

Willowbank Weekly



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25th July 2018

Don't forget to order school dinners during the summer holidays! – If you miss the deadline your child will need a packed lunch. Dinners will only be ordered at late notice in an emergency.

Summer

It has been both a pleasure and privilege to lead the school in the last half term. It's been an incredibly busy, exciting time – children have taken part in debates, ethos and sporting events, trips to Pennywell Farm, Paignton Zoo, Plymouth Aquarium, orienteering and problem solving, Crealy and a residential to Heatree. There have been huge fundraising events – more than £200 for Mercy ships and nearly £2000 for Race for Life. Sports Day was an example of how well our community works together, and it is this community spirit that helps our children.

I would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication. You make a real difference to our children in many different ways – thank you!

We have had many evaluation visits and visits from moderators this year. They have all recognised the huge effort that everyone on our staff makes to improve Willowbank and give children the very best opportunities that they can. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their hard work this year.

Have a wonderful, safe summer. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on Wednesday 5th September.

Fond farewells

Our move to First Federation means that we will no longer have a governing body in September. Our governors have worked tirelessly to help the school to develop. We would like to thank all of them – but particularly the co-chairs of governors, Deborah Lane and Gail Young, for the huge amount of time that they have given to the school. We would also like to thank PJ for her time as clerk to the governing body.

As the year draws to a close, we say goodbye to some members of the staff team. Mrs Cottrell is retiring after 32 years at Willowbank. Many, many members of our school community know Mrs Cottrell – she has been on many residential and trips, helped in many different year groups and taught many people who are now parents at school. Her sunny, optimistic personality and care and love for the children will be sadly missed. We will be saying a very fond farewell at our leavers service on Wednesday afternoon. Mr Duringer is also leaving to move to Bristol – his new school are very lucky to have him. Mrs Daniel leaves our MTA and cleaning staff to become a childminder. Caroline has been supporting us on a maternity contract as a cleaner. Thank you to all our staff who are leaving and good luck in the future.

Evaluation Visit

We had an evaluation visit from the local authority at the end of June. We were delighted that they recognised significant improvement in our school. They looked at books, watched lessons and

talked to children and staff. They felt that there had been good progress in developing accurate assessment, improving teaching and learning and improving children's engagement in lessons. They recognised that handwriting and presentation are now strengths of the school and that the leadership team have an accurate understanding of the school.

We are looking forward to joining First Federation on 1st September and continuing our journey of improvement. Thank you to all the children, parents and staff who have worked together to help us to improve our school. If you would like to volunteer to help, on either an ad hoc or regular basis, in September, please see Mrs Haddican.

Out of School Club

Thank you very much to everyone who returned our out of school club questionnaire. We are excited to announce that we will be opening an after school club at the beginning of the second half of the autumn term.

More information will come out in September including an information leaflet and booking details. It will be necessary to book in advance and we will begin with 16 spaces. We will be opening every day from 3:25 – 6pm; the cost will be £8, which will include a snack (like toasted sandwiches or beans on toast) and a drink.

Breakfast club will continue in the hall, but will now be open from 7.45am to help support working parents. The price will be £3.00 Children will enter through the hall side doors from September and will be able to have breakfast, play games, read a book or play with construction materials. At 8:45, staff will take children to their classes.

Governing body news

The transition to Academy status is progressing and the legalities will be completed over the summer break. Upon return in September Willowbank will be part of the first federation multiple academy trust and will no longer be a local authority school.

The Governing body would like to pass on huge thanks to the staff who have worked extremely hard in driving school improvement. Progress and attainment has improved in many areas and the school is in a much stronger position. Feedback from the recent Local Authority evaluation visit acknowledged the positive improvement and many strengths were highlighted.

Finally, the governing body would like to welcome Mrs Sophie Hillson to Willowbank in her new role as Head of Teaching and Learning and wish all the staff and children the very best for the future.

Attendance



Well done to Dove class who have achieved the highest attendance for the year: 97%

Year 5/6 Tennis Tournament

Over the last week, Year 5/6 children have been taking part in a Tennis Tournament based on the LTA Team Challenge format. All participants have experienced both singles and doubles matches and there has been a healthy competitive atmosphere alongside impressive fair-play, work on tactics and stroke-play, with the absolute beginners improving with every match. Winners in their boxes progressed to quarter and semi-finals, then to finals day. The results were:

Girls Final: Winner: Chloe B
 Runner-up: Olivia B
Boys Final: Winner: Josh H
 Runner-up: Harvey C

Doubles Final: Winners: Harvey C & Finley A
Runners –up: Daniel H & Nathan J

Fair Play awards went to Joseph S and Summer H and Most Improved awards went to Jaydon D, Chloe C, Kaci B and Spencer B. Congratulations and many thanks to all the children who took part, both for their enthusiasm and their encouragement of each other.



Race for life

We are so pleased to announce that the grand total for our Race for Life sponsorship is **£1933.33!!** This is such an achievement and the staff and children were thrilled to hear the total in assembly on Monday.

Special thanks were given to children, and of course their families, who went above and beyond with collecting sponsorship. Well done to William B, Tyler J, Emilie-R-S, Harry Fisher, Joshua C, Bethany-May S. They all rose between £60-£170.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. It was a real team effort – thank you to everyone for all their efforts.

In the assembly on Monday we also celebrated children who had done their own race for life challenges out of school. Well done to those children and parents.

School dinner's price increase

As of September the cost of schools dinners will be £2.30

Uniform

All children going into Year 1 are required to wear a shirt and tie. Ties are available on ParentPay, please pay online and then collect from the office.

Arts and crafts club

There are still some monies outstanding-please pay via ParentPay. Thank you



Foundation

In Foundation Stage, we have enjoyed making porridge this week and sharing our favorite toppings. Together we wrote a shopping list of the ingredients that we needed and then made some porridge to eat. We then voted for our favorite topping. Golden syrup was Robins favorite and chocolate was Starlings.

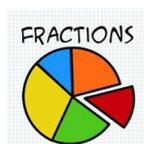
We enjoyed our class disco in the hall and we have been reflecting on our favorite memories in Foundation Stage.

We would like to thank the parents for their kind gifts and cards- it is very much appreciated. We wish everyone a safe and fun summer and we look forward to seeing them in September as Year 1's.



Years 1 & 2

Year 1 and 2 children enjoyed their well-deserved end of year parties earlier this week. The Year 1 and 2 team would like to congratulate the children on completing a busy and fabulous year. We have had a visit from the author Simon James, hosted the Season's Cafe, successfully looked after caterpillars and watched them develop into butterflies, shown great sportsmanship during sports day and enthusiastically joined in with our daily mile. We were delighted and proud that all children showed themselves to be great ambassadors for the school during their visits out of school. We are excitedly looking forward to next year and hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer break.



Years 3 & 4

The pupils have worked hard to complete their stories as well as consolidating their understanding of fractions and co-ordinates.

We would like to thank you for the gifts and cards; we are very grateful. We have all thoroughly enjoyed teaching the Year 3/4 pupils this year and wish them success as they move into Year 4 or Year 5.

Enjoy your summer break.



Years 5 & 6

Year 5 have been enjoying completing their lunar design projects, incorporating English and Maths skills to solve problems. Year 6 have been creating PowerPoints and preparing for the leavers' service. We look forward to welcoming Year 6 parents and Carers to the service at 1.15pm on Wednesday.

Thank you very much for all the gifts and cards for the team - they are very much appreciated. Have a wonderful summer. Good luck to all the Year 6 children as they move to secondary school. Year 5 - we look forward to you being our role models in September.

Diary Dates

September		
Monday 3rd		NON PUPIL DAY- NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL
Tuesday 4th		NON PUPIL DAY- NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL
Wednesday 5th	ALL DAY	BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 10th		Foundation Stage children start school