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Dear Parents and Carers

This is just a quick newsletter to remind you of dates and deadlines that are happening over the next week or two that I mentioned on the last day before half term. (A copy of this newsletter is on the school website if you have not seen a paper copy.)



Next Friday is Children in Need and we can't let such an important and relevant fundraiser go by without marking the occasion. To work alongside our current whole-school topic, Camelot will come alive at Willow Brook and we invite you to come dressed in Arthurian style! Of course, if you'd rather, any Pudsey outfit would mean a great donation to the charity as well as adding to an outfit. We ask for your donation of £1 for the pleasure of not wearing your school uniform and a small donation of cakes and biscuits for our Round Table Feast! You'll be able to buy a playtime snack from the Table for a contribution of your choice.

Thank you if you have already kindly donated a filled shoe box to our Children in Distress appeal. There is still time to get involved if you would like to. Please get in touch if you have not received an information leaflet. Boxes will be collected from Willow Brook next week.

Our week in school has been focused on an anti-bullying theme and assemblies and class time has been devoted to the 'Change Start With Us' initiative. I know from watching some of the lessons and talking with the children that they are knowledgeable and articulate when it comes to understanding bullying and I know that this week has seen them learning how taking positive action (such as giving compliments, asking others to join in and not standing by when they see injustice) can change a community. If you'd like to see more information on the content of this year's theme, you can find it here <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2019-change-starts-us> In yesterday morning's assembly, for example, Mrs Mullen managed (with the help of some children...) to squirt cream around the hall! When the challenge came to get the cream back in the can (and even clean it off the benches!) the children knew it was an impossible task. We all thought about simple words and actions that follow the same pattern – once something is said or done, it is impossible to take back and often hard to put right. A powerful message.



Due to on-going health issues, Miss Johnston has now sadly been signed off work until her maternity leave officially begins in a couple of weeks time. Having got to know us through her supply cover work, Mrs Mullen applied for the position to cover the maternity period and I am very happy to say that she was successful and will be with us for another year. Her experience, hard work and strong teaching skills coupled to her wonderful sense of community will make her a great addition to the team.

In other news, the Friends of Willow Brook are busily preparing for their Winter Fair at the end of November. They have organised a non-uniform day on November 22nd in return for a donation for their chocolate or bottle stalls. More details are included in their own newsletter.

On Monday morning we mark Remembrance Day with a traditional short service of silence, the playing of the Last Post and a laying of a wreath. The British Legion usually leave us poppies to sell so that the children are familiar with and participate in this important annual event. This year we have received a box of rubber bracelets (£1), reflective plastic poppies (50p) and small zip pulls (50p). These will be on sale on Monday morning, but we would encourage you to find the traditional paper poppy to wear if you feel able.

I will leave you with some key dates for the half term ahead.

Date	
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need Day
Wednesday 20 th November	School flu immunisation
Friday 29 th November 4-6pm	Friends of Willow Brook Winter Fair
Tuesday 10 th December 6.30pm	School Christmas Production (Years 2 – 6) (Ticket order forms will be issued two weeks before production dates)
Wednesday 11 th December 2pm	
Wednesday 11 th December 6.30pm	
Thursday 12 th December 6.30pm	
Tuesday 17 th December 2pm and 6.30pm	Infant Nativity (Year R and Year 1)
Wednesday 18 th December	Whole School Christmas Party
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas jumper day (and Christmas dinner!)
Friday 20 th December	Christmas holidays begin

If you need any more information on any of the above, please get in touch with Mrs Roper in the office – she is always more than happy to help.

Have a very happy (and hopefully not too wet!) weekend.

With very kind regards,

Louise Ballard