



NEWSLETTER

December 21st 2023



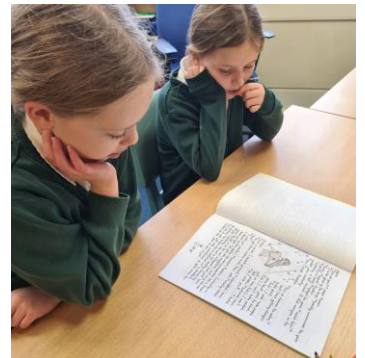
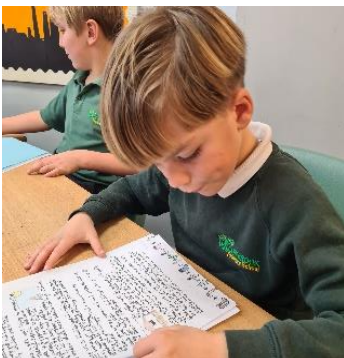
Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it to the end of a term where every week has been packed with Willow Brook tradition, new experiences and lots of learning. Here's a taste of what's been happening in school since my last newsletter.

House of Wisdom

Our 1001 Arabian Nights topic came to a dramatic conclusion this week as the whole school visited the House of Wisdom in Baghdad. Everyone in school had a published story ready to share and a new author from each class had their book read aloud. With the usual silence a library commands, each classroom was then opened for an hour of book browsing.

The topic has been a good one. There's so much fascinating history and culture bound up in the ancient world of Baghdad and the Silk Road which was so well captured in the children's work.



Friends Events

Yesterday, the children enjoyed an activity morning prepared by the Friends of Willow Brook. They had great fun playing games and doing craft activities. The arrival of their sacks in the morning assembly brought the usual 'whoop' of excitement!

Here is a message from the committee:

It has been another busy and successful term for Friends of Willow Brook culminating in the Christmas Fayre. Thank you again for all of your tombola, and raffle prize donations as well as our team of volunteers who we couldn't run these events without.

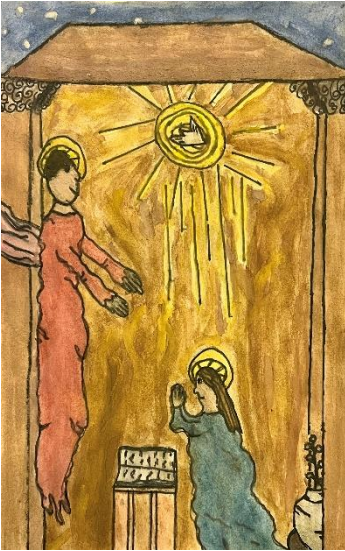


We are delighted to announce that we raised a further £1080 which goes in the kitty towards the outdoor reading space!

Plans are already afoot for 2024; a date for your diary is Friday March 15th for our ever-popular school disco.

Carols and Art

Last Friday, we had a Christmas art day. This focused on the story of the first Christmas and created a gallery of pictures that were shown during our Carols by Candlelight service on Thursday. As you can see from these three masterpieces, there were paintings in the style of Botticelli next to infant chalk creations and stained-glass windows. Yet more wonderfully creative Willow Brook talents on display!



School Productions

Forgive me for repeating myself... but I just wanted to say what an amazing job your children have done over the past fortnight. The stamina and talents of the children in years 2 to 6 and the confidence that grew over four weeks of rehearsals made *Ali Baba and his Bongo Bandits* quite exceptional! I know that it will be an experience that they will always remember. Our *Twinkly Nativity* this week was equally as full of joy and gave our youngest children a first taste of the spotlight. The pictures below are a selection from some that were taken. More will be on the website as soon as I have time to upload them during the fortnight ahead.

The staff at Willow Brook put their hearts and energy into all that we do during the autumn term. It has been packed with adventures, experiences and new learning. As always, I think that their teamwork and dedication is incredible. I know they are ready for a well-deserved rest, as are the children, so I finish by wishing every member of the Willow Brook community a very happy Christmas and a restful break. Father Christmas made a flying visit to EYFS this week... I hope that his return on Sunday night brings all that you wish for!

We will see you bright and early on Monday January 8th.

Mrs Ballard.





