



NEWSLETTER

September 8th 2023

Welcome back!

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome your children back to Willow Brook this week!

Our new children in EYFS have taken their first brave steps into the classroom and their journey has begun with just the right amount of confidence! Those first day butterflies (that even teachers feel!) have flown and it was great to see so many smiles as everyone left in the sunshine on Wednesday. When asked, Mr. Litchfield picked 'eager' as his word to describe Year 5; Year 4 was described as 'enthusiastic' and Miss Adams said Year 3 were 'cheerful'. Miss Johnston described her new class as 'productive'... Year 1 are keeping Mrs Humphrey on her toes so she picked 'busy'! Mr. Jones didn't reply, so I imagine he is still speechless that Year 6 are the class of his dreams...

New staff

It has also been a pleasure to welcome two new members of staff this term. Miss Watterson is our new teacher in Year 4 and Mrs. Bugden is now part of our fabulous TA team and is based in Year 5.



This may be an opportune moment for me to mention that one of our faithful midday supervisors, Jane Fairfield is retiring today. She has been at Willow Brook for nearly 8 years (and a midday at another school for 25 years before that!) and has worked alongside your children with such warmth and pride. I know that she reads every newsletter, so this one must have her at the centre. Thank you, Jane, and enjoy a very long and happy retirement!



Clubs and communication with teachers

I am hoping that you have received a Learning Letter and a Curriculum summary from your child's teacher. The Extra Curricular Club timetable was also published on Wednesday and all activities begin next week. As it says, these activities will run UNTIL OCTOBER HALF TERM when an updated timetable will offer new opportunities. If you did not receive this, please follow this link to find it on the school website.

<https://willowbrook.notts.sch.uk/extended-schools/school-clubs/>

Ofsted

This morning I received a final version of the school's Ofsted report following on from their visit in June. This was forwarded to you via Parentmail. After two incredibly intense days, the inspectors left having experienced the heart and hard work of Willow Brook and we are proud that this has been captured in an incredibly positive report. We are already working on any areas highlighted for improvement with determination. Our report will be published officially on the Ofsted website at the end of next week.

Bucket list!

We would like to fill some newly purchased flexi tubs with any small world play toys that you no longer need. Our younger children love playing in the tree roots and tables outside and just need imaginative figures, animals or vehicles to share and make lunchtimes more interactive. Please make sure all toys donated are safe and clean and suitable for young children. (We will check!) If your children have grown out of any items that would fit the bucket, please pass them on to a member of staff.



Reading Heroes

It was fabulous to see the children in assembly with their Reading Challenge medals this week! As Mr. Jones says, 'reading is everything'! When she left in July, Jessica, one of our Year 6 children, bought each class in school a book. It was the one she had loved the most when she was in that class. The presents were eagerly unwrapped in this morning's assembly. Each class has started the year in the company of Roald Dahl. If you are looking for a great chapter book for a shared bedtime read, his books will certainly add some magic.

Playtime Snacking

The staff have asked me to remind you that the school has a policy of encouraging healthy playtime snacks. Please avoid packets of crisps, chocolate bars, cake and sweets. The children will be asked to put these back in their bags. Quality fruit is always on offer in school and there are plenty of healthier options to choose from if you are providing your own. This is a good opportunity to remind you that we have children in school with severe allergies to nuts and sesame seeds, so snacks containing either should not be given as snacks or in lunch boxes. We appreciate your help.

With many events already in the diary for the term ahead, I'll leave you with our plans to date. (All dates are also on the calendar on the school website. <https://willowbrook.notts.sch.uk/events/>)

...And then there's just a few pictures of a very happy first day of school, full of those eager, busy, cheerful, productive, enthusiastic young people! Whilst I know the weather won't last, long may their smiles and friendship.

Mrs. Ballard





Date	Event	Details
September 15 th	Friends of Willow Brook social 5.30 to 7.30	Details to follow from the Friends Committee
September 19 th	Harry Potter Potted Sports afternoon	The houses of Hogwarts compete in an afternoon of sport and fun. We will be looking for parent volunteers to help us.
September 26 th	Year 6 trip to the Safety zone	
September 29 th	MacMillan Coffee Breakfast	Enter our annual 'beat the teacher' cake competition and cook up a treat to add to our coffee and cake breakfast between 8 and 9.30am.
October 6 th	Harvest Festival	Donate to our food bank collection for the Friary drop-in centre. Parents and carers of our new children in EYFS are welcome to join us at 10am for our Harvest celebration assembly.
October 17 th and 18 th	Parents Evenings	Appointment letters will be sent nearer the time so that you can meet your child's teacher.
October 20 th	Half term begins	
November 17 th	Children in Need fundraising day	A fun-filled charity day where we will be dressing up and raising money.
December 2 nd (Saturday)	The Junior Choir will be joining the Village Day Christmas celebrations	
December 12 th 13 th 14 th	Junior Production (still under wraps...)	Years 2 to 6 perform on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 6.30pm and Wednesday afternoon at 2pm
December 20 th	Nativity Day	EYFS and Year 1 perform their nativity at 2pm and 6.30pm
December 22 nd	End of the autumn term	Children return to school on Monday 8 th January