



Willow Brook News

July 26th 2022

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I write my final newsletter of the academic year on the penultimate day of the term. Tomorrow will be a day full of tradition and a very welcome return to the shared assemblies and events that mark a milestone for so many at the end of the year. We are looking forward to celebrating achievement, reminiscing and saying fond farewells to those who are flying the Willow Brook nest... and how wonderful it is to be welcoming the parents and carers of our Year 6 to their special time at 10am. (I do hope that we will all fit in the hall!)

It has been important in our final fortnight to give some special awards that give some much-deserved words of praise to some fabulous children. This morning, Mr. Clarke had the honour of presenting his annual Sporting Heroes prizes. I don't think his choices could have been any better! For a year full of dedication to Willow Brook teams and training, Matilda W and Finton in Year 6 are taking home the glass trophies and deserve to feel very proud! Other finalists include Charlee and Jessica in Year 5, Teddy in Year 4 and Tomas in Year 3. Again, Mr. Clarke talked about their commitment to lessons, teams and clubs both in and out of school. Tomas was even highlighted for using his sport to raise money for charity, taking his running and sense of adventure one step further!



Yesterday we held our final Bench of Glory for the year and teachers were asked to nominate a member of their class who had made a positive difference. There were so many reasons and thoughts behind teachers' choices which ended with eight incredibly proud children! A huge well done to Ella-May in Reception, Alice in Year 1, Niall in Year 2, Lucas in Year 3, Abby in Year 4, Jessie in Year 5 and Rowan and Annabelle in Year 6. (Mr. Jones couldn't choose!) We hope that your fridge magnet certificates are already in pride of place!



The past academic year has continued to be dogged by Covid – I sincerely hope that that is the last time I ever utter those words. With both staff and children struggling through difficult December days and spring weeks, there is no doubt that attendance has had its highs and lows. For those who love statistics, there were 84 children affected by Covid over the past year... 60 children took term-time holidays... and in spite of pandemic and episodes of extreme weather, the school remained open for all but one morning (thank you Severn Trent!). It is then quite a feat to end up with 100% attendance at the end of this academic year, and whilst there's an element of being blessed with a healthy immune system, stamina, determination and resilience certainly help! Nine children actually did it and we will be applauding them in our final assembly. There were a couple of others who only missed one session who will also be the proud owners of an attendance award.

Tomorrow our final awards go to two special people in Year 6. Traditionally, the children vote for their 'players' player' (what an honour to know that your friends think you are marvellous!) and the teachers elect the one person who has contributed to the life and ethos of Willow Brook during their years in school. It is always a long process to decide whose name will be engraved on that shield. You will just have to check the school website at the end of the day to see the results...

I want to finish by sending our love and positive wishes to Mrs Best as she recovers at home; lots of luck and sincere thanks to Mrs Bloomfield as she prepares to return to the NHS... and nothing but our best to thirty Year 6 children who we proudly send on to the next exciting phase of their education. And if you were wondering... yes, Miss Carpenter is expecting a baby!

Whatever the next few weeks have in store, I hope that you all stay happy and healthy until we come back together on Monday September 5th. Watch the website and your emails for information and updates in the run up to the start of term.

With my thanks for your continued support,

Louise Ballard