

Willow Brook Contact

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Good afternoon and welcome to a new week.

Last week we had the pleasure of hearing from so many of you. Photographs, family newsletters and feedback in response to home learning tasks came in thick and fast and teachers (and a headteacher!) felt encouraged and mightily impressed after seeing your efforts and ingenuity!

Under normal circumstances, this week would have been a very busy one in school. Years 3 and 4 would be off on their camping adventure and Year 6 would have been dotting the i's and crossing the t's in the days leading up to their SATs tests next week. Whilst Miss Brearey has tried to recreate the camping experience in her 'virtual' residential experience, I hope that Year 6 won't be too disappointed not to be facing their first formal tests!

This Friday, as you are no doubt aware, is V.E. Day and time would have been put aside in school to mark this occasion and learn a little about its significance. I know that even in lockdown, some roads have organised a safe street party and houses will be sporting patriotic bunting and colours and raising a toast at 3pm! I hope that you have the time and opportunity to find out what the day marks. There are plenty of resources – BBC's Newsround site is a good place to start finding out...
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48201749>

If you decide to decorate your house, do send us a photo and your Friday singing must include *We'll Meet Again...*



A couple of online recommendations...

You may enjoy a free copy of Scoop – a lively magazine aimed at primary aged children. As you can see if you enlarge the contents page, there's lots to read.

<https://scoopthemag.co.uk/>

I know that many children are spending time online at the moment and that is opening up a wealth of opportunities for learning. Online safety would always be on our teaching agenda and schools nationwide make good use of the Thinkuknow website to promote understanding and information from the experts. Please take a look at their site. The information board for parents of primary aged children is excellent and resources for children in all year groups will continue to teach them the valuable lessons that would be happening in school.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

Mr Jones described the current situation quite profoundly in conversation earlier this week and I have thought a lot about his simple words. It came after a comment was made suggesting all pupils were 'in the same boat'. Mr Jones said that, in fact, we were 'all in very *different* boats' but all trying to sail through the same storm. I know and hear that your households have different seas to navigate and your personal circumstances need us to be responsive and support your unique circumstances. We aim to provide weekly work that can stand alongside online learning initiatives and recommended projects, together with activities that will get your children away from a screen. We encourage your dialogue and will happily provide advice on any work that you send back to us. Equally, we respect the fact that your family life may not run to our agenda and the priorities that keep your boat on course might not always sail alongside ours. Keep in touch and let us know if there is *anything* we can do to make your journey a safe and happy one.

Finally, keep an eye on the pages of the school website. We have reorganised the home page so that individual year groups can find their class pages quickly and have access to communication and resources from their teachers. Even if you're not in Year 1, Mr Boyd reading *The Pirates Next Door* is a fabulous bedtime story!

Keep in touch. Keep very safe and we will see you later in the week for an assembly and a day of creative learning. Brace yourself. Someone has requested the Pinocchio song... that's brave!

With very kind regards to you all,

Louise Ballard

