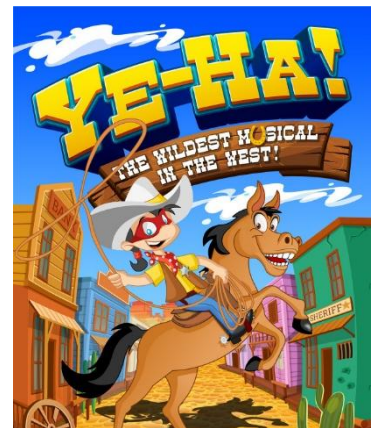


Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term! There is so much in store for the next seven weeks - I hope that the past fortnight has enabled the children to recharge their batteries and feel raring to go!

In the week before half term, we revealed our whole-school topic theme and, of course, our Christmas production... YE-HA! The Wild West provides a great arena for plenty of action and learning. You'll see from our plan on the back page, that in History we will be journeying back in time to the 1830's and heading across the trails in America to understand why the call to 'Go West!' was such an inviting one. In Geography, we will be exploring what modern day North and South America have to offer and seeing how physical and human geography has changed since the early pioneers. There's so much to learn!



Whilst Years 4, 5 and 6 will be taking up much of the acting roles and rehearsals for Ye Ha, Years 2 and 3 will be helping us to boost the singing and dancing. Their rehearsal time will be action-packed PE and music sessions as we learn the songs together and master the Stetson Stomp!

Reception and Year 1 will be taking a slightly different tack as their journey takes them to Bethlehem as they rehearse and present *The Big Little Nativity*.

There's lots to be gained when it comes to working on a school drama production. We work hard to ensure that learning in core subjects continues to be on track and that foundation learning (i.e. History and Geography) have meaningful links with the subject of our performance. Drama is very much a part of the National Curriculum under the English programme of study. Children should be taught how to '*express themselves, understand different perspectives, and develop communication skills through role-play, improvisation, and performance*'. PE lessons will become dance focussed as we learn the rhythm and repetition of our high-speed performance dances. Playscripts also take centre stage as a key genre in English – it's the perfect half term to include them in the curriculum. With care and lots of planning, this can be a positive project with a memorable primary school outcome.

The second week of the half term sees many themed days all arrive at once!

Monday 10th. We start the week with Odd Socks Day and a chance to unbox some important anti-bullying themes. All you have to do is to wear some very obvious odd socks!

Tuesday 11th is Remembrance Day. We gather at 11am for a commemorative time in the playground with The Last Post and traditional words. We teach the children about the significance of the poppy and encourage them to wear or make one for our display.

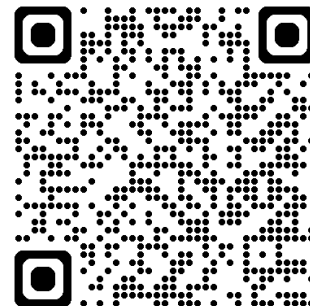


Friday 14th brings Children in Need! We will be hosting a Wild West themed day full of fun and fundraising. Children can come dressed as a cowboy/cowgirl or something more imaginative that fits the Splodge City theme. There will be prizes for the most imaginative! Alternatively, you can come dressed in your Pudsey merchandise, which would support the day in more ways than one.

The Willow Brook Children in Need Fundraising page is now open. As always, if you leave a 'shout out' for your child with a donation, we will make sure that your family hear their name in assembly!

You can scan this QR code to take you to our Just Giving page or copy the link

https://www.justgiving.com/page/louise-ballard-7?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



The fun continues in the evening on the 14th November when the Friends of Willow Brook host their Autumn Disco. They will be looking for volunteers this week. The committee are also proposing a 'Wear your own Clothes Day' on **Friday 5th December** in return for some chocolate or a bottle for the Christmas tombola. You'll find the new committee's first newsletter on the back page.

Finally, thank you for supporting your children's homework over half term and ensuring that we had a fabulous haul of stories to read for our 500 Words Competition. Miss Adams and I are looking forward to a weekend full of reading short stories!

Without further ado, let the half term begin...

Louise Ballard

DATES IN THE DIARY FOR THE HALF TERM AHEAD

Date	Event	Details
10 th 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 th November	Remembrance Day	
14 th November	Children in Need	As always, the Willow Brook community goes all out to support this important and fun-filled day.
14 th November	School Disco	
5 th December	Wear your own clothes day – bring an item of chocolate or a bottle for the Friends fundraising tombola	
9 th , 10 th 11 th Dec	Yrs 2 to 6 evening performances at 6.30pm with a Wednesday matinee at 2pm	
17 th December	EYFS/Year 1 Nativity Performance	EYFS and Year 1 will be performing their nativity at 2pm and 6.30pm.
19 th December	Break up for Christmas Holidays	

GO WEST!

The Big Idea

Our school production this year sees us crossing the Atlantic with the first settlers of the USA and travelling back in time to explore the Wild West. 'Ye-Ha' captures elements of life back in the 1800's; we meet the first pioneers who 'manifested destiny' and took to the trails in the hope of a better life, the homesteaders, the lawless behaviour/sheriffs attempted to handle and the wayward travelling salesmen. Hold on to your Stetsons – there's lots to learn!

As LANGUAGE specialists...

We have a packed programme of skills bound up in the Ye Ha theme. We will start with mastering the elements of non-fiction writing as we immerse ourselves in the history of the American West. A tension toolkit will boost our narrative writing as quick fire writing techniques capture some dramatic western scenes, before we move on to crafting that drama in playscripts. Lessons in spelling, grammar and punctuation will still be on our weekly agenda and will match and underpin our writing genres. Class texts will add to our understanding of non-fiction writing and no half term topic is complete without a well-chosen book for guided reading and an 'end of the day' story.

Across the curriculum

As musicians

Performance is key this term. As well as learning songs for our production, the Christmas season brings the chance to listen to and learn traditional carols and music – all part of our heritage and history.

As expressive artists

Drama comes to the fore this half term as we get into character and bring a script to life. The landscapes, building and sunsets of the American West will inspire our pictures and paintings as we design stage sets and illustrate stories.

As theologians and thinkers

Each year group will continue to study an area of the RE syllabus. From 'words of wisdom and sacred texts', to understanding different journeys made in different religious faiths, Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Humanism will be explored and debated.

As French speakers

Classes in our Key Stage 2 department will continue to engage with their Language Angels course to broaden their French vocabulary and develop an ability to understand and write new words and phrases.

As fitness and wellbeing experts

We will continue to build on fitness skills and healthy lifestyles through active lessons and physical play. Dance comes to the fore during this half term as children devise and rehearse routines for Ye Ha! The Stetson Stomp will be just one of the energetic circle dances to learn!

As MATHEMATICIANS and SCIENTISTS

Each individual year group continues to deliver their own prescribed curriculum for STEM subjects. Weekly objectives for arithmetic and reasoning combine so that problem solving and reasoning is embedded and rehearsed. Our topic will promote plenty of data handling and graphing as the children investigate the climate of different countries on the North and South American continent.

As HISTORIANS and GEOGRAPHERS

The Primary National Curriculum for geography invites us to 'locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on ... North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities'. The continent is full of diversity and offers a fascinating insight into different biomes and contrasting cultures.

Our study underpins the work we will be doing in history, where we will be journeying across the plains of the American West with the first pioneers. We will understand why the discovery of gold and the promise of farmland made newcomers 'go west', often with disastrous consequences!

PSHE and Our School Ethos

During this half term, we will be marking Anti-Bullying week where the theme is *Power for Good*. This strong theme is designed to empower our young people to know that their actions can make a positive difference. They will be working together to create a child friendly 'Anti-Bullying Policy' as well as wearing their odd socks to mark our Anti Bullying focus day. Willow Brook will be marking Remembrance Day and responding with respect and thought to the events that shaped our recent history. The school will be fundraising for Children in Need in November. This year the yellow envelope sent by Pudsey encourages us to 'Challenge Ourselves'. All the above will be explored as part of our My World lessons, during which children engage in age-appropriate debates and are asked to make considered responses that reflect their thoughts, experiences and ideas in age-appropriate ways.

03/11/2025

What's Coming Up

Meet Your New FoWB Committee! 🌳

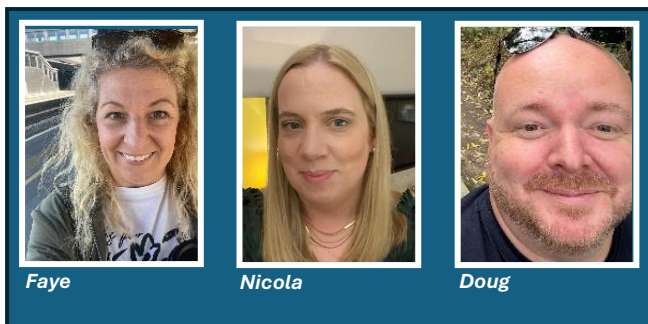
Hi everyone!

We'd like to start with a huge **thank you** for all your support as we form the brand-new Friends of Willow Brook Committee.

Not sure who we are or what we do? *Let's fill you in!* 🗣️

♥ Who We Are

Friends of Willow Brook is a registered charity run by volunteer parents and carers. Our goal is simple — to raise funds that help make Willow Brook School an even better place for our children to learn and grow.



💎 What We Fund

Each year, Mrs Ballard and the teaching team put together a wish list of things they'd love for the school and pupils. Thanks to last year's amazing support. Here's a few examples the charity funded:

- 🎭 50% of the theatre trip costs
- 🏠 The new playhouse in the EYFS garden
- 👕 Year 6 leavers' hoodies (a must-have tradition!)

🎉 How We Raise Funds

Through fun community events like:

- School Discos
- Christmas fairs and raffles
- And more exciting activities throughout the year!

👫 How You Can Get Involved

Volunteer! Able to help at events? Let us know and we will add you to our WhatsApp volunteer group — there's no pressure, just opportunities to help when you can!

Share Ideas! Got an event idea or fundraising suggestion? We'd love to hear it.

Together, we can make this a fantastic year for our school community!

With thanks, The Friends of Willow Brook Committee

🎉 **School Disco** 🎉
FRIDAY 14th NOVEMBER

**Wear your own
Clothes Day**

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER

**Bring in a bottle or chocolate
as a donation for the
Christmas tombola.**

*Full details are attached — and
keep your eyes peeled for more
updates soon on our festive
Christmas activities!* 🎅 🧑🏻

🗣️ Let's Hear from the Children!

We're inviting all Willow Brook
pupils to share their thoughts
for 2026:

*"What events would you
like to see next year?"*

*"What should we spend
our funds on?"*

Children can drop **their
suggestions** in the box by Mrs
Roper's office, or you can send
them to us directly:

friendsofwillowbrook00@gmail.com

💰 Every penny raised from
these events goes directly back
into the school.