



Willow Brook News

October 14th 2022

head@willowbrook.notts.sch

Dear Parents and Carers,

We make it to the end of the first half term with a great half term under our belts and an exciting run up to the Christmas period already in the diary!

I must begin by thanking you most sincerely for all that you have contributed to the Willow Brook community over recent weeks. It was a joy to welcome you to our potted sports afternoon and to hear such positive feedback about the children's enthusiasm! The event brought our 5 C's to light as our older children supported and encouraged our youngest pupils to shine.



Our MacMillan Coffee morning was just as marvellous – your willingness to eat cake for breakfast was admirable and your generosity enabled us to send just under £700 to the charity. Equally as marvellous was your generosity for our harvest festival. As you can see from the photo, we were able to send an incredible amount of food to the Friary Drop-In centre in West



Bridgford. They were staggered when they came to collect it all... and thankfully came with a big van! Each small contribution has worked together to make a massive difference. Thank you.

Parent Governor Elections

You should have received a nomination form for our two parent governor vacancies yesterday. I know that many of you met with two of our current governors at Parents Evening and discussed your interest further, but we would encourage you to get in touch with Neil Rabbitts, our chair, if

you need any further information. Whilst it involves commitment, you will be working with a supportive team who will share their expertise and experience. Copies of the documents and forms sent out yesterday can be found on our school website or by following this link.

<https://willowbrook.notts.sch.uk/governors/parent-governor-election/>

Nominations should be returned to school on or before the morning of Thursday November 3rd.

Willow Brook Pre School

I was delighted to receive a late-night text message last Sunday from the manager of our pre-school telling me that they had scooped the award of National Pre-School of the Year at a ceremony in London! I know what a joy it is to pop in during a busy working day and have a moment in their wonderfully calm environment. The staff work with sincerity and enthusiasm to nurture the children, and we are lucky to inherit most of the children who spend their pre-school years with them. They are always raring to go when they start in Reception. A huge congratulations to you all... you are (in my ever so slightly biased opinion) such worthy winners!

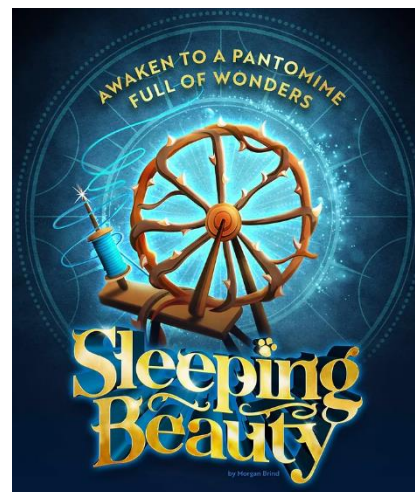


School Productions

You will see from the term dates below that our Christmas productions will be back this December and (fingers crossed) will not be disrupted by Covid! EYFS had 'Lights, Camels, Action!' ready to go last autumn and have dusted off the scripts and will be transporting you to Bethlehem on 15th December. Years 2 to 6 will be in full pantomime mode (oh yes, they will!) as they bring fairy tales to the stage in a performance of 'Porridge'. Casting is underway and rehearsals will weave into the working week after half term.

A Trip to the Theatre

Our up-and-coming whole school topic will be based on nursery rhymes and fairy tales – there's lots to learn and plenty of stories to be told. To get us all in the right frame of mind (and as a little treat) the children are all going to experience a live performance over the coming months! Years 3 to 6 will be going to the theatre in Loughborough on November 23rd to see Sleeping Beauty. Thanks to a donation from the Keyworth Drama Society and the proceeds of Peter Pan sales, we have bought the tickets and heavily subsidised the buses. A small contribution of £5 will secure the transport and a super afternoon. Our younger children will all experience theatre in the round when Nottingham Playhouse visit in January and perform Goldilocks. Their shows are exceptional. We recognise that live theatre is



exciting but also expensive. I hope every Willow Brook child will enjoy a memorable and inspiring afternoon.



Children in Need Day

As is tradition, we will be supporting this year's Children in Need on Friday November 18th. The theme will be fairy tales and nursery rhymes, so we will be inviting you all to dress up and enjoy the day! We love homemade and inventive costumes so I hope that this advanced warning encourages you to get thinking!

Willow Brook's Christmas Fair

As those who are part of the Friends of Willow Brook Facebook group will know, the committee are organising a Christmas Fair after school on Friday 9th December. To stock the ever-popular tombola stall, we are hosting a 'wear your own clothes day' on December 2nd in return for a small donation of chocolate or a bottle for the prizes.

Cauliflower Cards

The children have been busily designing their Cauliflower Christmas cards over the past couple of days. They will be with you on the Monday after half term when the paint and glue is dry! Without obligation, you will then have a week to return your order for Christmas cards/gift tags with your child's artwork on if required. All will be clearly explained on the form.

Pokémon (We've Caught them All!)

The staff all agree that the Pokémon Trading Tree will be closed after half term. More often than not, over the past six weeks there has been a positive vibe and lots of sharing and happy negotiating (and reading!) at playtimes. Small piles of cards have moved on to more precious albums and they are now best kept safely at home.

And finally... I am sure that you will also join with us in wishing Miss Brearey a very happy wedding day tomorrow! The children she has taught over the last two years have helped her to count down to her special day and I hope that it will be everything that she has dreamed of and planned for. She will return to us after her nuptials as Mrs. Humphrey.

I hope that your children have a good fortnight away from school and that they return to us safely and fully recharged on Monday 31st October. The second half of the autumn term is always a wonderfully busy one and plenty of energy will be required!

With my kind regards,

Louise Ballard

Date	Event
11 th November	Remembrance Day Poppy Service
18 th November	Children in Need Day
19 th November	Choir performing at the Keyworth Festive Day
23 rd November	KS2 trip to the Loughborough Pantomime
2 nd December	Non uniform day (in return for a chocolate/bottle tombola prize)
6 th 7 th 8 th December	Key Stage 2 Christmas Production
9 th December	Friends Christmas Fair 4 – 6pm
15 th December	EYFS and Year 1's Nativity Day (With performances at 2pm and 6.30pm).
20 th December	Christmas Dinner and charity jumper day
21 st December	Last day of term

Mr Clarke's Sporting Back Page

It's certainly been an action packed six weeks of football at Willow Brook. Two Saturday tournaments to start our season off, 1 for the boys, 1 for girls, both proved challenging for the teams but we took positives from them. The girls then had an amazing time at a rearranged Rushcliffe Women's Euros Tournament coming away with bronze medals for finishing 3rd overall. It was well deserved after fantastic performances. A match against Crossdale Primary soon followed for the girls in the Rushcliffe Small Schools Cup, but a 3-1 defeat meant an early exit. Our first league matches took place on Thursday 6th October as we hosted Greythorn school. The boys played first and sadly lost 3-1. The girls played shortly after and made a great start to their league season, collecting three points in a 2-1 win thanks to goals from Jessie and Joy. Willow Brook is fortunate enough to have lots of children who are interested in playing football and on Wednesday some of the children who have not had as much opportunity in recent games, had the chance to shine at a football festival at South Notts Academy. They showcased their skills in a series of drills and mini games and a lot of fun was had! With the darker nights looming, we won't be doing afterschool training next half term but there may be the opportunity for the odd game. Further information will be provided nearer the time.

This week it was a pleasure to take two teams to South Wolds Academy to take part in a Boccia tournament. The children had a great morning and represented the school with pride and spirit.