

Newsletter – 19th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to an update of the Summer Term! As well as filling you in on the first fortnight of our final whole school topic of the year, I hope this newsletter will give you all the information you'll need for the five weeks that remain.

Our 'Who Let the Gods Out' whole-school topic has had a cracking start! There have been fact-files on Zeus and Hera, lessons exploring the Ancient Greek way of life, and if you were to wander round Willow Brook at the moment, you'd see a fabulous array of Greek vases on the production line! Our Exciting Writing event on Tuesday saw us unpacking 'Pandora's Jar'. Monsters and mayhem might have been unleashed, but the writing and art was fantastic! Some of us have been learning the origins of Greek words... chaos, dinosaurs, pandemics, panic, arachnids, phobias and melancholy all flew from that jar on Tuesday morning! But we now know that wherever there's carnage, Prometheus made sure there'd always be hope... This has been reassuring to Mr. Castledine as he has mopped up the papier mâché glue from the Greek urns this week!

As the theme continues, we have a dedicated Olympic Week planned to kick off on 1st July. We are delighted that Sam Oldham – an Olympic gymnast – is coming to share his experience of the Games and coach some gymnastics lessons. Having had his own struggles through school during his early teenage years, he is also going to do a motivational morning with Year 6 and boost their transition with some words of wisdom and encouragement. Sports Day will have an Olympic flavour – we do hope that you can come and support the games on July 3rd. Whilst Pheidippides might have taken three days to run from Marathon to Sparta, we promise our races will be a lot sharper!

The weeks are going to be full of great work - we look forward to sharing it all with you during our Olympic Exhibition on Open Afternoon on July 17th.

Building Work

I am excited to share the news that the school is about to embark on a building project that has been a part of our vision for the past seven years. Willow Brook needs space! Our numbers have continued to rise, and with WB's filling the hall, we often meet a brick wall when it comes to organising extra-curricular clubs, hosting meetings or finding a room for our musicians (or for teachers to simply find some peace!) Rather than meeting a brick wall, we've decided to build some!

This will be a 13 week project to construct an adjoining room that will fill the quad area at the centre of the school – a space that is more than ready for updating. Work will start on July 8th and will finish just after we return in September. With a careful schedule in place, the major structural changes will be carried out during the 6 week break. We look forward to realising a vision!

Classes for September

As you are aware, Mrs. Humphrey will be starting her maternity leave on September 9th, so the future Year 1 will be meeting a new teacher during their transition days in July. Mrs Hill is an experienced key stage 1 teacher who has worked for us in the past. I am delighted that she applied for this temporary position. She will be working all day on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays starting in September. Mr. Boyd will job share with Mrs. Hill, and will cover her Planning and Assessment time on Thursday morning and then finish the week. With this in place, I can now confirm our teaching structure for September will be:

EYFS:	Mrs. Cotton and Mrs. Sampson
Year 1:	Mrs. Hill and Mr. Boyd
Year 2:	Miss Johnston
Year 3:	Miss Adams
Year 4:	Miss Watterson
Year 5:	Mr. Litchfield
Year 6:	Mr. de Malplaquet

Whilst our children are used to (and known by) different Willow Brook adults, we have a considered transition programme. There are three half days set aside for children to visit new classrooms and meet new staff, and each child will make a transition booklet with photographs, pictures and words to help them to familiarise themselves with the changes. Some classes have already been sharing classroom space and staff will make any additional plans that might help specific children. Our new teachers will attend at least one of the class swap sessions and will also be available to meet you in person if you are able to attend Open Afternoon on July 17th.

Fun Fest 2024

Year 6 have been busy planning their own fundraising event for the rest of the school to enjoy! *Fun Fest* will be live next Friday afternoon and every class will get their own visit! Look out for the flyers that are coming your way with more details, but we hope that you'll support the children – they've worked very hard!

Our Eurovision song contest is now at the semi-final stage! The surviving 12 are incredible and it will be a tough job to get down to just 6 finalists...



Tomorrow is an INSET day at Willow Brook, so we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Louise Ballard

Key Events in this term's diary	
Friday 21 st June	INSET training day – school is closed
Wednesday 3 rd July	Whole school Sports Day - 1.30 start
July 4 th and 5 th	Year 6 intake days at South Wolds Academy
July 4 th	New EYFS Parents Information Evening 6.30pm
Thursday 11 th July	Year 6 D.A.R.T. Graduation assembly. (9.30a.m. start)
Thursday 11 th July	Year 6 at South Wolds Sports afternoon
Friday 12 th July	School Disco
Wednesday 17 th July	Open Afternoon
Friday 26 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 10am and school finishes at 3.30pm