



NEWSLETTER

November 9th 2023

Dear All,

A quick newsletter to welcome you to the new half term and to fill you in on some of the whole-school events that are happening over the next couple of weeks.

Monday is Odd Socks Day!

The staff at Willow Brook work hard to provide a safe and caring environment for learning for all our pupils to allow them to improve their life chances and help them to nurture positive behaviour and attitudes. We deliver regular teaching and encourage discussion around differences and help children to build a knowledge and understanding of diversity... we are all different...hence the odd socks! When attitudes and actions are negative we aim to act swiftly and never accept unkind words as 'banter' or hitting and punching as 'boys being boys'. We also teach children the difference between falling out and that repetitive imbalance of power that sits at the heart of bullying. It is important to us that children know how to share their concerns and know how to speak out, so this year's Anti-Bullying theme is 'Make a Noise'. We will put an update on our website after the event sharing the resources we have used in our teaching and some information for parents about how you can support your child to feel safe and take positive action.



Next Friday is Children in Need

As part of our whole-school topic, next Friday we'll be travelling the Silk Road with Ali Baba and having a fun-filled day with Pudsey Bear to raise money for this fabulous charity. It's a 'wear your own clothes day' where anything goes! There's an Ali Baba team challenge lined up for the morning and the children are invited to the Willow Brook Showcase Cinema in the afternoon for a giant screening of Aladdin! All you have to do to get a

ticket (and a choice of a cinema snack!) is to donate. You can bring your cash on Friday for the bucket or (preferably)

donate online. Our Just Giving page is now live and if you scan the QR code and pledge an amount (however small), you'll also get a family 'shout out' on the giant screen next Friday. The Willow Brook total smashed the £1,000 barrier last year, so bring it on!



Next week is a busy week! You will see on the calendar that the Friends AGM is on Monday. This super group of parents and carers work hard to create fundraising opportunities for the school and more hands would certainly make lighter work of their commitment to the school. You will have received information and an agenda from the Friends, so join us at school at 7pm and see how you can help.

We also look forward to welcoming our EYFS parents to school on Wednesday to hear all about our early reading programme. Your partnership and support in building those early learning foundations are so important and we hope that we can share some tips with you. You'll even get to experience a phonics session with Mrs. Cotton... that's always good fun!

Thank you for supporting your children in completing their entry for the short story writing competition. I can't tell you how proud the children have been to share their finished tales and to talk about the humour they have invented as much as the 'scare'! They are brilliant, and I am looking forward to lighting a fire on Saturday afternoon and settling back to read them all!

And finally... Today the children marked Armistice Day with a short but moving outdoor Remembrance service. We teach the significance of the poppy and help children to reflect on peace and freedom. We know that members of our community come from countries where unrest is as prevalent and brutal as it ever was in history. For two minutes this morning, our silence stood alongside you as well.

Kind regards,

Louise Ballard



Date	Event	Details
November 13 th	Odd Socks Day	The start of national Anti-Bullying Week. Wear odd socks to school.
November 13 th	Friends of Willow Brook AGM	7pm in the school hall. If you are interested in being a part of the Friends team, please come along.
November 15 th	Phonics Information Evening	We invite our EYFS parents and carers to join us and learn a little bit about how we teach phonics and reading in school. 6pm
November 17 th	Children in Need fundraising day	A fun-filled charity day where we will be raising money for a fabulous cause.
November 24 th	School Disco	Key stage One 6.15pm to 7.15pm Key stage Two 7.30pm – 8.30pm
December 1 st	Friends Christmas Fair 4pm to 6pm in the school hall	
December 2 nd (Saturday)	The Junior Choir will be joining the Village Day Christmas celebrations 2.30pm	
December 12 th 13 th 14 th	Junior Production – Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits	Years 2 to 6 perform on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings,, with a matinee performance on Wednesday 6.30pm.
December 20 th	Nativity Day	EYFS and Year 1 perform their nativity at 2pm and 6.30pm
December 22 nd	Last day of the autumn term	Children return to school on Monday 8 th January. (Willow Brook INSET days on 4 th and 5 th January)