



# Willow Brook News

## September 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

Thank you for all that you have done to make the start of the school year a happy and positive one. The children look smart in their school uniforms and to have them altogether for an assembly on Thursday was nothing short of awesome! I hope that they all enjoyed their first two days. Many will have experienced Willow Brook as one community for the first time... it doesn't feel like it is going to take too long to click back into place. Lunchtimes and playtimes together bring out lots of opportunities to look after each other and learn how to care. Even Mr Jones has been keen to serve at the dinner table!



Today our Reception class has come together for the first time. Their enthusiasm and energy has kept the EYFS team on their toes and they were not at all fazed by the 165 children who sat with them in the hall as we celebrated our first Bench of Glory this morning! This was a very proud moment for George, Esmae, Finton, Evelina, Jessie, Zavi and Samuel – there's nothing better than knowing that you've made that positive first impression with your new teacher and getting that round of applause and that prized certificate on week one!

### Covid Updates

Thank you for working with us in keeping some essential Covid related systems in place. As you know, schools continue to be vigilant when it comes to enhanced cleaning, ventilation and hygiene – we know that such actions can make a difference. Our EYFS and Year 1 children will continue to finish slightly before our other classes *for no other reason* than to stagger the numbers on our playground. We would be grateful then, for your help in moving out of the playground as soon as you can if your child finishes on the first bell to make this effective. As well as guarding the health of every member of our community, making sure that Covid disrupts as few school days as possible for the children is so important.

## Paperwork and Plans

You will be receiving quite a few pieces of paper over the next few days. A new version of our pupil details form should be with this newsletter. It helps us to be sure of up-to-date contact information. Mrs Roper would be grateful if you would return your completed page as soon as possible. In future, an electronic update will prompt you to regularly check and make any necessary changes rather than completing paper copies.

If they have not already done so, your child's teacher will be sending this half term's Learning Letter together with a copy of the curriculum coverage plan for the next 6 weeks. We hope that you find this informative and that it opens up ideas for conversation and home learning. An overview of the academic year, together with a calendar of themed weeks and days can be found on the school's website. Many events and ideas are still 'under construction' and will grow from projects and respond to up-to-the minute triggers, so it's far from a complete list, but we hope that it gives you a flavour of all that is in store.

Miss Johnston will have our extra-curricular timetable ready later this week. After school and lunch time clubs for Years 1 – 6 (EYFS children will be included at a later date) will start next Monday. Mr Clarke is busily organising his football teams for the first tournament of the new year – there will be trials in due course!

## Dates for your diary

This term's Parents Evenings will take place in the week before half term (week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> October).

INSET days for the year ahead have been published and school will be closed for staff training on the following dates:

February 21<sup>st</sup>

May 27<sup>th</sup>

June 6<sup>th</sup>

All being well, SATs testing for our Year 6 children will be back on the agenda in May. Please note that tests take place in the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>. Parents should not book time out of school during this week.

As is a Willow Brook tradition, we will be celebrating harvest on Friday October 8<sup>th</sup>. As well as using it as a day of gratitude, we support The Friary drop-in centre with food and provisions kindly donated by you. More details to follow.

School breaks up for the two week October half term on Friday October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, after a day where lots of children were taking off their identical sweatshirts at playtime, please can I remind you to write (or sew!) a name into any items of clothing. We return any labelled uniform to its owner before the end of the day, but nameless kit is soon swallowed up in the black hole that is the lost property bin. We aim to put any unclaimed lost property out in the playground on a Friday afternoon so that you can reclaim any missing things.

Enjoy the next few days of sunshine... I hope that autumn doesn't creep up on us too quickly!

With kind regards,

Louise Ballard