

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm not sure where the past 6 weeks have gone; half term has arrived far too quickly. In the run up to the break, it's good to look back and see all that we have achieved in just a few weeks as well as looking forward to a busy half term ahead...

A few quick messages of thanks for supporting our events over the past couple of weeks. Our MacMillan Coffee and Cake was a huge success! The Friends Committee were at the forefront and served a breakfast feast! Most importantly, we sent £1,000 to a fabulous charity, and for that, I thank you all for serving and supporting.

### School Council

Our new School Council members are wearing their new badges with pride! After preparing speeches from their homework and having time in class to speak and listen, the children learn all about democracy as they elect their representatives for the year ahead. Jasmin and Dillon even had the honour of representing the school this afternoon at County Hall as part of the Rushcliffe School Parliament.



### Friends of Willow Brook

The Friends of Willow Brook duly elected their own representatives for the year ahead at their recent AGM. As well as registering for the Asda Cashpot for Schools initiative, they have a school disco in the diary for Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Save the date! Your support will help provide a new playhouse for the EYFS area, as well as sports equipment and a contribution towards our planned trip to the Pantomime in December.

### Next Half Term

The children were very excited to hear all about our 2024 production last Friday. *Superstan* is an exciting musical full of heroes and villains, which leads nicely to our next whole-school topic theme! As always, our curriculum work is unique. It will lead the children on an adventure where we'll investigate whether the Big Bad Wolf was actually the one at fault. From science to story writing, there will be lots of evidence to explore. We will also be learning how to animate and work with comic strips and play scripts as we jump into the Traction Man books by Mini Gray.

Next term we will be working very hard on building oracy skills (being able to express yourself articulately). As well as school plays and school council meetings, we plan to take the Big Bad Wolf to trial. If you happen to have court room skills in your line of work and might be able to help authenticate our drama, please get in touch.

### Our New Room



Whilst we continue to battle the repairs to the water pipes and pathways at the front of school, we are delighted to report that our new extension in the quad area is complete and due to open after half term. This is a wonderful new space that will open up a whole host of possibilities from having studio space to teach drama and music to a fully equipped meeting room or cinema! I have no doubt that the possibilities that it offers will continue to grow. My sincere thanks go to one of our parents, Scott Kenna and Gleeds for

lending us the expertise to bring a vision to life.

### Children in Need

Amongst the many dates and events lines up for next half term, I would like to highlight our annual **Children in Need fundraising day on November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Our theme will be Heroes and Villains and we will, of course, be inviting you to dress up for a day full of fun!

Children in Need Day sits at the end of Anti-Bullying Week, which we always include in our calendar. Andy and the Odd Socks will be leading the way on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November will see us commemorating Remembrance Day**. Ensuring that we teach the meaning of such an poignant annual event is important. Our playground service and the work we do during the day is always a powerful reflection.

### Mrs. Armitage

In September 2021 (in the midst of COVID!) Mrs. Armitage applied to join the Willow Brook staff team. As a retired teacher she made it her mission to return to a school and offer her skills and time as a T.A. and (to quote) 'do all those jobs that teachers struggle to fit in'. Luckily, she found our advert. After half term, Mrs. Armitage is moving to Yorkshire and finally taking the time to pursue her own interests and enjoy retirement. During her time with us, she has supported and tutored individual children, stepped up to teach and, just as she set out to do, has been a tower of strength to the staff and Governing Board. Finding teaching assistants with her experience who have the knowledge to teach Year 6 is rare... finding one with such a Willow Brook heart has been an honour. We wish her nothing but the best.

We look forward to meeting you next week at Parents Evening. Please remember that **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS DO NOT RUN DURING PARENTS EVENING WEEK**.

*Mrs. Ballard*