

Willow Brook News

October 26th 2018



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of a very busy half term and I know that there are some very tired little people (and some not so little people!) who are ready to break with routine and find some autumn sunshine!

We are very proud of our new reception class, who have settled into school life beautifully and have had lots of adventures together during their first half term! In their journey through the land of fairy tales they have met giants and princesses, made Gingerbread men, eaten porridge with bears, shopped for Goldilock's birthday party and have, at long last, found the kingdom!



Our new themed work has had a history theme this half term and it has been wonderful to see trips and topic work come to life. Year 4 enjoyed a trip in Derbyshire this week where they marched on a Roman fortification. They couldn't wait to tell me that they had been met off the coach by a 'real Roman' who, it transpires, was called 'Phil'! Meanwhile, Class 3 have been industriously making iron age shields and seiging the playground...

Year 2 have enjoyed their 'Race across the Decades', and as well as going back in time, they have ventured into the future. I was so impressed with their robot artwork this week, I had to make sure I acquired a first edition copy to frame for my office.



Last week I had the pleasure of taking our two elected members of the Rushcliffe Pupil Parliament to County Hall for their first meeting. Sitting in a real council chamber added gravitas to the debates that were had and the local issues that were considered. The parliament voted to support a joint local project to petition the government to value and plant more trees. They have organised a campaign on change.org and hope to get enough support to take the issue to Downing Street in February. Please read their work and add your signature by following this link. [Please take 1 minute to click this link and sign the petition.](#) (please see electronic copy to access) I'd like to congratulate Tom and Sami who represented our school so maturely.



Whilst on the subject of democracy and elections, our 2018/19 school council

was sworn in this week after a record number of candidates stood for office. I am always so happy when I hear the confidence with which even our very youngest pupils stand and put forward their views. South Wolds School often says that they know a Willow Brook child for how articulately they present themselves, and this was a perfect opportunity to practise! Mrs Walsh now has two representatives from each class, fully badged and ready to serve.



Last Friday was our annual Harvest Celebration and your generosity (yet again) was most appreciated. As you can see from the photo below, we were able to send so much to the Friary Centre in West Bridgford. They asked me to return their sincere thanks. In the assembly we looked at the life of William Booth and how determined he was to make sure that he would always fight for those who were not able to stand and fend for themselves. Hopefully, you will have received an envelope with the details of the children's half term homework inside yesterday. Whilst I realise we ask for your help quite often, the staff agreed that the annual Children in Distress 'Love in a Box' activity could not pass us by. If your envelope has not reached you, please see the website for details of how to contribute a box and complete your homework task.



Whilst on a charitable note, can I give you advanced warning of Children in Need Day, which will be on November 16th. Whilst we always advocate that we would rather you donate your money to the cause than buy too many Amazon accessories, we would love a day that fits with our school play theme (and perhaps the costumes that will

be needed in December!) So, a 'Stone Age Yabba Dabba Doo Day' it is! This could involve a simple stone age fur outfit...or perhaps a dinosaur...or a Flintstone character... There will, as always, be prizes for the most inventive! Should this all be too stressful, please feel free to get into the spirit of the day by sporting the usual Children in Need 'spots' outfit or come in a Pudsey t-shirt. The day will be full of fundraising fun. As promised, we will be having a Great British Bake Off competition and will crown our very own pupil champion (as well as selling their cake!) The theme for the event, as you may predict, is to create a 'Bedrock-bake-cake'. The staff are already plotting their designs and we challenge you to beat us!



You'll see that our new sports kits had their first outing this week and clearly spurred all of our teams on to victory! As parents, your time and energy towards raising money to buy these wonderful extras is much appreciated. I'm already looking forward to the school disco on Friday 9th November, and know you will do all that you can to make Willow Brook's first Friday night festive fair at the end of November a good one.

For now, I wish you a very happy holiday week. Enjoy time with your children – I know from experience that they grow up too fast... and recharge your batteries ready for (I can guarantee) a busy November and December!

With best wishes to you all,

Louise Ballard