



Willow Brook News

March 12th 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers

We have made it happily to the end of a very busy but wonderfully positive first week back in school. It was good to hear the volume again as well as see happy faces! Playgrounds were full of speed and fun and classrooms were a hive of activity.

As soon as the thought of March 8th return was murmured, we decided that a STEM week would be just what we needed to inspire learning, encourage recording in books and get our young people working together, thinking creatively, wondering, listening and sharing their bright ideas. Days have been filled with lava lamps and electrical circuits, parachutes, floating and sinking, non-Newtonian liquids (I'm sure that's not what they were called when I was at school!), forces, genetics and plenty of problems to solve and maths to consider as a result!

Year 2 and 4 have become our resident ornithologists. Having set up bird feeding stations in our wildlife area, they've learnt so much about robins, blue tits, dunnocks and wrens. They continue to wait for the Willow Brook buzzards to collect their lunch from the feeders!

Mr Clarke has thoroughly enjoyed sharing his sporting expertise across the school and we feel completely delighted to have him on the staff team. His lunchtime games with Years 5 and 6, together with his indoor and outdoor PE sessions have given each class a taste of team sports, fitness and gymnastics. (He is also very good at cleaning!)

And, with strategic planning, lots of handwashing, strict bubbles and mini military manoeuvres, I believe we have had a successful and safe 5 days where Willow Brook has, once again, been thriving!

A couple of parents have shared their concerns over handwashing and dry skin this week. Whilst regular hand hygiene is a must, clearly, we are as determined as you to get this right. Last term we changed the school soap over to a brand that promised to be kinder and have encouraged those who struggle, to bring their own products. Staff are working hard to convince children to wash the soap off and dry their hands more thoroughly before rushing out to play – I'm convinced that the problem flares up when this is done in a hurry. However, for your peace of mind, I have today personally purchased a stock of Carex Sensitive soap with added

moisturiser, and this will be in situ in each classroom from Monday. I hope that (alongside some more thorough drying techniques) that will help.

If I may, I'd just like to take this opportunity to reiterate that we instruct the children **not** to cross Willow Brook between the cones at the end of the drive. The crossing between the two bollards (or further up the road) provides the best vision for making it safely across at times when traffic is fast and heavy. This also stops children from running straight out into the road whilst we use the driveway as an exit and also discourages young children from crossing at the Fairway junction, where parked cars and vehicles coming from three directions add to the mix. We will keep reminding the children and hope that you will encourage the same.

Thank you for doing your best to drop off and collect your children at the staggered times. Year 2, 3 and 4 have been wonderfully independent and now that Year 1 have proved that they can stand in their line all by themselves, we are very proud of them all! I've been asked just to clarify times, so...

Reception and year 1 arrive at 9am and leave at 3.20pm

Years 2, 3 and 4 arrive at 8.50am and leave at 3.25pm

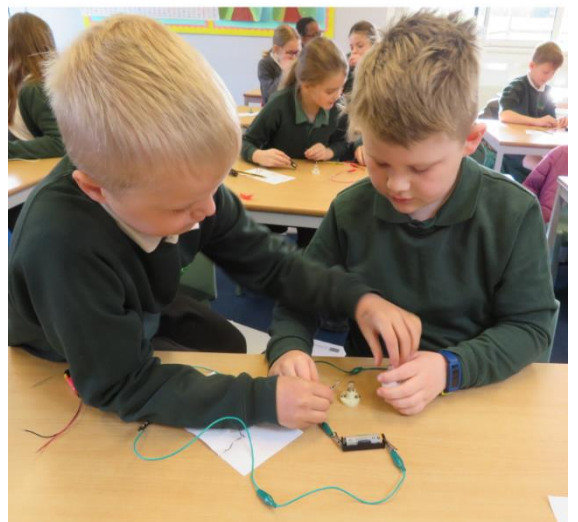
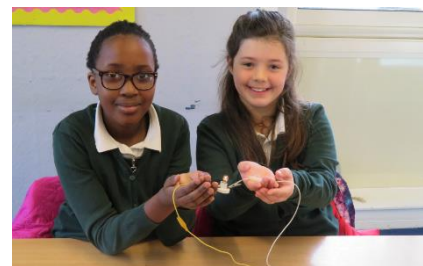
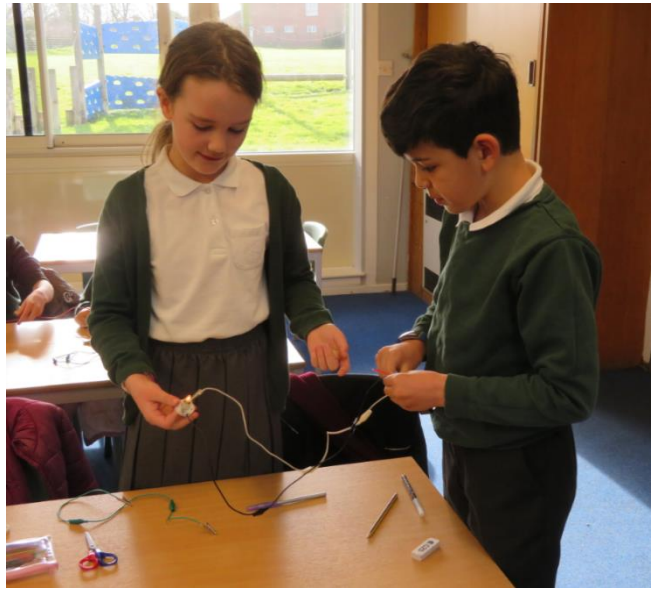
Years 5 and 6 arrive at 8.45am and leave at 3.30pm

A great first week... two pieces of the Trivial Pursuit game in place and next week we move round the board and art and music come to the fore. Have a great weekend. I know the staff are looking forward to some rest... I am sure that there will be some tired children too! Thank you for sending your children back to us – it has been a pleasure to work with them again. They are settling slowly but very surely. Rest assured that if we had any concerns at all, we would be in touch.

I will leave you with some happy photos from the week.

With my very best wishes,

Louise Ballard





Hands



Face



Space



SCHOOLS ARE BACK

Let's stay on track

- Schools have re-opened to all children, but other national restrictions still remain the same - we need to keep on stopping the spread of the virus.
- After weeks at home, the last thing you want is for your child to have to self-isolate and miss school.

Keep doing your bit as a parent or carer by:



Not mixing with others outside of school or nursery - even if children are in the same bubble, the strict measures in place reduce the risks.



Getting anyone in your family with symptoms tested and the whole household self-isolating immediately.



Following the guidance from your school or nursery when dropping off and picking up, as well as the wearing of face coverings if requested.



Taking a free twice weekly test if you don't have any symptoms: www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff



Encouraging your family to wash their hands regularly and thoroughly, keeping a safe (2m) distance from others and wearing a face covering when required.

Thank you 
Nottinghamshire
for doing your bit



Nottinghamshire
County Council