



Willow Brook News

March 24th 2022

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The start of spring has arrived right on time and some days full of sunshine have certainly added to a positive Willow Brook week!

Thank you so much for supporting last Friday's Red Nose Day! Whilst I'm not sure who had more fun, Mrs Roper or the children, our afternoon comedy show and some morale-boosting playtime cakes put a smile on everyone's face! It all resulted in 4 buckets full of £265 for a very worthwhile cause.

Next Friday, the Friends of Willow Brook have organised a 'Break the Rules on April Fools' fundraising event. My Parentmail yesterday gave you full details of how your child can take part and how you can make a small contribution to the development of our outdoor classroom by the brook.

Kate Dutton has been hard at work clearing what had become a fairly overgrown area and plans are coming together to make it an exciting and motivating place to learn outdoors.



Next Friday afternoon Year 6 will also be presenting their DART (formerly DARE) graduation assembly. After 10 weeks with their Life Skills Officer, the children have learnt so many important age-appropriate lessons and rehearsed coping techniques and resilience strategies. They are looking forward to sharing them with their parents and the other children in school. If you have an invitation, the assembly starts promptly at 2.15pm.

Thank you so much for supporting your children with their Reading River homework. The posters are just marvellous, and they have given children the time and confidence to speak with enthusiasm about the books that have shaped their personal learning journeys. Every space in school is filled with rivers and I am nearly at the end of photographing them to create one huge Willow Brook River film so that you can appreciate and enjoy them too!

Whilst events and invitations are being added to the Willow Brook diary, we would like to reassure you that we are continuing to monitor what has been a growing number of Covid cases in school over the past fortnight. This has been particularly prevalent in Year 6. Thanks to your continued testing, we hope that the week leading up to the Easter holidays will be a more stable one. We continue to be so grateful for the hard work and help of temporary staff in the kitchen as Elaine, our cook, has been unwell for a number of months. This week Maria, our site cleaner, has also been doing a wonderful job of doubling her workload to help us in Mr. Castledine's Covid absence. Our WB's staff have also gone the extra mile this week too, to cover Covid illness and make sure that their provision continues. Taking care of the adults in our community continues to be just as important as caring for our young people.

On a different note, could I urge all parents who have outstanding payments on School Money to make sure that these are cleared before the Easter Break. Mrs Roper is spending too much time chasing unpaid dinner money, in particular. Numbers for the two residential trips planned for years 3 to 6 in the summer term also need to be confirmed by next Friday and we have left messages for those who have not yet confirmed their place or made a deposit. If there are ever any reasons you are experiencing any difficulty in making these payments, however small, please get in touch and let me know. We would be more than happy to offer help or make a plan.

Next week we will be publishing our summer term dates for your diary as well as giving you an insight into our next whole school topic. With the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, there's bound to be royal flavour...

I will leave you with details of next Friday's fundraiser, a sneak preview of two rivers and Mr. Clarke's sports update. (This afternoon our boys' team take on Bunny in the next round of the cup. There's great pre-match buzz in school this morning and Mr. Clarke is already pacing the field...)

Have a happy weekend.

Mrs. Ballard



Friends of Willow Brook

BREAK the RULES DAY

Rules to be broken include:

You must wear:

1. School polo shirt
2. Green jumper/Cardigan
3. Grey school trousers/skirt
4. No football shirts
5. No odd socks
6. No trainers
7. No crazy hair or big hair accessories
8. No nail varnish

Here's how it works:

When?
April Fools Day
Friday 1st April
2022

For one day only choose which school rules you want to break. Donate 50p for every broken rule. Make your donation via this link
<https://www.justgiving.com/Campaign/Breaktherules2022?invite=true>
Please do not bring Cash into school

Parentkind
Member Association

Mr Clarke's Sporting Back Page

Since our last newsletter, 8 children from Years 3 & 4 participated in a basketball festival at The Becket School. They had a lovely time practicing their dribbling and passing skills and showed that they were a team in the making!

On Monday 14th March, Willow Brook girls and boys football teams travelled to Kinoulton to compete in friendly matches. The girls were up first and won 11-0!! A super performance all round and it was wonderful to see so many girls contribute to goals and assists! The boys had to follow that outstanding result but responded well. They secured an impressive 4-2 victory. A great afternoon out in Kinoulton and 2 performances to be proud of. Thank you to the friends and families for the brilliant away following.

Last Thursday, 8 children from Years 5 & 6 competed in a series of dodgeball matches against other schools at East Leake Academy. They had a lot of fun hurling and avoiding dodgeballs! The game scores were not recorded, but we had plenty of fun in all of our matches. Yet again, it was a pleasure to watch Willow Brook children play.

