

## Willow Brook News

## December 17th 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a week where some Christmas spirit and togetherness was most welcome after a half term where so many traditions have had to be set aside.

We have enjoyed a festive full Christmas dinner with crackers and dancing ('Feliz Navidad' and a procession of bells is something that the children have grown to expect!) where Christmas jumpers certainly set the tone!











Thanks to the Friends of Willow Brook, the afternoon class parties were a great hit. There was a mix of games, presents and craft activities and it was a joy to walk around school and see lots of smiles!





Thursday's Carols by Candlelight – a traditional Willow Brook touch – finished our Christmas celebrations with calm and song.

Which leads us very nicely to this afternoon and our playground sing with the Salvation Army Band. Thank you for your £1 Christmas Jumper Day donation... this will be given to the Salvation Army at the end of the day and will make a difference, however small, to the incredible work that they do at this time of year.



The Friends Group have done a great job with a little Christmas fundraising! Donations for the Letter to Santa and the Festive Windows raised £146 and the raffle £267. Thank you if you have given



them your support. I am always given the honour of picking the winner for the virtual Festive Windows. Pictures of the entries are sent to me anonymously. This year, Sam and Evie collected the prize!

The Friends' work over the next year will be helping us to build and develop our outdoor learning area by the brook. Kate Dutton has done an impressive job of clearing the site over the autumn and we are ready for design and construction after Christmas. If you have landscaping skills and would like to get involved in the project, we would certainly welcome your input. Please get in touch with me.

All that remains is for me to wish you a wonderful fortnight with your children. I hope that your precious family time is happy, healthy and memorable. We will see you bright and early on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, for what I hope will be an uninterrupted Covid-free spring term.

With best wishes from every member of staff at Willow Brook,

Louise Ballard