



# Willow Brook News

## November 11th 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it to the end of another packed Willow Brook fortnight and there is so much to share with you as we look back... and there's just as much on the agenda as we look forward to the next few weeks!

### Looking back

This morning Willow Brook marked Armistice Day with our own traditional service of Remembrance. Mrs Hollingshead led Year 6 as they shared the words of the poets from the First World War. It was good to welcome Mrs Clare back to lead our two minutes silence with the Last Post as we laid our wreaths around the willow tree. The whole school then sang In Flanders Field unaccompanied. As always, it was a very moving time together.



On Wednesday I had the pleasure of going to Lincoln Cathedral with Year 5. It is such an awesome building, and its history and significance was shared beautifully by the staff. The new education centre was brimming with hands on learning opportunities and the children had a great day.





Not to be outdone, Year 4 were visited this week by a Roman Soldier! He'd made his way from Newark, (presumably along the Fosse Way), and took the playground by storm with full on warfare! During the day, Year 4 were recruited into the army. Whilst I am yet to read their recounts of the day, it looks like there were plenty of artefacts and activities to open up the topic and help them to think like a centurion!



Our week had a super start with a very special Bench of Glory! We celebrated the achievements of a group of children who have all shown teachers and TA's that there is a little bit of *superhero* inside... whether that's through clever thinking, swift action, kind hearts or simple but brilliant acts of bravery.

Oscar, Bella, Elise, Heer, Alice, Kaylan and Phoebe all enjoyed hearing their teacher's messages and their friends' applause! We then had two special children who had surprise visits from members of their family who had written to me over the past couple of weeks to share their pride...

When Freya turned round to sit on the Bench and saw her Mum and Grandma sitting at the back of the hall, she was a little puzzled! Following our harvest project, Gran had telephoned the school to recount how Freya had shown great kindness to a homeless young person she had passed on the street. Gran told the whole school about the lengths Freya had gone to and what a big difference that small kindness had made.

Our second visitor in assembly was none other than Batman! Again, it was Zavi who was slightly surprised to see his dad fly into the hall! Last week, Zavi's mum had sent me some photos of Zavi and his dad (a.k.a Batman and Robin) when they had taken Trick or Treat sweets to the QMC to share Halloween with some of the children on the wards. It was, indeed, a morning full of happy praise!



## Looking forward

Now that children are cast and fully immersed in all things 'Peter Pan', we hope that you are inspired for next Friday's Children in Need Day! If you are stumped for inspiration of how to dress as a character from the story, you are, of course, welcome to wear any official Children in Need outfits – t-shirts and Pudsey onesies always go down well! Our day will be full of activities and fun and we hope that our efforts will raise a cracking total on our favourite fundraising day. Our day will be cashless so please **do not send your money with the children**. Willow Brook's Just Giving page is now open and ready for your donation. Whilst we know that your incredible generosity last year will be a hard act to follow, please make a pledge and send your message using the following link. We'll show the children the site as it updates during the day:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/willowbrookprimaryschool2021>

You can also scan this QR code on your phone to access the page.



## Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is National Anti-Bullying week. The theme will be at the heart of PSHE lessons and whole school learning and is based on 'One Kind Word'. To kick the week off, our assembly on Monday will include the theme song from Andy and The Odd Socks! It's a bit of a rock

anthem that celebrates the beauty of difference and it clearly wouldn't be the same if everyone in the hall had matching socks... We, therefore, invite the children to come wearing odd socks so that it is an assembly to remember! Clearly, the whackier the better! If you want to get ahead with the song and into the mood, you'll find it here <https://youtu.be/lpZ3u5Z6pOg>



## Dare we mention... Christmas Dinner!



An email will be coming to you from the office on Monday asking you to let us know if your child **DOES NOT** want a Christmas meal on Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderfully festive day, and the majority of children join in. We can accommodate different dietary requirements – just let us know. We will presume that your child **will** have a Christmas dinner unless you tell the office otherwise. (email [office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk)) More details next week.

As we start to head towards more wintry outdoor conditions can I please make a final plea that **children come to school with a coat**. On days where there's a drizzle in the air, we can get the children outside if they have a coat that can be taken off when we get back in the classroom. We can't take them out and then let them sit in wet jumpers. When so many of our older children did not have coats with them yesterday afternoon, we had to stay inside, which is a shame.

I will leave you with Mr. Clarke's back page and news of a fine footballing cup-match victory over Abbey Road... As that doesn't happen very often, it is the icing on the cake at the end of a busy week!

Have a very happy weekend,

Louise Ballard



# Mr. Clarke's Sporting Back Page!

## First Round Schools Cup

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November, the Willow Brook Girls (Mirabelle, Keira, Mya, Millie, Yasmine, Matilda W, Jessica, Pia, Alice, Jessie and Alwande) played against Abbey Road Primary School in a cup match at Willow Brook. Not a lot to report on the goal front in the first half due to strong defensive performances from both sides but going into half time at 0-0 we reflected on many positives and thought the game was there for the taking. We got the breakthrough 9 minutes into the second half, utilising Matilda W's long throw, chaos was caused inside the Abbey Road penalty box and Pia was there to just get the ball over the line... VAR said goal! 1-0 to Willow Brook. Abbey Road responded a few minutes later, on the counterattack finishing off with a goal of their own. 1-1 with about 7 minutes to go. We almost stole it at the end with a teasing cross across the 6-yard box (by whom I couldn't say due to the fading light!) but sadly no one was on the end of it to tap it in. Full time... 1-1... and penalties to decide who went through to the next round!

Abbey Road 1<sup>st</sup> Penalty: Saved by Keira!

Willow Brook 1<sup>st</sup> Penalty: Saved!

Abbey Road 2<sup>nd</sup> Penalty: Goal

Willow Brook 2<sup>nd</sup> Penalty: Saved!

Abbey Road 3<sup>rd</sup> Penalty: Wide!

Willow Brook 3<sup>rd</sup> Penalty: Goal scored by Jessie!!!

1-1 on penalties so far... sudden death!

Abbey Road 4<sup>th</sup> Penalty: Saved by Keira!

Willow Brook 4<sup>th</sup> Penalty: Goal scored by Matilda W!! Willow Brook win on penalties and are through to round 2!

So after an amazing game and crazy penalty shootout Willow Brook came out victorious and proceed through to the next round where we will host either Sutton Bonnington or Kinoulton. It is no less than we deserve - a very professional, organised performance in a tight game, but one I felt we just edged. Very well done Willow Brook, Mr Boyd and I are proud of what you are achieving. Thank you to all the supporters who came to cheer us on, the "Brook Arena" was really rocking. Unfortunately, this will probably be the last game this side of Christmas due to the international break, but there will be plenty more football after Christmas. Bring it on!



## Meet the Crew!

The members of Clarke's Crew have made an excellent start to their school days over the past half term! The children have shown great, positive attitude and commitment while completing their activities. They have been practicing teamwork, ball skills, coordination and balance and it's been wonderful to see the older children supporting the younger children at the sessions. Watch this space for future updates on what we have been doing!

