



Willow Brook News

July 15th 2022

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with such pleasure that I open my newsletter to you today with the happiest news of all...

Esme Iris Sampson has arrived! She was a little early but is wonderfully healthy and content... as is Mrs Sampson! Esme arrived at 9.30 yesterday morning and weighed 6lb 12oz. I had to be content with a video call to the ward last night but am looking forward to taking our best wishes in person over the weekend.



It has been a very active week in school, and, in spite of the heat, the children have been throwing themselves whole-heartedly into days full of sport and games! Our younger children started the ball rolling at the end of last week with a bike challenge. Some hadn't mastered pedalling when they arrived in the morning but were leaping over ramps by lunchtime and there were some very proud faces!



Monday and Tuesday were filled with Urban Hockey and tennis coaching and by Wednesday morning children were learning all about the up-and-coming Commonwealth Games in a fabulously interactive assembly!



Like Paul McCartney at Glastonbury, the headline act of the week has to be Wednesday! Whilst we adjusted our programme to keep pace with the afternoon sun, I am sure you'll agree that the spirit and community of a primary school sports day was captured in our races and events. Whilst many schools now shy away from sporting competition and awards, the staff at Willow Brook continue to believe that it is important to celebrate and appreciate the talents of children who have sporting speed and who thrive on having their opportunity to shine. More importantly, we hope that those important little life skills of learning to win or lose with grace, simply taking part and supporting others as they give their all, are experienced and learned. It is the one afternoon of the year where we see nerves turn to smiles and where your applause helps the more reluctant to grow.



Thursday was all about Drumba! It was fast-paced, high-volume and incredibly exciting to watch!



As part of our Sport Week, the children have been hearing about the Tour of Britain Cycle race that will be heading through our part of the county on September 8th. We hope to be supporting the event, but in the meantime are happy to take part in a competition to design the starting flag for our leg of the race. Here are some of our finalists...



NEXT WEEK'S WEATHER WARNING

The start of next week is clearly going to be hot! The Met Office have just updated their amber weather warning to red and guidance has been sent to schools from the DfE. We will put all appropriate measures in place. These will ensure that:

- Children have frequent short breaks outside
- Outdoor sports will be put on hold until later in the week
- Children wear the hats you have provided
- An area is available for children who need to be indoors

PLEASE could you:

- Send your children to school in appropriate clothes. A school summer dress or uniform t-shirt and lightweight shorts are ideal (Year 6 will not be wearing their hoodies!)
- Ensure that your child has a water bottle that we can continue to refill regularly during the day
- Make sure that sun cream has been applied before they come to school

UNIFORM

If you have any clean uniform that your child has outgrown and still has plenty of wear in it, we would be happy to receive it **next Friday (July 22nd)**. Our plan is to make spare items of clothing available free of charge on the playground on the final Monday and Tuesday of term for anyone to help themselves to. Any unnamed items still in the lost property bin will be added to the stock.

Before I finish, I really must mention our wonderful Year 6 children. As I write, they are organising a sports morning for EYFS and Year 1. They are so patient and positive, and it makes me realise just how those seven years of weeks like this have come to fruition. On Wednesday we received Year 6's final SATs results. I woke up that morning with the BBC's news that primary results were 'understandably low' following the disruption of pandemic years. However, I am delighted to share with you that our results this year were nothing short of outstanding. They exceeded targets and, most impressively, are going to be way above national average, as well as ranking amongst Willow Brook's best ever! As someone who has taught Year 6, Year 4, Year 1... and EYFS... I know that every year and every person in the team helps to build towards these final outcomes. What an outcome – we are very proud and look forward to celebrating with our Year 6 children at the end of their final week at Willow Brook.



Mrs Bloomfield, who has worked at Willow Brook for the last 10 years supporting our SEND pupils (and, more recently, our EYFS classroom) has decided to return to her original vocation of nursing. Whilst this is a great loss for Willow Brook, we know that she is looking forward to taking up her course in September to get her back on the wards, and we hope that she is wonderfully happy and fulfilled!

Whatever you have achieved this week... whether you've had a baby, an exam success, a super school report, pedalled a bike for the first time or had a first-place sticker on your t-shirt... be proud!

We look forward to sharing more with you during our Open Afternoon on Wednesday. Join us at any time between 2 and 4pm. All teachers (including Mr. Litchfield and Miss Adams) will be available, so please introduce yourself!

Until then please go to our website for more photos of recent events.

Louise Ballard

