



Willow Brook News

September 23rd 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The busyness and business of the autumn term is now well underway! When the first child brought their merit form to me this week having achieved the first ten, it's clear that we have had an industrious start!

Our first classes have been out and about on trips. Year 6 had a super day at the Framework Knitters Museum last week. As Victorian child labourers strapped to stocking machines, they made their own scarves and perhaps appreciated the relative luxury of life as a child in 2021! If you haven't already seen their photos on the website, do take a look.



Year 6 have also conquered different levels of their Cycling Proficiency award! They were great ambassadors for Willow Brook as they navigated the Fairway... it's always nice for an unsuspecting member of the public to get in touch and say how impressed they were.

There are outings and events planned for all year groups – Reception are about to explore autumn in the Stanton countryside and Year 3 are excited at the thought of going back to Stone Age Brackenhurst.

As we hoped, Willow Brook children were quick to get involved in clubs and extra-curricular activities when they were launched. The choir already have a gig at Sheffield Arena booked and will shape up nicely! Our boys football squad had their first outing on Saturday morning and left the tournament feeling proud – Mr Jones had nothing but praise in his match report.

All of key stage 2 have the option to run on Thursday lunchtime and their lap scores are added to their log books. Sarah Collins – a running guru who works as a midday supervisor - is at the heart of leading the club with Mr Clarke and there's incredible enthusiasm (and stamina!).

From crocheting to chess, French and music, there isn't a spare room in the building at 3.30pm. As you can see from the photos, there's lots to be discovered and enjoyed and I am very grateful to the Willow Brook staff for the extra hours they give to make clubs happen.



A new parent recently asked what it meant to be on the 'Bench of Glory'. It has been a while since I explained... Every week there is a theme for our achievement assembly. These are embedded in our 5 C's and school rules. Last week we celebrated the 'peacemakers' – those who 'knew when to speak and when to listen'. As you can see from the photo, your own special mention in front of the whole school, a round of applause, a coveted certificate and a seat on the golden bench is the perfect start to a Monday morning. What's more, any achievement is recorded in the book and it's always good to look back in Year 6 and see your primary school mentions! This week Ffion, Macy, Oliver, Harry, Evie, Noah and Pia had their first 2021 moment.

Some reminders of dates for your diary

We have our **Harvest Celebration** coming up on Friday 8th October. Children are invited to bring any store cupboard food or fresh fruit and vegetables, all of which will be donated to the Friary Drop-in Centre in West Bridgford. If everyone brings a little, we will have a lot to give.

Parents Evenings will happen on the week beginning 11th October. We will be offering parents and carers the chance to come and meet their new teachers for a ten minute appointment, which should give you the chance to have a conversation about how your child has settled and plans for the term ahead. Should you prefer to meet with us on Teams or have a phone conversation, that opportunity will be open to you as well. As always, we would ask that children do not attend the appointments if at all possible. It will be great to welcome you back into school. We will be mindful of our duty to provide a safe environment so that you feel confident in attending if you wish. A letter with further details and a slip to request an appointment will be with you a week before.



Cauliflower Cards

Whilst it is far too early to be thinking about Christmas, we will be getting the children to work on the Cauliflower Christmas card project before you visit for parents' evening. You will have a chance to order personalised printed cards if you like their finished designs.

Photos The photographer will be in school to take photos of the children on October 12th. Getting this done before half term will mean that pictures will be printed before mid-December.

Just a polite request to finish my newsletter. The number of children in school who have allergies means that we must be cautious when it comes to sharing food. We have to be vigilant in the lunch hall, and you will know that we ask you not to have nuts in lunchboxes or playtime snacks because of this. Different needs and issues also make sharing cake and sweets difficult when it comes to birthdays too. Staff often talk about how much they enjoy seeing children share a small treat with others when it is their special day and I like that it teaches the joy of giving. Can I ask that if this is something that you choose to do, that a small packet of Haribo sweets is the ideal choice – it means that every child can be included.

I will leave you with my best wishes for the weekend and some photos of our week. I hope you enjoy sharing some of our extra-curricular moments.

With kind regards,

Louise Ballard



