



# Willow Brook News

## December 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it (tired but very happy!) to the end of our first performance week in school. Your children have battled coughs and colds to sing, act and work together and I hope that you'll agree that their confidence, creativity and sense of community shone. I also take my hat off to Mr. Litchfield who stepped in on the last night as Old Mother Hubbard. I must say, he volunteered far too quickly when the role became vacant! Photos from our dress rehearsal and opening night will be on the website as soon as they have been received, but here's a sneak preview...

We are looking forward to our Reception/Year 1 show on Thursday, where the nativity joys that only a 5-year-old can bring will be in abundance!



### Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas Dinner is in the diary for Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderfully festive occasion where all the staff are involved in serving the children a traditional turkey dinner and we carry on the party atmosphere into the afternoon! We invite all children to be a part of the meal, even if they do not usually have a school meal. We need to get an estimate on numbers so that the turkey and crackers can be ordered. So, **we will presume that your child will join us for Christmas dinner unless you tell us they would rather not. Most children do. Please email [office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk) if you DO NOT want to order a Christmas dinner before next Tuesday (December 13<sup>th</sup>).**

If your child is not usually on our hot dinners system and has any dietary requirements (an allergy to sprouts for example, rather than simply a dislike of roast parsnips!) or requires a vegetarian/vegan meal, please contact Mrs Roper via email to let her know.



**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** will also be our Christmas jumper day! We would love you to add to the cheer by coming to school in your favourite festive knit. As is traditional, we ask that in return each child brings £1 which will be donated to the Salvation Army on the last day of term.

In his role as band leader, Duncan Cameron has once

again agreed to put a band together to make sure that our term ends with carols in the playground. You are invited to join us at **2.30pm** on **Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup>** to sing the year out, after which, Christmas can well and truly begin!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness on Children in Need Day back in November. Our final total was £1,435, which is utterly marvellous. The Just Giving page is now closed.



Today you should have received some additional health information about the current increase in scarlet fever and group A strep infection. Please take the time to read the information so that you understand the signs and symptoms. The UK Health Security blog is particularly good and if you are reading the electronic version of this newsletter, can be found by following this link: [Group A Strep - What you need to know - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2016/12/15/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know)

The other letter you should have received is from the Keyworth Community Food Bank with details of their opening times over Christmas. Similarly, please get in touch with me if you require any assistance whatsoever with winter uniform – school would be happy to help with coats or shoes and all requests would be confidential.

And finally... Over the past term, Mrs Roper has politely tried on a couple of occasions to underline the Nottinghamshire County Council's expectation that dogs are not permitted on any school site. Unfortunately, the sign they put up at Willow Brook stating this is (unhelpfully) at the bottom of the school drive. Without adding the dull (but important) details of public liability insurance, the bottom line is that we try and make sure that we care for every child at Willow Brook. I know of three children currently in school whose parents have told me that they are terrified of dogs. Whilst that sounds irrational when you see your fluffy puppy as nothing but adorable, they can find the thought of walking out of the gate unpredictable and difficult. I hope that you appreciate that we are simply trying to do the right thing by everyone and do not make requests without having good reason behind them.

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Fair later today if you are able to attend. The Friends of Willow Brook have worked hard to put together a festive event and I am very grateful for their time and effort. Well done, Nick and your team!

I know how tired your children are after a busy week. Thank you for encouraging them to be here late into the evening – they were nothing short of brilliant! I hope that the weekend will bring a little rest for the weary...

*Mrs Ballard*