

### Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge welcome to the Willow Brook year! It was a pleasure to see you safely back last week and a joy to see a new EYFS class settle with such confidence.

Forgive a newsletter full of reminders and information... we try to pick up on any reminders early so that the first term is smooth. There are also lots of up and coming dates for your diary. Buckle in...

### MacMillan Coffee and Cake Breakfast

As is traditional at Willow Brook, make sure you put Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September in your diary to come and support our annual MacMillan breakfast. There's the annual Bake Off challenge where children are invited to beat the teachers, with medals and merits for the champions! Your contributions – whether you have had the time to get into the kitchen to craft your showstopper or whether you have donated a box of



your shop bought favourites, will be gratefully received (and happily eaten!). Our doors are open between 8am and 9.15. Please come, make a donation and enjoy a coffee and cake to start your day. If you would like to help serve, please get in touch with the Friends of Willow Brook team or let Mrs. Roper know.

### Team Challenge Potted Sports

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September we will be hosting our whole-school Team Games Challenge. This is an afternoon where mixed-age teams complete a field full of agility and speed games. It's a super afternoon full of fun! Unfortunately, last year was a September full of rain, so we have our fingers crossed this year. If you have the time and energy to help us between 1pm and 3.30, you would be very welcome to come along and join Mr. Clarke's crew and run a station. He will be in the playground this week with more information and a clip board to recruit volunteers. If you miss him and want to sign up, you can email your name to [tclarke@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk](mailto:tclarke@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk)

### Harvest Celebration

Willow Brook will be celebrating Harvest on October 4<sup>th</sup>. It's a great opportunity to be grateful for all that we have, and to give just a little back to our local community. We have been in touch with the Friary Centre, who as always, welcome any fresh produce or store cupboard tins/packets. Bringing a

small donation of your own into school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> will make a huge collective gift. In our first assembly of the year, we talked about the word 'community' (one of our 5 C's)... the 'com' meaning 'with' and '*munos*' meaning an exchange, or a gift where something is expected in return. Harvest is the perfect opportunity to see 'community' in action.



### **Friends of Willow Brook**

Just a reminder that the Friends of Willow Brook are keen to speak to any new parents and carers who would be interested in joining their team. They do a fabulous job of organising events that raise extra money for the school. Their AGM is being held on Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup> at The Windmill pub. Please come along if you can.

### **Mobile Phones**

It has long since been Willow Brook's policy to be a mobile free school. We aim to keep it that way. We still haven't met a situation where it was truly necessary for a child to have a phone in school or for their journey. If your child is ready to walk to and from school on their own and you are worried about their arrival, we can ring you. Children cannot and must not bring phones and keep them secreted in their bags. In the rare event of permission being given for a child to bring a mobile, it should be switched off and handed in at the school office before the morning bell.

### **Allergies and Birthday Sweets**

A very polite reminder that Willow Brook is a nut and sesame free zone. We have children with us who have severe allergies and who carry EpiPens. Whilst children know not to share food, we have to be so careful and ask for your help in not sending nuts or sesame products (i.e. hummus) for snacks or in packed lunches. We also appreciate your thoughts if you decide to send birthday treats into school. Any chocolates that are in a tub/packet with nut products cannot be shared. Children love to share a treat with their classmates and I think there's a joy in experiencing that kindness. However, please don't feel obliged.

### **Willow Brook Clubs**

Our Extra-Curricular Timetable came out on Friday and gave details of the clubs on offer this term. As it said on the top of the timetable, letters to sign up will be with you this week. All clubs will start on the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> September. With another of our 5 C's being 'commitment', we ask that your child commits to the activity until half term. Registers are taken for safeguarding reasons when the children arrive, so it would also be good for your child to let us know in advance if they cannot join the session.

### **Miss Johnston**

The eagle eyed may have noticed that I was teaching in Year 2 last week. Miss Johnston was absent from school for several weeks at the end of last term. After discovering that she was pregnant, her morning sickness has been so severe that she immediately became unable to work.

In spite of hoping that this would ease, Miss Johnston is still most unwell and she will now not return to Willow Brook until her maternity leave is complete. Miss Johnston is a dedicated member of the team and we miss her. I am sure you will join me in sending her our very best wishes.

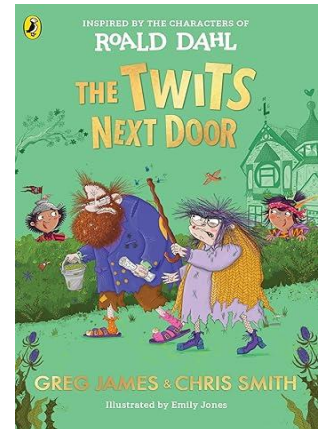
### Dates for your Diary

On the back page of this letter you will find a calendar of dates for the Autumn Term. Whilst we won't mention too many Christmas plans just yet, there are some important dates that you might just need to add to your kitchen calendar... These dates will all be on the school website.

Every class in school has started the year with a study of a Roald Dahl masterpiece. His brilliant characters, which often leave young readers wide-eyed, deliver wit and unique plots. Some of his best stories are currently being reimagined... Greg James has written *The Twits Next Door* (which I can thoroughly recommend as a bedtime story!) and *Charlie and the Christmas Factory* will be out this term.

The school year has got off to a great start... here's to a happy half term!

*Mrs. Ballard*



Date	Event	Details
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Team Challenge Sports Games	See above
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	MacMillan Coffee Breakfast	Enter our annual 'beat the teacher' cake competition to add to our coffee and cake breakfast between 8 and 9.15am.
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Friends of Willow Brook AGM 7pm at The Windmill Pub	
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival	Parents and carers of our new children in EYFS are welcome to join us at 10am for our Harvest celebration assembly.
October 15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday and Wednesday	Parents Evenings	Appointment letters will be sent nearer the time so that you can arrange to meet your child's teacher.
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Half term begins	
November 12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Bullying Week (with Odd Socks Day on Tuesday 12th)	
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need fundraising day	A fun-filled charity day where we will be dressing up and raising money.
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School Disco	KS1 6.15 to 7.15pm KS2 7.30 to 8.30pm
December 10 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Production (still under wraps...)	Years 2 to 6 perform on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Wednesday afternoon at 2pm.
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 trip to the Pantomime	We are taking Years 3 to 6 to the theatre in Newark to see Peter Pan! This will be subsidised by The Friends of Willow Brook
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner	In return for a small donation to the Salvation Army, wear your best festive jumper for the day as we get festive!
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity Day	EYFS and Year 1 perform their nativity at 2pm and 6.30pm
December 20 <sup>th</sup> 3.30pm	End of the autumn term	Children return to school on Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January