



Willow Brook News

December 3rd 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it to the end of what has probably been the most challenging week of the Willow Brook year! I wanted to send a quick message of thanks for your assistance and understanding and for your messages of encouragement.

By the end of last Saturday, the school had been notified of an ever increasing number of children who had tested positive for Covid, together with two adults from our after-school care team, six members of our teaching staff and the site manager! Whilst we are completely separate entities and do not mix, our pre-school also had a confirmed case. As well as involving weekend conversations with public health and the County Council, there were lots of things to put in place to ensure the school was safe and able to open on Monday morning. Thanks to trusted supply staff and members of the community going above and beyond, the school has been compliant, safe and able to function.

With Mr. Castledine not with us and the council unable to source a replacement, we have been up at dawn to open up and, once the children have left in the evening, my determined team and I have armed ourselves with mops, hoovers, cloths and chemicals to make sure that each room had a deep clean. There is no doubt that without this commitment and determination, the school would simply have had to close.



We are incredibly sad that we had to cancel our Christmas productions next week. I can't believe that, yet again, we have lost the highlight of the Willow Brook year. The main school production had taken lots of work, and the children were excited at the thought of being movie stars! We are, however, required to keep our outbreak management plan in place for two weeks before reviewing whether measures have had a positive impact. As you know, this has meant full scale rehearsals, assemblies and singing have had to go. I have promised the children (Year 6 in particular) that I will do everything in my power to make sure that they get a chance to perform in the summer term. Peter Pan will be back!

The choir were also scheduled to perform at Keyworth's Christmas Festivities tomorrow, but we have been unable to gather to rehearse. We hope that the children will still go along and enjoy the event. We have every faith that our trip to Young Voices in January will go ahead.

Whilst I usually thank your children for being magnificent, this week it's the grown ups who have shone. For parents who have taken their children for PCR tests at the school's request; for those who have kept their children at home to protect others by isolating and for reading Parentmails and responding with such positivity – thank you. It has been several days since I was notified of a positive Covid result.... absent staff will be back on Monday... and dare I say..... it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas....

I hope that you have a very relaxing weekend. I am looking forward to a lazy Saturday without a Hoover in sight!

With my best wishes,

Louise Ballard

Mr. Clarke's Sporting Update

Sports Hall Athletics

Whilst some staff were busy cleaning, Mr. Clarke and Miss Johnston were out with some of our younger sporting heroes. Years 3 and 4 enjoyed an evening of athletics and proved their growing expertise in a team event. They wore their Willow Brook shirts with pride and Mr. Clarke was impressed!

On Thursday, Years 1 and 2 had their first chance to represent the school and showed that they were just as brilliant when it comes to mastering running, jumping, throwing, balancing, co-ordination and teamwork.

This event was all about taking part rather than bringing home a trophy, but we hope that the experience will be the first of many opportunities to have fun and get fit!

Well done, team Willow Brook!

