



WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

Newsletter

Diary Dates



February

11th Start of Science Week: Puzzle Day

12th Space Dome Day

14th Year 2 Visit to Windsor Castle

15th Valentine's Day Cake Sale

15th End of Spring Term 1

25th Children return to school-

26th SATS meeting for Year 2 Parents

March

7th World Book Day- more info to follow

15th Red Nose Day- more info to follow

18th EYFS visit to the Post Office

From the Headteacher

8th February 2019



What a change from last Friday's weather- we have gone from excellent snow-man making snow to grey skies and drizzle!

Thank you to all those parents who were able to make it to the combined EYFS and Year 1 coffee mornings. It was lovely to see you all, and have a chance to chat. The children certainly enjoyed being able to show you what they have been working on in school.

Next week is going to be a very busy and exciting week for us here at Willow Bank Infants- we have our STEM week (STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) which will begin with a mathematical, problem-solving focus for the whole school with the Happy Puzzle Company coming in to work with the children for the day. They will have some of their puzzles on sale in the school hall at the end of the day, there is a coupon on our website for a free book when you spend over £5 at the sale. Tuesday will focus on Science and Technology with a visit from the Space Dome. The remainder of the week will focus on related stories, activities and even visits from real Scientists and Engineers who will talk to the children about their jobs.

Parking continues to be an issue outside of the school, with some parents persisting in parking inconsiderately, across our neighbours' drives and over the double yellow lines. I would hope that everyone who comes to our school would be considerate and polite to other road users and to those have parked legally, and wouldn't engage in a dispute over parking, particularly when they have their children with them- Please bear in mind that your children will be learning from your habits- good and bad!

If you haven't yet begun making an eco-brick, and reducing your plastic waste, then please see the last page of this newsletter for more information on how you can get started!

Have a lovely week!

Michelle Masters

Donations Needed

Thank you all for your very generous donations- at the moment, we are fully stocked with everything we need.

Thank you so much for all your help!

We are always in need of Volunteers who can commit to a regular slot in a particular class or year group- if you can commit to helping, please contact Mrs Leary in the school office.

From the PTA



Cake Sale- Friday 15th February

Next Friday, we will be holding a Valentines Cake Sale. Donations of small or large cakes will be greatly appreciated. If you don't have time to bake, shop bought items are most welcome too. Please could you bring all donations to the ICT suite on the morning of the sale, and don't forget to bring some spare change and a maybe a Tupperware box at pick up on Friday.

If you are kind enough to donate a cake to the sale, please could you ensure that they are completely nut free as there are several children in school with a nut allergy. Thank you for supporting this event.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Alongside the cake sale on Friday, there will be a second hand uniform sale in the school playground. Bring some spare change and grab yourself a bargain.

Willow Bank Jumper and cardigans - £1.50

Grey trousers, skirts and pinafore dresses £1.00

PE T- Shirts/ branded white polo shirts - 50p

Summer Dresses - £1

Don't worry if you can't make it this Friday. If you email the PTA with your requests, one of us will happily check the stock for you. wbis.pta@hotmail.com

Your School Lottery

Have you bought your ticket for the school lottery yet? There's still time to get your tickets for the first draw which takes place tomorrow. Just follow this link

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/willow-bank-infant-school>

You could be in with a chance of winning £25,000 (just in time to book a flight to somewhere hot for half term!!!!)



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Newsletter

Happy Birthday!



Well done to this class!



Congratulations to these children!



Spring Term Checklist

February

11th Start of Science Week: Puzzle Day

12th Space Dome Day

14th Year 2 Visit to Windsor Castle

15th Valentine's Day Cake Sale- If you are kind enough to contribute cakes to the sale, please ensure that they are nut free. Thank you!

15th **End of Spring Term 1**

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

25th Children return to school- start of Spring Term 2

26th SATS meeting for Year 2 parents

March

7th World Book Day

15th Red Nose Day- more information to follow

18th EYFS Visit to the Post Office- more information to follow





Eco-Bricks: Help us to make a difference!



An **Ecobrick** is a plastic bottle packed to a set density with used, clean and dry plastic to achieve a building block that can be used over and over again. Eco bricks can also be packed with other non-biological un-recyclables that, uncontained, are toxic to the environment (i.e. styro-foam, wires, etc.).

Eco bricks are used to make modular furniture, garden spaces, walls and even full-scale buildings.

Eco bricks are an exciting way that individuals, communities, and companies can start their immediate transition from plastic towards ever greener harmony with the Earth's cycles.

How to make an Eco-Brick

Eco brick making is simple and straightforward. Eco bricks can be made by the young, the old and everyone in between — no machines or special skills are required! However, there are important guidelines to follow to ensure the quality and usability of your eco bricks.

Step 1

Eco bricks are made with clean and dry plastic. Start by segregating your eco brickable plastic from all other materials. If there is any food, oil or dirt on your plastic, be sure to wash then dry. Dirty plastic inside an eco brick will lead to microbiological growth and methane forming inside your eco brick.

Step 2

The first piece of plastic you put in the bottle will give it a bottom colour for building. Choose a soft plastic with a solid colour, then push it down to the bottom of your eco brick. Pack it in with a stick to fill the first 1-2cms of the bottle (you might want to use a few plastics of the same colour).

Step 3

Now it's time to pack away! Use your stick to push down the plastic around the inside of the bottle— move in a circle pushing down along the sides. To maximize the density, it's good to mix soft, then hard plastic. Cut up big plastics into smaller pieces. The smaller the pieces, the denser you'll get! If it's your first eco brick, weigh occasionally to make sure you are on track for your target minimum weight.

Did you push too hard? In rare cases, when using a sharp stick, a thin bottle or too much lateral force, an eco brick will rupture. Don't panic! But, it's best to start again. Ruptured bottles will not last and can leak plastics. Cut the bottle open, remove the plastic and start again. Cut bottles can be recycled.

Step 4

Around the world, we've discovered that a good minimum density is **0.33 g/ml**. This means that a 600ml bottle will have a minimum weight of 200 grams and a 1500ml bottle will have a minimum weight of 500 grams. Minimum density goals are essential to ensure quality eco bricks. Quality eco bricks ensure good constructions, make the most of the volume and energize the social spread of eco bricks.

Eco bricks that are too soft cannot be used for modules. Eco bricks that are too soft can compromise structural constructions. By densely packing of the bottle, we make the most of the bottle to trap plastic.

Finally, a good solid eco brick is something you can be proud of! When others see and hold it, they understand immediately the transformation of loose plastic to building block that has occurred! Good quality eco bricks and eco brick constructions are fundamentally inspiring.

Step 5

Build!

We are hoping to use the Eco-bricks to build a wall for our sensory garden! Similar to this one...

So make your Eco-bricks colourful and strong by packing them tightly with non-recyclable plastic!

