

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all that you did to make our World Book Day so very special! We had a smashing time in the spring sunshine running, reading and enjoying being a community.

As you know, we are kickstarting a project to build and stock a library in key stage 2. Thirty five children returned their forms on Thursday and there is a staggering £1,500 already in the kitty. Amazing!

Now that the final marathon has been ticked off, we would ask for three things...

1. Please return your sponsor form and cash/cheque before 31st March so that we can start our plans
2. Use your WBD voucher and go and find a free book
3. Now that you have got into the habit of reading a little bit every day, **DON'T STOP!** I've heard children talk about how proud they are and how clever they feel... Whatever their age or ability, reading is a lifechanging habit that is well worth getting into.

Internet Safety Day on Tuesday saw the children thinking about online activity. The teachers gave the children lots of tips on how to find the good and (as our theme song said) how to *guard their eyes, ears and hearts* when you happen upon elements of the web that aren't so good.

Hand in hand with this, was showing the children the importance of developing healthy brains through active outdoor play, good sleep, real-world conversation and friendship, good food and growing independence. They learnt that children's brains continue to grow until they are well into their teenage years and the nuance and energy of real life experience rather than continuous on-screen scrolling is so vital to the process.

International Women's Day today has seen the girls on the football pitch. There's still so much to be learnt about the rights of girls across the world. It is also still fascinating to hear our own children continuing to put people of different genders into stereotypical boxes. The message today was clear... there is nothing a Willow Brook girl can't do if she sets her mind and talents to it! As you can see from the photo, Year 2 have even worked out an effective strategy for more efficient goal keeping!



There are lots of photos from World Book Day on the school website – follow the QR code to take a look.



Here is a flavour...



Next week, our Charles Darwin topic takes us further on in his Beagle Voyage. Each class will also be imitating his daily *Sandwalk*, where a silent amble in the countryside around his home enabled him to think great thoughts. Who knows where our young minds will wander!

Enjoy the weekend and thank you for all that you do to support our teaching and activities.

