



Willow Brook News

25th July 2023

head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

We finally reach the last day of the school year! In spite of dodging the showers, the past two weeks have been full of activity and the children have competed, played, performed and presented! I know that they were proud to welcome you all to our Open Afternoon last week and I hope that you enjoyed meeting the staff and sharing the children's achievements.

There were lots of awards in our final Bench of Glory this morning...

Mr. Jones presented his golden plate and spoon for his annual chess tournament. Alwande secured the spoon, and William's victory on Friday enabled him to lift the plate! In a grand finale this lunchtime, the golden cup was taken by Alex, who narrowly beat Abbey for the ultimate crown!

Mr. Clarke presented his end of year sporting awards this morning. Millie in Year 6 and Edi in Year 5 received the overall awards for all that they have given to the school and our teams over the year. They have been encouragers as well as players and their talents and enthusiasm have enabled them both to shine.

If you have had chance to view the website over the past fortnight, you will have seen photos from our sporting events.



As well as a rather damp Sports Day, there was a girls' and boys' football tournament, trips out to the local tennis club, visitors in from Nottingham Rugby Club, a games tournament, circus activities and a wonderfully exciting in-house netball tournament to finish the week! I want to thank Tammy Hatfield for championing our netball squad... after a wobbly few games earlier in the season, Willow Brook went on to win the East Leake inter-schools Tournament last week, which was just reward for the hours of training! Our thanks, as well, to Mr. Sandey who has given up his time over the past year to help coach the girls' football squad. His expertise and energy have added to the magic that is Mr. Magner and Mr. Clarke!

Here are some photos of the sporting highlights... there's always more on the website...



Our half term's topic focus has been full of facts and interesting information. Each year group has been on a 'dig' to unearth a slice of history, and from Pompeii to Sutton Hoo, there's been lots to learn! In a final project morning on Wednesday, each class did a presentation of their work as archaeologists, before leaving their 'finds table' out for you to see.

One of our 5 C's is confidence and the ability to stand and communicate with volume and expression is a great life skill to master. Even our very youngest children did a fantastic job!

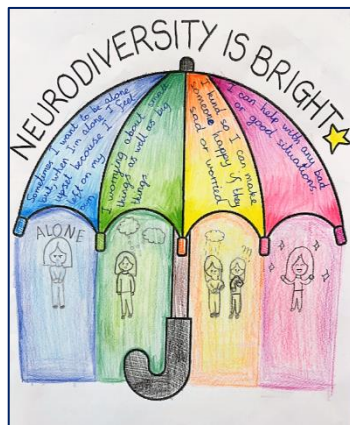


The week finished with our Seaside Celebration! It took me back to family holidays on the Suffolk coast as we ate our fish and chips in the drizzle and reassured each other that we were sure that it was about to 'brighten up!'. The children, however, had a very happy time and just enjoyed lunch outside and the chance to play some traditional beach games with their friends.



Willow Brook have also worked over the past couple of weeks on the BBC's Behind the Mask project. Children are used to seeing Pudsey with his injured eye, but by removing his mask we learnt about some of the hidden conditions that make our diversity so rich. Under the umbrella of neurodivergence, we talked about our invisible differences so that we could start to understand and know how to support each other with care. Everyone in school made an 'umbrella' enabling classes to talk and consider how our unique brains work and worry.

I thoroughly recommend the visual resources we included (a link to our assembly media <https://youtu.be/RbwRrVw-CRo> and <https://youtu.be/UDzri9EvSjk>) and the DK book 'Wonderfully Wired Brains' is just brilliant!



Tomorrow we finish the year with our Leavers' Assembly at 10am. We hope it will be a fitting and memorable send off for our Year 6 children and a chance to share a last piece of primary school with parents and carers.

For the rest of us, I look forward to seeing you once again in the autumn! Term starts for the children on **Wednesday 6th September**. Whatever the next five weeks brings, the staff at Willow Brook wish you and your families a happy and safe summer.

Louise Ballard