

Newsletter – 25th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

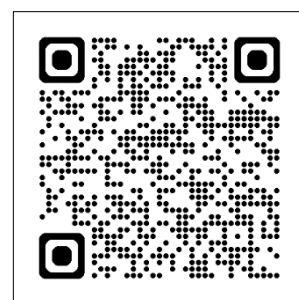
It is hard to believe that the school year (and a fast-paced half term) is about to draw to a close. The last eight weeks have been truly Herculean... in content as well as length! The Ancient Greeks and the Olympic Games were celebrated in our lessons and the end of term exhibition – the children were proud to see their work on display during Open Afternoon and it was a pleasure to share their efforts with you.



The Eurovision Song Contest and the Euro Football Final

At the beginning of the Euros Football tournament, each Willow Brook class pulled three teams out of the hat. As well as following the teams in the tournament in Germany, it also put them into a lottery to play in our own final match. When England and Spain met in the real final, Year 2 were excited to be a part of the rematch on Monday morning against England ... which was drawn out by the teachers and TA's!

Whilst Southgate's men came home from Germany empty handed, the staff at Willow Brook represented their nation in a far superior fashion! In spite of Rhys's reflexes guarding the Spanish goal, England ultimately triumphed 4 - 2! Mr. Litchfield had 72 shots on goal and was quite determined to win! Eventually one of his shots hit the target, and with additional goals from Bugden, Ballard and Clarke victory was secured! Maxim and Kaya bravely fought back for the Spanish. Year 2 were tremendous... the rest of the school became pundits and journalists - everyone joined in. It was a happy morning in the Brook Arena. Scan the QR code to see more pictures on the website.



Our other Euro event was the final of the Song Contest. As you can see from the picture, 39 acts entered, and 6 fabulous acts made it to the last round! Once the votes were in from the class juries, Zoha lifted the trophy! We loved her energy and confidence!



The Willow Brook Build

The Willow Brook extension is coming on at a pace. The footings are down and the next few weeks will see walls going up! Hopefully, by the end of September our new room will be ready to use. Exciting!



Since my last newsletter, Year 6 have graduated from their D.A.R.T. course. Their assembly was shared with friends and family and we were all proud of their confidence and maturity as they shared their learning.

Year 6's last summer at primary school has been full of adventure and achievement. Their SATs results made us proud and were just reward for their effort and experiences. As always, we recognise and celebrate all that English and maths tests do not measure in their final assembly on Friday. They are accomplished young people who are more than ready to take off and find their brave new worlds!

A message from the Friends Committee

'Another hugely successful school disco was held earlier in the month with the children enjoying tuck, ice poles and tattoos galore! We raised £926.13.

It was great to see so many new faces amongst our volunteers; simply put the committee cannot put these events on without parents and carers' help so a big thank you to you all.

Plans are already afoot for next term with the following dates already in the diary:-

Friday September 27th – Macmillan Coffee Morning

Tuesday October 1st at 7pm at The Windmill - AGM

Friday November 22nd – Autumn Term Disco

Friday December 13th – Christmas Event

As a registered charity we have to hold an AGM at which the year's committee members are elected. This year we are saying goodbye and good luck to a longstanding member of our committee in Daniela who over the years has been both our Chair and Secretary. All positions are up for nomination. In the event there are insufficient nominees the charity will have to sadly cease.

Therefore if you are interested in learning more about roles available and how else you may be able to help please drop us an email at friendsofwillowbrook00@gmail.com or catch Nick, Sarah, Laura, Daniela or Pete on the playground.'

I add my thanks to Daniela, who has been such a huge inspiration to the Friends of Willow Brook. From organising events and running the committee, she has given so much time and energy – I am so grateful.

Attendance

At our last Governors' Board meeting, I shared the school's most recent published attendance data. You'll see from the information below that Willow Brook statistics are something to be celebrated when compared to other schools in Rushcliffe. There is no doubt at all that good attendance and being on time at the start of the day impacts hugely on attainment and I would like to thank you for supporting this. There are still 24 children who hold tight to their 100% attendance and another 16 who have only been out of school for one session... I know they are proud as well as resilient!

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ⓘ
Overall attendance	96.7%	You are ranked 5 out of 266 schools
Overall absence	3.3%	You are ranked 5 out of 266 schools
Authorised absence	2.5%	You are ranked 3 out of 266 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.9%	You are ranked 45 out of 266 schools
Persistently absent	4.9%	You are ranked 9 out of 266 schools

We aim to continue promoting and celebrating attendance and punctuality next year and attach our term dates and hope that you will continue to work with us and make the most of the 13 weeks set aside for holidays.

And finally...

My final thanks of the year go to the fabulous Willow Brook staff. As always, they continue to be a determined and dedicated team who give their all to making our school the best it can be. In Miss Johnston's absence and following Mr. Jones's move, I am especially grateful to Mrs. Armitage and Mr. Boyd for doing such a sterling job and providing continuity over the summer. In September, we look forward to welcoming Mr. deMalplaquet, (who many of you met on Open Afternoon) and Mrs. Hill (who will be covering Mrs. Humphrey during her maternity leave). And in Miss Johnston's absence, a huge 'well done' to Mr. Clarke, who worked single handedly to present his evidence and earn the school a Gold Sports Mark for 2024!

It only remains for me to wish you all a very happy five weeks. Whatever the break from the school routine brings, I hope you return safely to us on Wednesday 4th September. For those moving on to pastures new, we hope that Willow Brook will always be with you.

With best wishes,

Louise Ballard



Willow Brook Primary School Holidays 2024/2025



School Holidays



Public Holidays



Administration Days



Inset Days

September						
M	T	W	Th	F	S	S
					31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October						
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28	29	30	31			

November						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

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30	31					

January						
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27	28	29	30	31		

February						
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March						
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31						

April						
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May						
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July						
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28	29	30	31			

August						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31