

# Newsletter - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Time has been at the centre of thinking and learning over the past fortnight and the hours, minutes and seconds seem to have raced! From new songs and exciting books to class debates and Salvador Dali's melting clocks, there have been new experiences and lots to learn! I particularly enjoyed dropping in on some classrooms last Friday to watch the children take to the floor to argue their thinking on whether it was 'better to be late than never'. The real Speaker of the House would've been impressed by their confidence and maturity!



## Mr. Litchfield

I would like to start my newsletter by offering my congratulations to Mr. Litchfield. On Monday he faced a formidable interview process and has now been offered the role of Willow Brook's Deputy Head Teacher. I know that he has a great capacity for hard work and is as dedicated to the profession as any teacher I have had the pleasure to work alongside.

Appointing internally last week now means that we need to find a new class teacher ready for September. Mr. Jones will be sharing our Year 6 plans for the summer term when he meets with parents next Tuesday and Wednesday.

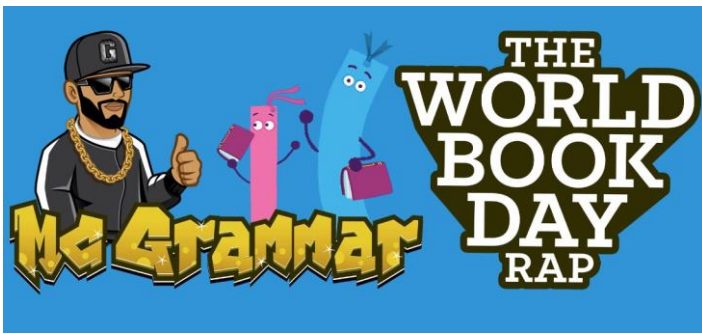
## Young Voices

It was an absolute pleasure to take 49 members of the Willow Brook choir to the Birmingham Arena last week to sing as part of Young Voices! They joined forces with 5,272 other primary children to form the biggest choir in the world and experienced the power and joy of a whole host of live music! What's more, they were an absolute pleasure to spend the day with... and it was a long day! Check out the website this weekend for more pictures of the experience.



Once again, I'd like to thank Mrs. Humphrey for doing such a fabulous job organising the logistics, tickets, travel and risk assessments. It's a challenging job, but she does it so well! (And a huge shout out to Mrs. Hayden for making us an incredible banner so that we could be spotted from afar!)

## World Book Day



Next week's World Book Day is fast approaching! 'You are What you Read' will hopefully inspire you to enjoy dressing up and getting in the spirit.

M.C. Grammar is leading the way with some motivating rap next Thursday! His World Book Day songs are available to download – you'll love them! If you have never come across his

unique way of embedding teaching or styling it out in a pair of gold flashing trainers, you're missing a treat (as well as an easy way to learn!) At Willow Brook we agree with The World Book Day's Trust who state that there is no doubt at all that 'reading for pleasure is the single most important indicator of a child's future success'. It impacts attainment in every area of the curriculum and, alongside knowledge and language skills, promotes wellbeing and empathy. Giving young children this message, as well as the time, enthusiasm and opportunity to find their love of books is high on our agenda. Don't forget to hunt out an unwanted book to donate to the swap.

## Parent Governor Elections

I am also pleased to report that you have two new representatives on the school's Governing Board. The election process closed on Tuesday and the two nominations – from Chris Cleal and Zoe Marsden were both accepted. I know that they have many skills to offer and will represent you well.

## Parents Evenings

You should be notified today of your time slot for Parents Evening appointments next week. We look forward to seeing you.

With my best wishes,  
Lousie Ballard

Key Events in this term's diary		
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring term Parents Evenings	Please apply for an appointment if you have not already done so.
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day	'You are what you read' Come dressed as a book character to celebrate a day full of stories.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day – Fun whilst <i>fundraising</i> . Get your best joke ready and support Comic Relief by buying a nose and dressing in red.	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	School Disco	
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 and 6 residential to Duke's Barn, Derbyshire	
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> March	School closes at 3.30pm for the Easter break	Children return on Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April
Mon. May 6 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday	
Mon. 13 <sup>th</sup> to Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 6 SATs assessment week.</b> *It is important that all pupils in Year 6 are present during this week. Please avoid booking appointments and holidays.	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	School closes at 3.30pm for half term	Children return on Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June