



# Willow Brook News

29th March 2023

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Dear Parents and Carers,

After an action-packed six weeks where our whole-school topic has (once again) delivered so much more than we had planned or anticipated, our spring term will come to an end on Friday. We are looking forward to letting you see some of the shared projects and outcomes that have made 'Connections' such an inspiring theme. We hope that you will be able to pop into our exhibition on Friday afternoon to get a sense of all that we have mastered and explored. It has captured the primary curriculum in so many ways, and as you will see, has provided unique experiences that are so wonderfully 'Willow Brook'!

Our connection to the **Keyworth community** has been at the heart of our work. Teaching sessions have been led by many different organisations and businesses, from members of the Women's Institute to the director of BGS. We met members of the Allotment Association, mastered a scene from *Matilda* with the Dance and Musical Theatre Society, understood a little more about the Tennis Club and the Seniors Walking Football club, and each has brought a piece of local learning to add to our sense of community.

**Science week** saw the children enjoying expert tuition in anatomy and first aid from Dr. Tim Baker. They heard their hearts beat, measured the capacity of their lungs, learnt how to use a defibrillator and mastered triangular bandages! Eva Baker proved to the children that women were equally at the forefront of the science work by telling them about her ground-breaking work in genomes... which led us nicely on to contemplating our careers...

In **Careers Week** we were inspired by two ex-Willow Brook pupils who told us all about their passions at primary school and how they turned these into jobs that they love! Ellie is now a professional footballer and plays for Tottenham, as well as appearing in the England team! Chris is now a professional musician who, after getting a degree from Manchester's prestigious Royal College of Music, has played his bass guitar at venues around the world supporting bands and artists. Understanding that dreams made at primary school can come true, we all made a career flight path that should certainly be kept for future reference!





Last week's **Red Nose Day** was a highlight! As well as a day full of happy children, our Year 5 Cookie Team cooked up a treat for playtime which helped us to raise a fabulous £340 for the charity. The school disco was an apt end to the day and added £500 to the Friends of Willow Brook's funds. A huge well done to Nick and his team for organising a super evening and thank you, as always, for your generosity and support.

A huge thanks to all who have encouraged, assisted and project managed this half term's creative homework. Whilst a practical project is not everyone's cup of tea, the children's pride when they arrive laden with their creation is quite marvellous. The '**Operation Game**' concepts were the talk of the staff room today... from the political to the medical, there was a brilliant array of ideas and statements! There were posters, games and working circuits – you'll get a chance to see them all in Friday's exhibition!



We end our term on Friday with year 6's **DAaRT (DARE) graduation**. Mr. Magner and Mr. Jones have worked hard alongside our DARE officer and as I listened to the children rehearse this morning, I know what a valuable series of lessons they have experienced. I know that

when they perform in front of their families on Friday morning, they will communicate our ultimate goal of our whole school topic... to be a responsible, positive and engaged member of the community.

And to finish...As the parents in EYFS know, Mrs Fleming, who has been working alongside Mrs. Cotton this year, is moving on to a new role in West Bridgford after the Easter break. Mrs Sampson will be back from her maternity leave at the end of May and will resume her job share in Reception. Mrs. Fleming has been a great addition to the Willow Brook team during her time with us and we wish her nothing but the best.

Whatever the next fortnight brings, I hope that you have time to relax and connect with the community! The past six weeks have taught us all that it's a lively place to live and learn.

We look forward to welcoming you into school for our exhibition on Friday. After that we will see you for the first day of the summer term on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April**.

With our best wishes,

Louise Ballard and the staff of Willow Brook.

### Summer term dates already in the diary for next term

Bank Holiday Monday May 1 <sup>st</sup>	
Additional Bank Holiday for the Coronation	Monday May 8 <sup>th</sup>
Year 6 SATs tests	Tuesday May 9 <sup>th</sup> to Friday May 12 <sup>th</sup>
INSET day	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 5 and 6 away on residential	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Year 6 transition days to South Wolds Academy	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June
Sports Week	July 10 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>
Sports Day	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July
Open Afternoon	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July (TBC)
End of term and Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (10am)	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023