

Willow Brook News

September 6th 2019



Willow Brook, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5BB. Telephone: 01159149889. office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

For those of you who are reading this as new Willow Brook parents, I would like to welcome you to our school! It has been an absolute delight to watch your children settle into their learning community. They have been marvellous! Even in their first whole school assemblies, they took everything in their stride.

For those of you who are reading this as established Willow Brook families, a most sincere 'welcome back'! Whatever your adventures, I hope you have enjoyed the company of your children over the summer. They were all bright-eyed and full of life on Tuesday, and have already made great impressions on their new teachers.

Staff News

Over the past fortnight, staff have been hard at work creating classrooms and curriculums for our September start. We were delighted to welcome Miss Harris, who has confidently taken the world of Year 5 by storm. Similarly, a big welcome to Mr Boyd, who was more than 'raring to go' with Year 1! They are already very much part of the team and we are delighted to have them. You may have also met Jo Maddock who will be working in the office alongside Zoe on a Monday and Tuesday. Feel free to introduce yourself to her. Our final piece of staff news (which I am sure the more discerning amongst you might have already suspected!) is that Miss Johnston is expecting a baby! Not wanting to be left out, Mr Jones will welcome a new arrival in December as well... For those who knew Mrs Cotton in EYFS last year, you will be thrilled to hear that baby Florence arrived 3 weeks early at the end of August! I am hoping that the recent Willow Brook 'baby-boom' is now well and truly at an end!

Happy Birthday Willow Brook!

And talking of birthdays, on Tuesday Willow Brook was 50 years old! Over the summer, the school's logbook was part of my reading list and I thoroughly enjoyed reading the musings of the first two headteachers as they built and developed their new school. Whilst it sounds a much simpler life, education in the late 60's didn't seem that dissimilar to some of our 21st century days... with far too many mentions of the boiler, the drains and wet playtimes!

We are, of course, planning to mark our 50th birthday over the next term in many different ways. This morning we launched our 50th logo design competition. This design will take pride of place on our letterhead during our 50th year as well as being used for invitations and decorations. Whilst there will be time put aside in class next week, the children have been told that they can get their artistic ideas flowing at home too and enter twice. The closing date is Monday 16th September.

The children will also be using the old school log books to find out about primary school life in the 60's and we aim to create an exhibition of our work and the many photos we have collected over the past 5 decades. It was an honour for me when I met one of the original teachers last Monday. She was full of anecdotes and warm memories that just brought the words on the pages to life. Mrs van der Colff will be coming in to work with the children too. I know they will enjoy her company. We know that many of you were once Willow Brook pupils. If you have stories to add to our exhibition collection, we'd be delighted to hear from you. The children were quite excited at the thought of leaving a time capsule of evidence for future pupils about a 2020 Willow Brook. We clearly have lots of work to do...

MacMillan Coffee Breakfast!

One important date for you to put in your diaries is our MacMillan coffee morning on September 27th. The staff run this event and the competitive teacher/TA 'Bake Off' is already causing conversation... Cake for breakfast always goes down well and the café will be open from 8.10am to 9.30am. Children are very welcome to come but will be off to registration at 8.50am as usual.



A Couple of Polite Requests

Mrs Roper would like to remind you that school meals should be paid for in advance. You are welcome to pay a lump sum towards the term or pay on a weekly basis using the School Money system. If you have any problems, get in touch.

For new parents (and a reminder for those who are not!) we would like to ask that you do not let your children play on the trim trail and gym area before and after school. Without a member of staff supervising, we do not comply with insurance or health and safety requirements. Thank you.

I'd also like to thank the parents of younger children who have gradually stood back and allowed their children to line up in the mornings without you by their side! Having a clear line of vision (especially for Class R and 1) means that children are not left behind or unable to see the member of staff leading them... that little bit of Year 1 independence is also a great thing.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

This half-term's programme of extra-curricular clubs is a busy one! Every teacher gives up an evening to offer a skill or an experience for different year groups. This will swap and change to include different classes over the year. As well as the traditional primary school pastimes, there are new sporting ventures, Mindfulness and Boom-Whackers over the next 6 weeks – a great opportunity to try something new. All that we ask is that if your child takes one of the limited places on offer, they commit themselves for the half term and see the project through. As one of our 5 C's, we think that is very important. The full programme on offer is on the school website for your information.

I imagine this weekend will see a lot of tired little people (and teachers!) but I am sure it won't take long for us all to get back into our stride.

I will leave you with a picture of the very first assembly at Willow Brook in September 1969. How familiar it all looks! I hope that Willow Brook's 50th year will be a happy and successful one for us all.

With very kind regards,

Louise Ballard

