

#### Willow Brook News

#### 5th June 2023 head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk

Welcome to the final half term of the academic year! There are seven action-packed weeks ahead, full residential adventures, sporting events, first and final days at primary school and a whole-school topic that, I have no doubt, will prove to be inspiring and memorable!

'The Dig' neatly ties up our autumn term history studies and introduces the children to the fascinating world of treasure hunters and archaeology. After an initial trip together to the Tyrolean Alps to unearth the evidence found with the 5,000-year-old Ice Man, each year group will be off on their own learning adventure and will arrive back in July with a table full of 'finds' to share with you on Open Afternoon! Year 6 are meeting Mary Anning as she digs on the beach at Lyme Regis; Year 5 are off to Pompeii; Year 4 will dig alongside Basil Brown as he unearths an Anglo-Saxon burial mound at Sutton Hoo; Year 3 will be discovering the tomb of Tutankhamun with Howard Carter; Year 2 are diving to the ocean floor to find the Titanic and our youngest children will be excavating dinosaurs in the sandpit and learning all about them!











The half term has to start with a huge 'welcome back' to Mrs. Sampson! She will be settling back into EYFS after her year's maternity leave over the next few weeks before resuming her role as SENCO fully at the start of July. It is good to finally have the Reception team back together and I'd like to add a big thank you to Mrs. Graham for working so hard to make the transition appear seamless.

I am not sure if I am delighted or quite sad to also announce that Mrs Allen is retiring at the end of June. Since her arrival at Willow Brook nine years ago, she has added a huge amount of colour, joy and care to our community – it is no surprise that she is the staff 'social secretary' and is quick to offer nurture and support wherever it is needed. I know that she is delighted at the thought of booking holidays in the sun during term time and making sure that there's more time to appreciate family, art and music. The children Mrs Allen has supported so ably in her role as Willow Brook's classroom T.A. and Emotional Literacy Assistant have benefitted enormously from her patience and understanding. She will be calling in to school to finish some work with children currently in her care, before handing over to a new member of staff who we hope to appoint this week.

In other community news, our Friends Committee are holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday and invite you all to join them at The Key at 7pm. Whilst I'm still trying to work out the rules, their 'Break the Rules Day' last Friday was a great success – the children really enjoy a 'dress

down day' and, most importantly, £500 was added to the Friends funds. Thank you so much for supporting the event. You'll see from the calendar below that there is a final fundraiser planned in July, and what a better way to end the school year than a school disco!

The calendar below details every event currently planned to take place over the next half term. I hope that the detail included helps you to add any relevant dates to your diaries:

Summer term dates already in the diary for this term	
Friends of Willow Brook AGM	Thursday June 8 <sup>th</sup>
INSET day	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June
Parents information meeting for our residential	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June at 6pm
Year 5 and 6 away on residential	Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd June
Year 6 transition days to South Wolds Academy	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June
New EYFS children first visit to school New parents' information evening	Thursday June 29 <sup>th</sup> 1.15 to 3pm Thursday June 29 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm *Please note Schoolwear Solutions will be in
	school between 2.30 and 4pm for all parents on this day for any new orders, collections or enquiries.
Sports Week	July 10 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>
Sports Day	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July at 1.30pm
*All parents are invited to join us between 1.30 and 3.15pm to support the children in a fun afternoon of races and events.	
Annual school reports go out	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July
Class swap transition morning and new EYFS visit	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Open Afternoon	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2.15pm to 4pm
*You are welcome to come into school this afternoon to see your child's teacher and visit their new classroom. There will be performances in the hall and a chance to see each year group's Dig Exhibition.	
Welcome to Year 6 – information for parents	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 6pm
End of Year School Disco	Friday 21st July
End of term and Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (10am)	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
*Year 6 parents and carers are invited to join us for the children's final assembly presentation.	

As always, please get in touch if there are any queries, concerns or comments. We are happy to listen to your thoughts and feedback.

Kind regards,

Louise Ballard



# The Big Idea

upon us, we were in the presence of history and wonder... and when Lord Carnarvon inquired anxiously, 'Can you see anything?' it was all I could With such evidence sealed before us, the mystery gradually dawned do to get out the words, 'Yes, wonderful things!'

Tutankhamun's tomb, objects from the past will whisper their puzzles and secrets and help us to unlock the exciting world of archaeology as Just as Howard Carter heard as he unearthed the treasures from

# Willow Brook starts the dig!

covered in the autumn term and build on the time periods and skills studied. With an existing knowledge, key events will come to and treasure to tell a story of our past. Children will visit the Valley of the Kings and the city of Pompeii... they will dive to find the unearthing and interpreting the past. Our learning will begin with an intriguing find in the Otztal Alps where buried clues will lead life through the eyes of an archaeologist and their dig. Primary and secondary sources will act as clues as we piece together time bow of Titanic and search for fossils on the Dorset coast with Mary Anning... all of which will help us to understand the thrill of History is at the forefront of our work over the next six weeks. Each class will look back to the topics and historical objectives Willow Brook's detectives to solve the 5,000 year old case of the murdered ICE MAN..

## Across the curriculum

### As expressive artists

As musicians

We will be representing the past in sketches, designs and pictorial representation of texts.

Children will be rehearsing a whole range of songs and musical pieces as we work towards end of year performances.

## As theologians and thinkers

Weekly RE lessons will help children to explore and learn about inspirational/significant people of key faiths and how their actions reflected their beliefs and changed the world.

### As French speakers

Classes in our Key Stage 2 department will be developing their knowledge of French vocabulary. Rehearsing verbal phrases and completing written activities will increase both pronunciation and basic language confidence.

# As fitness and wellbeing experts

traditional, competitive Sports Day. Year 2 has an outdoor adventure day planned at Colwick Park. Active lessons and outdoor learning are Summer opens up a full programme of outdoor sports and extra-curricular activities, and visiting coaches and trips to local clubs will add We will continue to build on fitness skills and healthy lifestyles through lessons, competitive games, swimming, dance and physical play. exciting opportunities to engage all age groups. Our dedicated Sports Week will include a range of whole-school events, including a regular features on the timetable and children are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular clubs.

# Ambitious Knowledge connecting us to our past, present and future

schools. We will debate the changing tide and consider what a primary school curriculum that reflects everyone's history might look Through assemblies and targeted lessons, Willow Brook children will be learning about how shared principles and British values uphold society, promote equality, celebrate diversity and create a thriving community. As our focus turns to history, we will be considering how our past is captured in museums, commemorated with blue plaques, historic sites and statues, and taught in

#### teachers, transition maths days will provide an exciting taste of outdoor practical problem solving. As children meet their new complete, there will be revision of key skills and plenty of shape, space and measure and meet the objectives and

challenges of their new year group.

complete the year's curriculum. After annual assessments are

Each individual year group will be studying set objectives to

As mathematicians...

# As language specialists

Years 2, 3 and 4 will be using excerpts from historical fiction and Everything Anglo-Saxon and Treasures from Sutton Hoo. Guided Tutankhamun by Patricia Cleveland-Peck and Year 4 looking at factual texts to underpin their key topic themes: Year 2 using Grandad's Island. This half term sees each cohort completing Opportunities to publish extended pieces and be inspired by curriculum objectives in grammar, punctuation and spelling. Reading will include Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll, stories of other voyages including 'Coming to England and Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo and, for Year 2, one-off Exciting Writing tasks culminate in a portfolio of independent written work for assessment in all genres. Rescuing Titanic by Flora Delargy; Year 3 The Story of

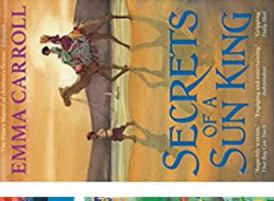
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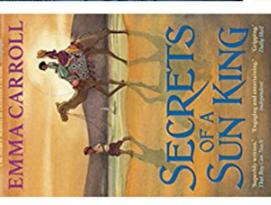
find out how sound is made and how vibrations travel through a and life cycles. Year 3 investigate forces and magnets and Year 4 medium to the ear. Working scientifically is at the heart of each The focus in science this half term for Year 2 looks at humans area. Making predictions, understanding fair testing, plotting observations and prior knowledge are all key components. results mathematically and drawing conclusions based on

# Books that we recommend to support our learning this term

With history at the centre of our half term topic, here are some super books that we recommend that might support and enhance your child's learning this half term. Be they fact or fiction, they have achaeology at their heart. As always, if you find or can recommend any titles that fit the theme and would be a great addition to our school library, please let us know.













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