our more established provision... John and Jimmy Jump-Shot bring the sporting arena alive alongside the competitions and events Miss Johnston gets children of all age groups involved in... Mr Jones and Miss Brearey have Chess Club at maximum capacity, our bridge players are mastering some incredible tricks and Library Club is a wonderful place to relax and enjoy a good book. WB's continue to be busy and offer a whole range of crafts and focused activities on their weekly calendar. Just a reminder that you need to contact WB's staff if you wish to book a place or send any communication – passing on messages should not be the responsibility of the Mrs Roper or Mrs Phillips.

Inset Day Reminder

I will finish by just reminding you that the last day of this half term (February 15th) is an inset day. The staff will be busy completing training with the other schools in the Rushcliffe Learning Alliance and I hope that you will enjoy starting your half-term break one day earlier!

Kind regards and a very happy New Year,

Louise Ballard