

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the half term comes to an end, I hope that this newsletter captures a jam-packed month and lets you have a sneak preview of what's on the agenda over the next 5 weeks.

### Young Voices

It was an absolute privilege to take our incredible choir to Young Voices at the end of January. The event is inspiring, and the work that is put into learning songs and dances over the autumn term comes to life in a magical way as we perform with the world's largest choir! Your children are a pleasure to share a day with, and I congratulate each and every one who took part.



### World Book Day

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day. As has become our custom, we aim to celebrate the brilliance of books and make it an occasion. Last year the children dressed in their running gear and raised over £4,000 which will be used in the summer to build a brand-new library space. We asked the children to tell us how they wanted to mark World Book Day this year, and the resounding response was to have a day of dressing up and book-related activities. So... find a way of coming dressed in a way that celebrates your child's favourite book. This can be as simple or as elaborate as you choose. Homemade ideas are plentiful online – we'd encourage a creative 'make'.

Alternatively, just bring your favourite book and be happy to share it with your classmates. In return, the staff will make sure that you have an exciting, story-inspired day and a voucher that will get you a fabulous book for just £1!

## James Naish

Last Friday it was a pleasure to welcome our M.P., James Naish to Willow Brook. As well as showing interest in the work that we are doing, he took an assembly with the whole school. He told the children all about the job of a politician and asked them what laws they would pass if the power was in their hands. Once the children had found their stride, the ideas were flying and before we knew it, England had a three-day weekend and homework had been banned...all of which I endorsed!



## Online Safety Day

In the run up to this week's national Internet Safety Day, this half term's computing curriculum has been devoted to navigating the online world. The children led the final assembly on Tuesday and showed knowledge and confidence in what they shared.



## Year 3 and 4's Residential at Mount Cook

56 children and 5 intrepid members of staff had a busy but wonderfully successful two-day trip to Mount Cook in the Peak District this week. Their adventure saw them navigating high wires and learning how to spark a campfire, as well as simply enjoying a sleepover with their best friends! I loved listening to Year 3 tell me all about their adventures when they arrived back. For some it was the first time away from home, which made them feel brave and accomplished. Whilst it is always an exhausting few days for the staff, they agree that it is worth all the inevitable planning and energy... I am extremely grateful that Willow Brook staff continue to add such enthusiasm as they go the extra mile. There are a few photos on the back page, but I'm sure there will be many more on the school website once Miss Adams has had time to recover!

## Wacky Races

Next half term brings our second whole-school topic of the year. The *Wacky Races Rally* is a STEM themed 5-week project that we have developed ourselves. It will see Willow Brook children engaging with Isaac Newton's Laws of Motion and using their knowledge to design and make



powered vehicles ready for the end of term rally. There's lots of hands-on thinking and learning to test out some wild and wonderful scientific concepts.

Sir Isaac Newton lived in Woolsthorpe, which is close to Grantham. His house is an interesting visit if you are looking for a good place to explore over the next half term.

In the meantime, if you are feeling nostalgic, you might like to search for a few episodes of Wacky Races to get your children in the mood!

## The Playground Reservoir...

You will be very pleased to hear that, if everything goes according to plan, you will no longer have to navigate the water course on your way into school after half term. Severn Trent eventually fixed a leak on Selby Lane which allowed our waterlogged land to dry out making the ground stable enough to replace the pipework and drains. We have also had to wait for permission from the council AND for the contractor to be available, but everything is good to go next week.

You may have read in local media recently that our school has been granted money as part of the Government's Schools' Remodelling Programme. At some point in the summer, we will be embarking on interior updates to replace (amongst other things) lighting, ceilings and heating. Whilst there are no dates fixed for work to start at present, it is hoped that the summer holidays will see most of the reconstruction in central areas done. It is a little daunting but also exciting to think of the positive changes that will be made to the school. I will keep you informed.

All that remains is for me to remind you that **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February is an Inset day in school** so we will see you bright and early on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>. Whatever the half term break brings, I send you my very best wishes.

## DATES IN THE DIARY FOR THE HALF TERM AHEAD

Date	Event	Details
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	School INSET day	
5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day	
18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening appointments	
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 and 2 attending local Time Travelling event during the school day	
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 attending Dance Festival at SWA during the morning	
27 <sup>th</sup> March	School breaks up for the Easter Holidays	

# Mount Cook 2026

