

Newsletter

September 11th 2026



WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Whether this is your first half term at Willow Brook or whether you are a well-established member of the community, I hope your first full week of school has been a positive one.

Our 30 new children in EYFS are slowly but surely finding their feet and enjoying their work and play. We recognise that the first day at school is a big step for parents and carers as well as the children – we hope that you all have a restful weekend planned!

Willow Brook's new members of staff have slotted in just as brilliantly. Miss Leverington, Mr. McDonald, Mrs. Hollis and Mrs Fox are quickly getting used to our ways and enjoying their new children.

Thank you for supporting our Extra-Curricular Clubs. As always, there's lots on offer and a variety of activities to encourage new skills and interests to flourish. I was excited by the first Young Voices '27 choir rehearsal and loved singing and dancing with the 50-strong choir. Their enthusiasm and volume made me very happy!

READING AND BOOK BAGS

We are grateful to you for ensuring that children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 all have a book bag. A new supply has now arrived in school if you were waiting to acquire one. Willow Brook has a strong reading ethos - we appreciate that it is the bedrock of all learning. We look forward to working in partnership with you on your child's reading journey. Most of our wonderful Reading Volunteers have agreed to return this term – they made such a valuable contribution to our work last year. If you are interested in dedicating some time to helping in school and would like to be a Reading Volunteer, get in touch with me and we can organise the training and DBS checks necessary.

PHONES AND WATCHES

This is an opportune time to remind you that all schools now are phone free environments. At Willow Brook we do not allow children to bring mobile phones into school under any circumstances, nor do we permit children to wear smart watches that connect to the internet. There are so many safeguarding reasons behind our policy, as well as recognising that such items are incredibly expensive. We do however encourage children to wear a watch... telling the time seems to be a lost skill that we'd like to support!

UNIFORM

Your children looked incredibly smart on their first day at school! We do our very best to make sure that our uniform is comfortable, practical and inexpensive. In return, if you could make sure that all items are marked with your child's name, we'd be grateful. Jumpers and cardigans, which are often taken off and left unclaimed in lost property, can be reunited with their owner with speed if they are named.

Our uniform policy also mentions that skirts and dresses should be ‘of an appropriate length’, which we’d appreciate you supporting with some of our older children. The primary school day is an active one and to ensure that everyone can move freely, sit comfortably, and play safely, being appropriately dressed is important.

ALLERGY INFORMATION

In line with the Department for Education’s new Allergy Safety in Schools statutory guidance, staff are now trained and we are compliant as an "allergy-aware" school. If your child has a diagnosed allergy, please ensure current information has been communicated with us so that we can create or update an Individual Healthcare Plan. Mrs. Sampson will have messaged the families of those with current medication in school and, as always, Mrs. Roper will continue to do a thorough job in ensuring that supplies are in date. We ask that you continue to help by checking ingredients in packed lunches and ensuring nuts and sesame-based products are not included. If your child likes to share a treat on their birthday, also be aware of sweets that may have been contaminated with allergens – chocolates are best avoided. The curriculum now includes opportunities for the children to learn about the importance of not sharing food and the many other themes that this area captures.

I will leave you with some term dates for your diaries. Sometimes, feedback has been given that I need to include more information around events in school. I have been as detailed as I can at this stage, but please know that teachers and TA’s are always on the playground before and after school every day, and if you need to know *anything* at all, please just ask.

Whatever your weekend brings, I hope it is a happy one.



Summary of dates for your diary for the Autumn term

Date and time	Event	What to expect
Friday September 25 th 8.15am to 9.30	MacMillan Coffee Morning	Come and join us for cake and coffee before school. Doors open at 8.15. As always, you are invited to make or donate a cake for the Willow Brook Bake Off medals!
Friday 2 nd October 9.30am	Harvest Celebration	We welcome your donations of food as we celebrate harvest and turn our thoughts to being grateful for all that we have. However small your gift, it will make a difference to the Friary in West Bridgford. Parents of our new EYFS children are warmly invited to join us to get a flavour of Willow Brook life. Your invitation will arrive nearer the day.
Wednesday and Thursday 14 th and 15 th October	Parents’ Evening	You will be invited to book an appointment on Arbor to meet your child’s teacher to hear about how they have settled into their new year. You will be informed when appointment times are available.
Friday 16 th October	Break up for half term.	This holiday is for two weeks – we encourage you to book holidays during this period.
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Day	– theme to be announced before half term
Monday 16 th -20 th November	Anti-bullying Week	
Advanced notice of Junior Christmas Production dates: December 8 th 9 th and 10 th	Years 2 to 6 annual performance	
Infant Nativity Day: December 16 th	EYFS and Year 1 Nativity performance (2pm and 6.30pm)	