

Newsletter – 23rd May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that it is half term already – the spring turns to summer so quickly...

The two weeks since the last newsletter have been full on and, as well as the usual calendar events, have included some super Willow Brook memories and moments.

Firstly and foremostly, I am delighted to share the news that last Friday we appointed a new addition to our teaching staff. Mr. de Malplaquet was a unanimous and clear choice at the end of last Friday's interview process. His many talents shone during our selection day and he had a strong 'thumbs up' from the children he taught and met as well as the adults! Mr. de Malplaquet's specialism in English and degree in History, alongside a whole host of interests and skills, will certainly make him an asset to the Willow Brook community. He will be teaching in Year 6 in September and is looking forward to meeting his new class over the next few weeks.



Talking of Year 6... our current children completed their final SATs tests last week, and can be so proud of their determined and positive attitude. They were treated to ice-creams, a 'choose your own' day and a picnic to crown the end of week. They also picked their Top Ten for a Thursday afternoon singing session and their joy was a pleasure to see. Whilst they are now working hard on completing their writing portfolios for moderation and some are completing their final cycling proficiency tests, Mrs Armitage and I still have some surprises in store....

Our Early Years and Year 1 children had an amazing trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park on Wednesday! It was an exciting... if not a little soggy... adventure! The polar bear on his hind legs was certainly the children's hero of the day and it made my day to hear the children's excited stories this morning. I would like to say a **huge** thank you to the army of parents, grandparents and carers who willingly joined the journey! You were (to quote Mrs. Cotton) BRILLIANT and, without your help, days like this would not be such an awesome success.



There was just as much joy when Year 3 spent a cultured morning at the Van Gogh Immersive Experience in Leicester on Wednesday. Never being one to miss an art experience, (or a morning with the marvellous Year 3 children!) I was lucky enough to be invited to be a helper on the trip and was so impressed by the children's knowledge and interest as well as their creative and unique responses!



As you may have heard from the children, our Eurovision 2024 competition begins after half term! We have had over 36 acts enter, which includes 79 children that span the year groups. I have no doubt that the contest will be just as unique as the televised one! Inspired by past Willow Brook X Factor competitions, we felt it was time to unearth any hidden talent and encourage confidence and performance! We have heard snippets of rehearsals in the playground and whispers of plans and can't wait to experience the first week's auditions!

A message from The Friends of Willow Brook...

Our final school disco of this academic year is booked for Friday 12 July. We are on the lookout for volunteers to help us out in the run up to, and on the evening itself from 6pm onwards. There are lots of roles available, so please email friendsofwillowbrook00@gmail.com for more information or catch a committee member on the playground.

I finish with an updated version of the diary for next half term. The dates for Year 6 visits to South Wolds have been updated.

I hope that the half term break gives you all a well-earned rest from routine and, whatever it brings, I hope that you come safely back to us on Monday 3rd June ready for a half term full of Greek myth and Olympic adventure! Our whole school topic will be asking, 'Who Let the Gods Out?!'

With my best wishes,

Louise Ballard

Key Events in this term's diary	
Friday 24 th May	School closes at 3.30pm for half term
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