



NEWSLETTER

December 1st 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move at a pace towards the last few weeks of term, I hope that this newsletter will provide all the information that you need to keep ahead of the busyness of the Willow Brook Christmas season!

Friends Events

December begins with the school Christmas Fayre this evening. The Friends Committee are hosting the event between 4 and 6pm in the school hall. Please pop in!

Last Friday's fundraising event – the school disco – was a blast! Thanks to your support and a well-stocked tuck shop, we raised just over £700.

The Friends of Willow Brook are working towards a £7,000 target to purchase a reading cabin for our outdoor classroom.

School Productions

Parents of children in years 2 to 6 will have received a ticket order form this evening. We work hard to be fair with our ticket allocation – Mrs. Roper runs a thoughtful system. As soon as all families have received two tickets, any remaining spaces will be offered. I know that the children's hard work and a pun-filled script will make Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits a surefire success! We certainly have some talented actors this year! As teachers tell the children, to be proud of any piece of work, hard work and determination are key. Thank you for helping us out with costumes, which we encourage the children to bring as early as they can next week.

A ticket order form for the KS1 Twinkly Nativity will be out on Monday 11th December.

Celebration Assembly

On Wednesday, the whole school gathered together to celebrate a whole host of talents, achievements and little wins that have shone since half term. Mr. Clarke's teams and events are featured on the back page and continue to give so many children an opportunity to represent the school, find the fun in team sports and get involved in active learning!

Mr. Jones also took his chess team to a tournament at the High School and brought back eight undefeated grand masters! They shared the news of their success with such pride!



Tomorrow at 2.30pm our choir make an appearance to open proceedings at the Keyworth Village Christmas event. Our 2023 choir is in fine voice and has such enthusiasm and volume! I watched them rehearse for the Young Voices stadium concert on Tuesday and, as I hope you can see from the photos I took, they perform with such passion!



Alongside the sport, music and chess, this half term I've enjoyed hearing about our Fantasy Football league and games of bridge, and have watched children garden (in the frost!), sew and make Christmas crafts in after school clubs. In such a busy season, where staff already give above and beyond to make performances happen, their additional time and energy to support so many additional activities is something I think is just marvellous.

The end of term

We are delighted to invite you all to come to our traditional end of term carols in the school playground on Friday 22nd December. After almost 25 years of conducting the Salvation Army musicians just for us, Duncan Cameron has moved to London. However, with a little help, we have managed to rally a brass band and hope that you will enjoy sharing this occasion with us. Last year, the Christmas spirit was so high that it even snowed...

Mrs Roper is in the process of finalising numbers for our Christmas dinner. Please let the office know if your child is NOT partaking in a school meal or has any dietary requirements not already noted. This is always a wonderfully festive treat where we all eat together. Staff serve the children, and it leads nicely into our carols by candlelight experience later in the afternoon.

If you need any further information about any of the above, please get in touch or talk to a member of staff in the playground. And, as it's now December, let the festive season begin!

Mrs Ballard.

Date	Event	Details
December 1 st	Friends Christmas Fair 4pm to 6pm in the school hall	
December 2 nd (Saturday)	The Junior Choir will be singing at the Keyworth Village Day Christmas celebrations at 2.30pm in the square.	
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 at 2pm.
December 20 th	Nativity Day	EYFS and Year 1 perform their nativity at 2pm and 6.30pm
December 21 st	Christmas Jumper Day	Children are invited to come in their Christmas jumpers as we enjoy a festive activity morning and our Christmas dinner. In return we will collect £1 donations for the Salvation Army.
December 22 nd	End of term carols	Weather permitting, you are invited to join the children and the Salvation Army Band in the playground to sing traditional carols and mark the start of Christmas.
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)
February 5 th - 6 th 2024	Year 3 and 4 residential trip	
February 12 th to 16 th	Half term week	
March 25 th – 27 th 2024	Year 5 and 6 residential trip	

Mr. Clarke's Sporting Back Page

Since our last sporting back page, we have once again been very active with a variety of sporting events. In Football, we had two emphatic wins with our girls' team progressing to the second round of the cup with a 3-0 win vs Heymann, and our boys team scoring six goals vs Gotham!



Children in KS2 were given the opportunity to represent school in dodgeball and boccia festivals and finally, a moment for some of our younger children to shine, as a Multi Skills Festival at South Notts Academy meant eight children in KS1 got their first taste of an after-school sporting event.



Take a look on the website at our sporting page, where you'll be able to find reports of these events with more happy photos!