



# Willow Brook News

June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a truly wonderful week this has been! I often say how proud I am to be the headteacher at Willow Brook, but the past five days have just made me remember why!

Our production of Peter Pan was everything we hoped it would be (and more!). Seeing the post-performance excitement after our final night this evening made every rehearsal worthwhile! From Beth in Year 6, who was the perfect Tinkerbell, to the smallest fairy who sang and danced their hearts out, we worked like a West End team and proved that with confidence, hard work and team spirit, we can do great things!



Our successes this week did not stop at the stage door... After a 12 year wait, our cricket team returned from Platt Lane with the champions' trophy and I'm not sure who was more chuffed – Mr Clarke or the children! His report in assembly this morning underlined that fact that every player contributed to the success, and Mr. Magner commented on how the children encouraged each other with such maturity. We have some very talented children!



As with everything that happens in school, the adult members of our community work above and beyond to make sure the children get the best experience. I am so grateful that Willow Brook has teachers and T.A.'s who always go above and beyond without a second thought.

### **Staffing for next year**

There will be a couple of changes to our teaching and T.A. team for next year. To ensure that her young family have the benefit of her time and energy, Mrs Best is changing roles and taking on a more flexible supply teaching position. She has been a very positive part of our team over the past two years, and I have particularly appreciated her creative skills and her wonderfully calm classroom! Mr. Boyd is also altering his job title and will be working at Willow Brook as a teaching assistant from September. Mr. Boyd is possibly the most patient teacher I have ever met and works incredibly hard. Again, the pressures of a full-time teaching role and a young family is demanding. I do, however, feel incredibly lucky to be keeping Mr. Boyd and I know that his skills will grow as he experiences life in our junior classes.

Mrs Sampson will be starting her maternity leave on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Whilst she has been at home this week after testing positive for Covid, she is ready and excited for her new arrival later in the month. Our long-term supply, Mrs Graham, will cover her six remaining days until the end of the school year, before Mrs Fleming moves from year 2 to cover the maternity leave period from September.

I am also delighted to report that Miss Johnston has agreed to return to full time teaching in the autumn.

I would like then, to introduce two new teachers who will be joining the team in September! Chris Litchfield will be adding his experience and skills to our senior leadership team and teaching in Year 5. He has been teaching in Nottinghamshire for ten years and we are excited to have his talents on board. Josie Adams will be joining us and starting her Willow Brook career in Year 3. She has been teaching for three years and is relocating to Nottinghamshire over the summer.

With a couple of moves to secure what I hope will be a long-term plan, our September structure will be:

<b>Year 6</b>	Mr Jones
<b>Year 5</b>	Mr Litchfield
<b>Year 4</b>	Mrs Smith
<b>Year 3</b>	Miss Adams
<b>Year 2</b>	Miss Johnston
<b>Year 1</b>	Miss Brearey
<b>E.Y.F.S</b>	Mrs Cotton/Mrs Fleming

Next Thursday morning we will be welcoming our new Reception children to school. Year 6 will be having their first taste of South Wolds and secondary school life and children at Willow Brook will all be spending the morning in the company of their September teachers. Mr. Litchfield and Miss Adams will be in school for the morning. There will be a second transition morning and a chance for you to meet new members of staff during our Open Afternoon on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Between the two events, children will continue to have opportunities to explore new environments and talk about moving forward. We know that most children take this in their stride and teachers at Willow Brook are so visible that the children know them well, but we also recognise that some children take time to adjust, and we will do our utmost to support and move forward with confidence.

For now, I am looking forward to tomorrow morning's trip to Waterstones with Year 6! As winners of our spring term reading challenge, they are about to enjoy their reward! I'll say it again - keep reading with your children – it's life changing... and I am so looking forward to sharing the joy of book browsing (and shopping!) with a Willow Brook class! #

At the end of a busy but marvellous week, I send you my best wishes for a great weekend,

*Louise Ballard*