

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fabulous few weeks at Willow Brook – the year is now firmly underway and has started in such a positive way.

### MacMillan Coffee Breakfast

Our annual support for MacMillan Cancer Care by way of a Coffee and Cake Breakfast, is always a firm favourite! At the heart of proceedings is the Willow Brook Bake Off competition and this year's entries were, undoubtedly, the best yet! Congratulations to Macy, Eden, Monty and Wilf who were worthy medal winners! Miss Mistry got a 'best newcomer' award in assembly for making her first ever cake! Let's hope it's the first of many!

Most importantly, we will be sending £925 to a very worthy charity.



### POTTED SPORTS AFTERNOON

Wednesday afternoon saw the whole school taking part in our whole-school mixed aged team games...something we call 'Potted Sports'. The best thing about this event is how our older children shine when it comes to looking after our younger classes. The winning team will be announced in assembly on Monday, but the whole afternoon was filled with Willow Brook spirit, lots of action and plenty of exercise!

A sincere thanks goes to the many volunteers who couldn't resist Mr. Clarke's press gang methods and came to run a station. Your time and energy were much appreciated.

Have a look on the school website for photos of the afternoon.



## OUT AND ABOUT!

Year groups have been out and about since my last newsletter, finding lots of new learning in so many different places.

Year 4 had a fabulous time at Southwell Minister where they marched like Romans!

Our oldest two classes spent a day at The Safety Zone at Holme Pierrepont. This was an experience run by the Emergency Services, designed to teach children the dangers involved with water, electricity, roads and railways and how to deliver basic first aid.



Year 6 made it to Ruddington to visit the Framework Knitters Museum to learn a little more about the Industrial Revolution. With year 1 visiting the library and EYFS venturing to Forest School, it's been an action-packed two weeks!

## HARVEST CELEBRATION

Our new parents and carers joined us this morning for our Harvest Celebration. Your kind donations of food filled 5 dining tables and were taken to the Friary Drop-in Centre straight after the event.

The children have been thinking about whether it was better to give or receive over the past week. The pictures they drew and the writing they composed all demonstrated that they understand the joy of giving as much as the gratitude of receiving.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thanks to those who have been on board with the children's job application forms for School Council. We hoped that your 'references' would boost your child's self-esteem and give them a 'can do' approach to taking on responsibilities in the school. You are never too young to start!



Some of the children were very proud to show me their finished forms. Here's a great example of an application received from a Year 2 child. With references like that, I'm sure she'll be shortlisted for an interview! (Names have been removed to save her blushes!)

3. REFERENCES			
Please provide details of <b>two</b> referees below who can give you a short character reference.			
Name (Referee 1):		Name (Referee 2):	
Relationship to you:	Employee (unpaid)	Status:	Grandma.
Reference		Reference	
J has been a dependable member of our Saturday morning kitchen staff. She sets the table, collects orders from her family, makes the pancake batter, and sometimes even tidies up after herself. She is never late for her shift.		J is a very caring and considerate little girl. She is very aware of those around her and she strives to be kind and patient. She makes an excellent big sister and she knows when to come to adults for help if she is unable to solve problems herself. She is confident even though she can be quiet at times. J also thrives on a challenge and is enthusiastic about learning new things.	
4. DECLARATION			

## DOUBLE YELLOW LINES and PARKING

Due to on-going parking issues on Willow Brook and at the top of the Fairway, we have now been notified that yellow lines will be painted opposite the school and double yellow lines will be added on the Fairway junction. As I have said many times before, whilst I have no jurisdiction on parking, I would like to think that your thoughts centre entirely on making sure that a) Willow Brook children have clear vision so that they can safely cross the road and b) we are considerate of our neighbours when you park at busy times.

I have also received an email from the bus company, who, again, have asked me to pass on the message that it is an offence to park in a designated bus lane/stopping space. I appreciate that it's tempting to pull up at the bus stop if you are late, but again, please consider how this impacts on the room needed for buses to manoeuvre in a busy space safely. The council will be doing spot checks over the next term and will issue £70 fines for cars contravening parking regulations.

## PARENTS EVENING APPOINTMENTS

Please be aware that next week letters will be coming to you to book a Parents Evening slot. This will give you an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss the successes and any concerns of them settling into their new class. For parents with more than one child in school, please complete an individual form for each child. PLEASE send these back to class teachers – do not bring them to Mrs. Roper. Confirmation of appointment times will be back with you on Thursday. Please note that due to her part time working hours, Mrs. Humphrey in Year 1 will be

doing afternoon appointments on one day and later evening appointments on the other. This will be clear on the letter.

**As always, afterschool clubs will not be running during that final week.**

Thank you for getting involved and supporting our first few weeks with such enthusiasm.

Whatever your weekend brings, I wish you a very happy (and rain-free?!) couple of days.

Louise Ballard

## **DATES FOR THE TERM AHEAD**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents and Carers Evenings	A chance for you all to meet your child's teacher and discuss how they have settled. Letters will be sent nearer the time to book an appointment.
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for half term	
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day (and the start of Anti-Bullying week)	Wear your odd socks to school to show that there is brilliance in difference!
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day	
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need	As always, the Willow Brook community goes all out to support this important and fun-filled day.
9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Yrs 2 to 6 evening performances	
17 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS/Year 1 Nativity Performance	EYFS and Year 1 will be performing their nativity at 2pm and 6.30pm.
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas Holidays	