

# Willow Brook News

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2019



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am not quite sure where that last half term went... It was, as ever, full of activity and I apologise for not getting my May newsletter to you before we broke up for a well-deserved holiday.

Year 6 have been on top form over the past few weeks. After tackling their SATs tests with perfect Willow Brook calm and confidence, they went on to prepare and perform a D.A.R.E. graduation assembly that impressed and moved us all. The way they have supported each other and risen to their last primary school challenges is admirable and, as I told them last week, they make us all very proud. I hope that they will make the most of their last few Willow Brook weeks and enjoy a first taste of the daunting but exciting world of secondary school.

Not to be outdone in the world of performance, our Year 2 dancers represented Willow Brook with awesome enthusiasm at the recent Rushcliffe Festival! Miss Phillips worked so hard to encourage and teach them and I know her energy enabled them to shine in the spotlight! Next year, Britain's Got Talent?



Mr Jones and Miss Brearey thoroughly enjoyed the company of their children on their camp at Redwood. Getting back to nature in a clearing in the woods with a camp fire, songs, team-building games, compost toilets... and not a screen in sight, brought out their sense of adventure, and I know that many of them took brave (but happy!) steps that night. Having waited many years, Mrs Roper also experienced her first school residential and lived to tell the tale! There will be more photos on the website shortly.



Year 5 took a trip to Leicester with Mr Jones last week to explore the universe at the National Space Centre! They returned to school filled with questions and wonder – a perfect finale to their six week study.

Earlier that week, I had the pleasure of accompanying our two Pupil Parliament representatives on an exciting trip to the Houses of Parliament in London. Tom and Sami were privileged to sit in both the House of Commons and the Lords, debate a political issue and get involved with the banter between the MPs and some Brexiteers on Parliament Hill! Our whole school topic for this half term is called 'Order! Order!' and will take us all on a journey through history as we understand how the Magna Carta brought about laws and democracy. We are following a great book produced by UK Parliament and you can follow our thinking by looking at <https://www.parliament.uk/education/> As well as a new Prime Minister, who knows what other political landmarks we may encounter before July... More details will be available from your class teacher in their next Learning Letter.

Our Friends of Willow Brook, in the very busy but capable hands of Claire Fleming and her team, raised over £1,600 at the recent Spring Fair. There are so many people I need to mention... from Robert Attewell (and his Mum) who grew plants to Mrs Brown and Mr Castledine who got up at dawn to visit the wholesaler... From the parents and children who cooked and baked... those who had given time on Friday afternoons to prepare... those who had stalls and manned games and bouncy castles... those who sold raffle tickets and quiz sheets... to those who gave up their time on a Saturday morning to come and support the school, I sincerely thank you all. **Please do not forget the Friends Annual General Meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the school hall.**

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to another important date that has been added to our Summer Term calendar. As children's access to the internet becomes more a part of their daily life at an increasingly younger age, it is important that as parents and educators we understand how to keep this a safe and positive experience. To offer a greater level of expertise to both parents and staff, we have invited Lorna Naylor who works for Nottinghamshire County Council, to deliver an information evening to parents and carers. She has advised schools in the county on issues relating to cyber-bullying, social media trends, online gaming and internet safety and her insight and wisdom is well worth your time. **This will take place on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at school.** Further details will be available soon, but put the date in your diary.

Some of you will know that we were interviewing for a new member of staff in the week before half term. It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Emma Hackett is leaving us this summer. After a great deal of thought, she is taking some time out of teaching to explore different career options. We will miss her talents enormously – she has proved time and time again that she is outstanding both academically and in front of a class of children and I have watched her grow in confidence and skill as she moved from a student to senior leader at Willow Brook.

I will leave you with a reminder of the dates in the school diary for the rest of the summer term.... Please update your calendars!

Here's to a busy and positive 7 weeks.

With kind regards,

Louise Ballard

Summer Term Dates	
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Inset day
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Class group photos
Week beginning June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics screening check – Year 1
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of Willow Brook AGM 7.30pm
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	School disco
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Online Safety information evening for parents
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