



Willow Brook News

3rd May 2023

head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a timely reminder that Willow Brook will, of course, be celebrating the coronation on Friday! Whilst it doesn't seem long since we put up the bunting and sang for a Platinum Jubilee, we are just as excited almost a year later to mark this historic occasion!

The dress code for Friday is red, white and blue, and anything patriotic goes, and we are hoping that the rain holds off for our playground picnic lunch. The Union Jack (made of 210 cupcakes!) will be under construction on Thursday. The children have been learning a coronation anthem and will be investigating the symbolism and ceremony that they may see on Saturday. We are also looking forward to capturing their bank holiday weekend in a Willow Brook time capsule next week... I was inspired by my Mum's diary from 1953 which summarises community and country on one handwritten page!

As you are aware, next week is SATs week. Your children have worked SO hard over recent months to build on their skills – they have truly made Mr. Jones, Mrs Armitage, Mr. Magner and me very proud and the children are as ready as they can be. It has always been a Willow Brook aim to ensure that our children do not feel anxious or under pressure as they work up to their final assessments... primary school should never be monopolised by exams... we simply want to pass on and record grades that reflect their potential and learning progress.

Next week's timetable for Year 6 will run as follows:

Tuesday 9 th May	Grammar and Punctuation test	Spelling test
Wednesday 10 th May	English Reading test	
Thursday 11 th May	Maths Arithmetic	Maths Reasoning 1
Friday 12 th May	Maths Reasoning 2	

No test lasts for more than an hour and all are completed in the morning sessions. We have a well-considered plan to support any vulnerable children that works within the bounds of what is permitted. Whatever the circumstance, we know how to adapt.

For admin purposes, we ask that you **notify the school as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend on the day of a test.** There are regulations in place that allow us to alter our arrangements for individuals if needs must, but we can usually organise a solution if we have time. An early night, a good breakfast and plenty of calm encouragement all contribute to a successful day!

Whatever you have planned, I wish you a happy and memorable weekend.

With my regards,

Louise Ballard



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Year 2 Assessments

As you may be aware, next week is SATs week in school for our Year 6 children. The week marks the start of a period of formal assessments across schools. Our Year 2 children will take end of key stage tests during the last week of the half term (22nd – 26th May). It has always been a Willow Brook aim to ensure that our children do not feel anxious or under pressure as they work towards any formal test... this is not what primary school is about. However, capturing small milestones does allow us to take stock and intervene and take positive action as they start in key stage 2. Attendance during this period is important to us – it means that children feel ready and informed and the process is a speedy one.

Children in Year 2 will be formally assessed in English reading, arithmetic and maths reasoning. Whilst they will complete short tests, Miss Johnston's knowledge of their day-to-day work will inform the levels given. Writing will also be assessed using pieces of work that the children produce over the summer term.

Most importantly, we mention very little to the children in the run up to the end of this half term. We hope that you will support us in this by doing the same. Tests will feature in lessons and the children will do a super job with our encouragement and without any added worry. We are, as always incredibly proud of all that they achieve, whatever the subject or skill.

Whatever you have planned, we wish you a happy celebratory weekend.

Louise Ballard