



# Willow Brook News

September 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

[head@willowbrook.notts.sch](mailto:head@willowbrook.notts.sch)

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Welcome Back

The school year has well and truly begun! 200 Willow Brook children have had a happy few days getting back into rhythm and routine, and I imagine the nervous energy of both teachers and children will mean that we will all sleep well this weekend!

I would like to officially welcome our new members of staff. Mr. Litchfield has had a positive start with his Year 5 class – they've worked hard this week! Miss Adams has also made sure that her new Year 3's have adjusted well to the demands of key stage two. They are feeling very grown up!

What's more, 30 new Willow Brookers have quickly found their feet in Reception and already seem quite 'at home'!

## Curriculum and Clubs

I hope that during the week each member of staff has communicated with you and introduced themselves as well as the curriculum direction for learning this half term. You should have all the information you need to support and build on what is happening in the classroom. Plans are afoot for each year group to get out and about in the community this term or have visitors bring their expertise into the classroom.

You will also have received a timetable of our Enrichment Clubs for the next five weeks. We ask that you return a permission slip for any after-school events so that teachers can complete a register. Please assume that children who return a letter will attend from next week. As part of our 'commitment' ethos, we ask that once signed up, children attend for the half term.

I am delighted that our choir will once again be experiencing the thrill of Young Voices at the Birmingham Arena. We have secured a spot in January and will be cracking on with rehearsals this term. Spaces are limited but I'd encouraged you to have a go! Again, it's all about commitment.

## Friends and Governors

I apologise for bombarding you twice with emails about the Friends AGM this week... but it shows how keen we are to welcome you to get involved and add your ideas (or a willing pair of hands) to some fundraising events over the next year! Please join us for the AGM at the Tavern on September 20<sup>th</sup>.



The school also has vacancies on its governing board. If you feel that you have the skills and energy to add to this brilliant team, watch out for the application letters that will be coming your way. If this is a position that you would consider and would like more information, please email Neil Rabbitts (our Chair of Governors) [nrabbitts@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](mailto:nrabbitts@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk)

### Cheering on the Tour of Britain

Mr Jones was proud to take his new Year 6 class to watch the Tour of Britain speed along Nottingham Road yesterday! As keen supporters of Keyworth's Hedgehog Highway, Annabel and Jasmin were even invited to attend to speak on behalf of the giant piece of land art depicting a cycling hedgehog! As quick as the occasion was, I am sure it will be a moment the children will remember.



### Our Moment With the Queen

As you know, Willow Brook's last whole school topic celebrated London and the reign of Elizabeth II. Many of our children wrote letters to the Palace and it was such a joy to receive a very special envelope during the last week of the summer holidays from Balmoral. Her Majesty apologised for the delay in replying and sent a signed photo card and a personal letter. Mrs Cotton and Miss Brearey were due to share this with the children this morning and, with the events of the last 24 hours making it so poignant, Year 1 were very proud of their special delivery. Our older children captured the feelings of this historic day in their My World books this morning as well as singing one last National Anthem in her name.



### Midday Staff

As many of you may know, Elaine, our cook, has not returned to work since last December due to ill health. It makes me very sad that Nottinghamshire County Council have not yet been able to employ a cook and have resorted to delivering meals to school. Whilst we have been assured that this is a temporary measure, it underlines the difficulty in finding appropriate part time employees. In spite of advertising over the past six months, we are also desperate to employ midday supervisors to help serve meals and maintain a safe and positive lunch hour for our children. Mr Jones and I continue to support the midday team, but that isn't ideal. If you are interested in working in this role, please get in touch with the school office for more details.

### Opportunities to get involved

Apart from being involved in more formal ways around school, we hope to provide different opportunities this year to come into school to volunteer and be a part of the community. We are currently organising a Potted Sports (Google it!) afternoon on 28<sup>th</sup> September and need your

help to run the events. Miss Johnston and Mr. Clarke will be in the playground with their clip boards signing up eager volunteers at the end of next week... look out for them!

After a three-year break, it is also a joy to announce the return of our MacMillan coffee breakfast! You are invited to join us for coffee and cake on the morning of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September between 8.15am and 9.30. We will be asking anyone who is proficient at baking (or shopping!) to donate a cake for the occasion... and I haven't forgotten that the teachers were beaten by a child in the prestigious 'Baker of the Year' medal competition last time... Can you be a winner?



You'll see other important dates for your diary in the list below. Please make a note of our first Parents Evening meetings scheduled for the week before the half term break.

### **Just a couple of polite reminders so that we put our best foot forward for a positive year...**

Please note that Willow Brook children are encouraged to eat fruit and healthy snack during breaktimes. We do not allow children to eat chocolate, chocolate biscuits, sweets or crisps. For our younger children there is always a good variety of high-quality fresh fruit on offer. Staff on duty *will* ask children to put inappropriate breaktime snacks away.

Parking considerably on Willow Brook continues to be an essential part of keeping our children safe. You should not park in restricted areas (including the bus stop or too near the corner of Fairway). We are a part of the County Council's surveillance project which means that regular spot checks are made with camera cars. In the past, this has resulted in parents receiving a fine.

Thank you for ensuring that your children have arrived at school before the 8.50am bell this week. It's been a great start with no children missing their lines. Being on time is such an important habit to get into and means that the day gets off to an organised and positive start for everyone.

I will finish by wishing you a very restful weekend.

My best wishes,

*Louise Ballard*

### **A summary of dates for your diary this half term:**

Date	Event
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Friends AGM at the Tavern
23 <sup>rd</sup> September	School disco
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Whole school Potted Sports afternoon 1.30pm
30 <sup>th</sup> September	MacMillan coffee breakfast – come and have coffee and cake from 8.15am and contribute to this great cause.
7 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Celebration – we welcome your donations of food and produce which will be donated to The Friary Drop-in Centre.
11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Term 1 Parents Evening meetings
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for half term