



head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk

Whilst we might continue to consider Covid in whatever we plan in the coming months, we are so looking forward to welcoming you back into school and involving you less remotely in your children's Willow Brook world!

	80% George Odell
	60% Phoenix Collins
	67% Noah Ringham
	76% Isaac Ringham
	80% Jasmine Simpson
	83% Anabelle Martin-Queen
	67% Ellie May Kenny

The **Willow Brook Waterstones Reading Challenge** started with a lively practice lap last week! The scores on the track were close, but Year 1 took an early lead! The week's individual reading champions were added to the hall of fame, and we are bowled over with the positive emails of the enthusiasm and photos of reformed children curled up with a good book!

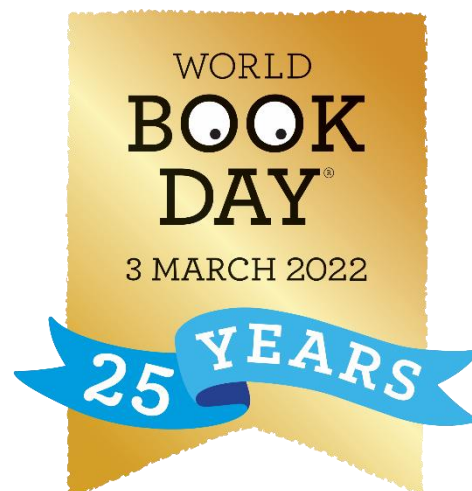
If your child has pestered you to listen to them read... told you that you really **NEED** to get their reading book out and they'd love you to sign their reading record book... if they've refused to leave the house without finding their book bag... we make **no** apologies at all! Regularly sharing a good book, listening to your child read or simply enjoying a great story together are essential primary school habits that will (I guarantee) enable your child to achieve their very best. We appreciate family life is demanding, but there's nothing more precious than finding a love of books at an early age. Please work with us to inspire them and make a difference.

To support our venture, we are having an evening to share some tips and information on phonics and reading for our EYFS children on **January 26th**. This will start at **6.15pm**. An invitation to join us on Teams will be with you early next week. If any Year 1 parents would like to take part, you are more than welcome – please let us know.

After half term, we hope to share some information on reading progress and assessment with our older children in mind. We are also looking forward to getting back to having some family reading events and encouraging parents

to come and hear children read in school in the summer term. We have missed that over the past two years.

Whilst on the subject of reading and books... As an advanced warning, please add World Book Day on **March 3rd** to your calendar. We will be inviting the children to come dressed as a character from a good book. Get your thinking hats on!



This year we will also be creating a day of wellbeing and happiness on **Friday 18th March** in line with the fun of Red Nose Day. It will be a day full of red noses... t-shirts...hair?! More details will follow nearer the time.

I have the privilege of an office window that looks out on to a quiet space and several birdfeeders. I've learnt how therapeutic it is to work and watch the constant traffic of robins and wagtails who come to feed. We have made sure that tables and feeders are

dotted around the school and the children who tune in and watch are fascinated and learning so much. Next weekend we hope that you will join us in taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. We will be sharing the project in assemblies next week and sending some spotters' activities out with homework. Again, we hope that you can catch a moment to take part.

Have a good weekend, whatever it brings.

With kind regards,

Louise Ballard

Big
Garden
Birdwatch
28-30 January 2022