



# Willow Brook News

## March 26th 2021

[head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](mailto:head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers

After 3 weeks back in school, our bubbles have settled into routine and there is a super feeling of hard work and busy classrooms. And now, with only one week to go until the Easter break, school closure is starting to feel like a distant memory!

Since I last wrote, our Trivial Pursuit topic has taken each class into a different world of art and music. I have enjoyed seeing Year 6 learn all about the talents of the renowned and rather inspiring artist Bridget Riley and Year 1 experienced the walking bass of ska music. EYFS have recreated Gustav Klimt's golden Tree of Life and Year 4 went to a carnival and, alongside their learning, actually had the pleasure of real steel drummers in school to accompany their costumes and dance. We are all inspired and desperate to go to a real live event!



This week we have had our annual Balloon Debate. As always, each year group had to pick a significant character who they thought worthy of being the most renowned 'world changer'. Delivering a persuasive speech in the live online final and then to be challenged by a panel of judges was a brave moment for even our oldest speakers. EYFS had learnt all about Mae Jemison – the first black female scientist to travel into space... Year 1 opted for the ever popular David Attenborough... Year 2 were convinced Mary Seacole deserved the award, whilst Year 3 put their vote to Nelson Mandela. Sticking with their carnival theme, Year 4 championed the founders of the Notting Hill Carnival and Year 5 convinced



us that Martin Luther King Junior was the man to back. Year 6 spoke passionately about Mary Anning's contribution to science... and if you want to know who delivered the winning speech, head to our website where you can see some of the highlights from the event.

I must just add that Mrs Graham also pitched Emeline Pankhurst as a possible candidate. She appeared mid-week in the classroom in character and certainly got my vote!

Our final week of the term sees maths come to the fore as we combine sports with data handling. We are hoping for some good weather so that we can be outside to compete and calculate. It is amazing how many maths skills can be rehearsed alongside exercise!

Talking of sports... As part of Mr Clarke's extensive shopping for new PE stock for the new season, we have some replaced wooden hockey sticks that are looking for new homes. They are clearly used but in perfectly useable condition. If your child would like one, drop Mr Clarke a 'Yes, please' email with your

child's name and class on and he will send one your way before the end of term. First come, first served. [tclarke@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](mailto:tclarke@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk)

An advanced notice that during the first week back teachers will be offering appointments with you to talk about how your child has settled back to school and to discuss any thoughts, concerns and positive messages with you. Watch out for a communication early next week to book a time. It has obviously been an extraordinary term and there has been great deal to re-establish and settle. We always knew that being back in a busy social environment was going to be as challenging as reacclimatising to academic demands. It all takes time, resilience and a little extra patience, and allowing a couple of extra weeks than usual before meeting with you will, hopefully, will have given new routines time to bed in. Our focus can therefore be looking forward to all that can be achieved in the summer term.

Before I wish you a relaxing weekend, I would just like to send a huge public 'thank you' to Moore's Garden Centre. After many years of service, our bench on top court finally had to go. The Friends Committee leapt to our aid and ordered a luxury replacement. To our surprise, the new bench was delivered this week as a gift from Moore's! We are absolutely delighted with it and we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of some very lovely people.



With my very best wishes to you all,

*Louise Ballard*