



Willow Brook News

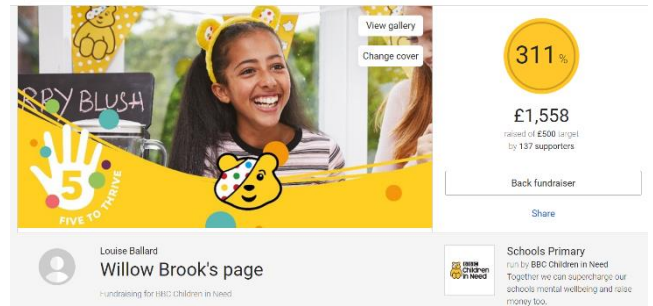
November 13th 2020

head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our 2020 Children in Need Day is underway, and in the midst of a difficult month, the joy of seeing excited children arrive at school ready to mark the day has been a sight for sore eyes!

I have just checked our fundraising page on Just Giving just to smile once again at your incredible support and generosity. We have hit £1,500 spot! How naive was I to set an original target of £300?! The children are buzzing with the news and so proud to have contributed to such a success. This is a charity that I am always happy to devote time to in school. Even in a month where we feel life is tough, the desperate needs of many children should make us feel somewhat humble and determined to make a difference.



The Duck Race is set for this afternoon! The rivalry in the staffroom is as tense as the classroom (come on Quack and Cheese!) and there's going to be one lucky child who will get to take the Golden Duck trophy home this afternoon!

Other fabulous 'firsts' have happened over the past week! Children in Year 3 were first to make it to the 10 merit mark and were positively beaming as they received their awards in our live Bench of Glory assembly.

What used to be our 'Star Table' has now become our Friday 'Golden Platters'! In recognition of good table manners, positive lunchtime play or simply enjoying everything on your plate, our midday staff hand out tickets. If your ticket is drawn from the box in our Friday assembly, your dinner is served on a golden platter with a small treat to reward your efforts.

This morning the Willow Brook birthday fairy (aka Mrs Roper in hat and wings) visited 8 children who have had lockdown birthdays this week! Accompanied live on screen by Stevie Wonder and bearing celebratory badges, party poppers, cards and gifts, we hope that this adds a little sunshine to a special day that can't currently be shared with friends outside of school.



The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is always an important time in the Willow Brook calendar. Whilst we couldn't gather as a community to hear the Last Post played live and lay our wreaths this year, we were able to record our musician, Mrs Clare, earlier in the week in the school grounds. At 11 o'clock each class stood to listen, learn and pay their respects. A silent school paused for a moment as the trumpet echoed from every classroom. It was a very moving moment. Year 6 laid the wreath at the Willow Tree and other classes made their own poppies and left them as an act of remembrance. Have a listen by following this link <https://vimeo.com/477485709>



It was good to meet with our Friends Committee at their Zoom AGM on Monday night. Just a quick reminder that, as a registered charity, you can opt to nominate 'The Friends of Willow Brook' to receive a charitable donation every time you buy on Amazon by searching for them on the smile.amazon section on the site. I have a feeling that there may be quite a lot of Amazon shopping over the next month! Whilst I am in no way meaning to promote the company, it is good to know that you can support the committee's fundraising work every time you make a purchase.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families who are celebrating this weekend a 'happy Diwali'! May it, indeed, give you light and hope for the year ahead. It was so good to listen to Kaylan yesterday as he shared his faith (and his chocolates!) with class 1.

And now I must go and brace myself for the excitement of the race... There'll be more photos on the website later! Have a great weekend – as always, I wish you continued good health.

Louise Ballard

PS £1,685 and still counting!

