

Willow Brook News

January 13th 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

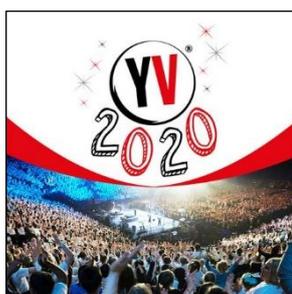
Happy New Year! I hope that you had a great holiday and enjoyed a very relaxing two weeks with your children. The world of Willow Brook has felt full of purpose and busyness this week and all is set for a productive Spring Term.

A Willow Brook newsletter, it seems, would not be right this year if I didn't introduce you to the latest Willow Brook new arrival... Hot on the heels of Mr Jones's December delivery, Miss Johnston is happy to introduce you to baby Harrison! He was born early on Boxing Day and is doing really well... as is Mum!



Mrs Sampson has enjoyed being back in Reception this week – it's like she's never been away!

You will have received a copy of this half term's Curriculum Enrichment timetable on Tuesday with details of after-school and lunchtime clubs for the next 6 weeks. There are plenty of opportunities to take up something new and I am pleased that Willow Brook teachers are prepared to give up their time and offer their skills – encourage your children to make the most of it!



The choir are off to Birmingham to perform at Young Voices on Friday. It's quite an experience to perform in an arena... especially alongside 10,000 others and I am sure that they will have a wonderful time.

As we start a new year, it may be timely to remind you of a few things that are important in the life and running of a primary school. Last week, our Learning Ambassadors launched a new initiative into developing healthy lifestyles and led discussions with their classmates to see how we can move forward. When children join Willow Brook, the expectations are made clear in our introductory meeting and guide book – children are requested not to bring chocolate, crisps or unhealthy snacks to eat at break times. This is a message that is reiterated by staff as they lead the expectations of their class. Infant pupils receive high-quality fruit free of charge on a daily basis and parents are free to provide their children with a lunchbox of their choice. Our ambassadors will be working with Mr Jones to plan an education and action plan to make sure that we are helping our young people to make good choices and instilling the best habits possible when it comes to exercise and nutrition. We would appreciate your support.



I would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the school's policy on children bringing mobile phones to school. Whilst I appreciate that many young children own phones, the staff and governors agree that there are few reasons why it would be necessary to bring one into school. If, as a parent of a child in Year 6, (or as a one off in a younger year group) you feel there are exceptional circumstances that make this necessary, it is important for *safeguarding reasons* that you discuss this

with us and follow the correct procedure and that phones are stored securely during the day so that every child in our school is protected. Again, I thank you for your understanding.

Next Friday, Year 5 are kicking off a series of assemblies where parents are invited to come and see their children in action! Our theme this term is all about books and reading. Miss Harris is keen to share her love of sharing great texts and I am sure her children will have lots to say! The assembly starts at 9.30am and Year 5 parents are more than welcome. Year R parents are invited to come and join their children for a shared book time on Monday afternoons. This starts at 3pm, so please feel free to meet fellow parents or grandparents at the school office at 2.55. We hope to develop more ways of getting family members involved in school life. Watch this space!

My final reminder comes from the office staff who would like to politely remind you that school meals should be paid for as they are ordered. So much time at the start of this term has been taken up chasing outstanding amounts from December. It is also important that you keep the office informed if your child has a medical appointment first thing and your child is not there for registration - especially if you would like to order a hot meal for that day. When messages are given to teachers on the playground, in their busyness, they often forget to pass them on.

You should have received your invitation to take part in the Willow Brook Annual Quiz which takes place on the evening of Friday 31st January. This is always a fun evening organised by our Friends Committee and if you have not tried it before and can get a small team together, I'd encourage you to give it a go. The school is also preparing their team to defend their title of village quiz champions! If there are any parents who have the nerve and knowledge to come and be a part of the team, please let me know!



I apologise for the list of requests. Once again, I wish you a very Happy New Year.

With kind regards,

Louise Ballard

