

# Willow Brook News

June 20<sup>th</sup> 2019



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Dear All,

This final half term of the year is always such a mix of enjoying the fruits of the current academic year and making sure that the next is set up and raring to go! Year 6 are full of their visits to secondary school and today we welcomed 30 new children into the Reception classroom. Each element has excitement and a little trepidation! Staff are writing reports and completing assessments with one eye on new projects and the children they will be meeting in September.

Paula Phillips will be broadening her horizons in September and venturing to pastures new. Paula has been by my side for 18 years in one guise or another. As a parent of a child in my first class at Willow Brook, she probably stood as nervously as I did on our first morning back in 2000! As a parent help she was soon drawn in by the Willow Brook magic and with encouragement became a member of the staff team. We shared many happy afternoons together in my infant days and, in turn, her confidence has supported others. Over the past two years she has been *my* encourager as my Office Assistant... even giving herself the title of personal P.A.! After 19 years she has (quite rightly) decided to realise her dreams of term time holidays and seized a chance to explore a new work place and perhaps a more relaxed way of funding her cruises! Joking aside, I know that Willow Brook and I will miss her enormously. An advert for additional office hours to work alongside Mrs Roper is live and details are available on the school website.

And our final staffing change this year... Mrs Walsh has accepted a position on the senior leadership team of an academy in the city. I know that she is looking forward to getting back to a larger environment and we wish her well in her role. Mr Jones has accepted the offer to take up the temporary position of deputy headteacher at Willow Brook in September and I look forward to having him by my side.

After a successful term in Year 1, I am delighted to say that Miss Hayes has accepted a role in Class 6 next year. This is familiar territory for her, having previously been a primary deputy head with a Year 6 teaching responsibility. I know that the enthusiasm and hard work she has added to the team and the classroom since Easter will continue to be an asset.

Final arrangements and staff consultations will take place next week and class teachers will be ready to meet with you (and their new cohort) on Open Afternoon.

## **E Safety Event**

Thank you for your interest in the Online Safety information evening for parents on June 24<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to book your seat if you have not already done and you would be most welcome to make a last minute appearance without a reserved seat. I can thoroughly recommend the event to you. I anticipate that the evening will be no longer than an hour.

## **Friends of Willow Brook**

Our summer school disco blasts off at 6.30pm on Friday night! It is only £2.50 to get into the 'club' and I look forward to dancing the night away with the children! The tuck shop will be well stocked and I have no doubt that 'Nigel the Midnight Cruiser' will be armed with inflatable guitars and that Year 6 will never forget their final school disco!

The Friends committee met together last week. The minutes of their discussion are available on the school website.

## Home time arrangements

I would like to take this opportunity to add some clarity to the procedure we follow if you are unable to collect your child from school at the end of the day. This is particularly important if your child is in Class R or 1 where teachers monitor the handover process at 3.30pm very closely. If the expected parent/carer is not able to pick up, please telephone the office during the day or speak directly to the class teacher in the morning. Before sending text messages to organise other parents, please make the important call to school. In the same way that we contact you if your child is absent from morning registration without authorisation, we will need to make contact with you before handing your child over to a different adult. Please speak to a member of staff if you have any further comments or concerns.

## A Competitive Edge...

My final paragraph has to mention the final 14 who have made it through the early rounds of our 2019 X Factor competition. It has been a number of years since we tested the children's musical confidence in this way and the absolute joy we've experienced in the early rounds has reconfirmed the many positives it can bring. There are 5 year olds pitting their skills against Year 6 bands and the camaraderie has been superb.

Equally as marvellous are the school's mini-bridge players. They played a 2 hour tournament on Tuesday afternoon and Libby, Ivy and Lucy stormed to victory with Mrs Hollingshead by their side! Their strategic thinking and team skills were impressive.

Our whole school topic on Parliament has also started to stir a competitive forum. M.P.'s and cabinet positions were all up for election this afternoon at the top of the school and I was relieved to hear that the Willow Brook Secretary of State for Education was in safe hands by the end of the day... I can't wait for Kenneth Clarke to hear that Boris and Jeremy aren't the only ones vying for the top job!

With kind regards,

Louise Ballard

Summer Term Dates	
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	School disco
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Online Safety information evening for parents 7pm
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	SDP governors meeting 6pm
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Inset day
July 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 6 South Wolds visit days
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	End of Year Reports out to parents
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Open afternoon 2.30 – 5pm
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day 1.30pm (whole school)
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Music Concert 6.30pm
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	(Reserve sports afternoon in the event of Tuesday rain)
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Willow Brook Friends Summer Social 6.15pm
Saturday July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 leavers' party – by invitation only!
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Warburtons bread making with Year 2
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term – leavers' assembly at 9.45am
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Autumn Term begins