



WILLOW BANK PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we celebrated World Mental Health Day and wore yellow to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our mental health and learned strategies of how we could support each other during difficult times. Mrs Day and Ms Brewer talked to the children in assembly about the importance of talking about their feelings and emotions in order to make sense of them and shared again how our well-being team offer 'chance to chat' sessions for any child wanting to speak to an adult if they fill in one of the slips kept in classrooms. This has been a huge success so far with our well-being coaches spending part of their break and lunchtimes having conversations with children talking through any worries they may have.

We have also been looking ahead to next half term and teachers have been very busy planning exciting learning journeys focused on the children's core texts and autumn 2 topics. As you are aware, we are no longer asking parents to send children into school in costumes for Big Bang Days due to the additional cost this may incur to households and are instead focusing more on providing memorable and immersive learning experiences. This morning we also enjoyed our first class sharing assembly of this academic year. Larch Class were very proud to present the learning outcomes they have achieved over the first half term across a range of curriculum subjects and spoke with clarity, enthusiasm and confidence about their learning. We are all very proud of them.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the Trust letter in this week's newsletter regarding an additional INSET day this academic year on Friday 26th May 2023. On this day, the school will be closed to children to enable staff to receive additional training. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Oldfield
Headteacher*



Willow Bank had two very special visitors this week- Diane and Wendy were two of the first pupils to come to our school in the 1970s when it was a brand-new school called Southlake Primary School. They joined us for our assembly and spoke to the children in Key Stage 1 who were very keen to ask them questions about what our school was like 50 years ago! I am pleased to share with you that both ladies said they had loved every minute of their time here and had very fond memories of their friends and teachers! Diane also made a very generous donation to our PTFA fund, which we were very grateful for.



Message from the Woodland Academy Trust

Additional Inset Day for staff training- Friday 26th May 2023

*To allow for further valuable staff training to take place this academic year, an additional INSET day will be held on **Friday 26th May 2023**. This means that the school will be open for staff to attend on this date, but will not be open for children.*

This is a decision we have made with careful consideration and have balanced the needs of staff and their development with those of the children. As the five INSET days have already taken place in September, this additional day will give school leaders and teachers an opportunity to reflect on school priorities, review the curriculum the children are receiving and in turn will strengthen our schools across the Woodland Academy Trust and ultimately enhance the learning experience for all our children.

Please also see for your information our INSET staff training day dates for the academic year 2023-2024:

Monday 4th September 2023

Tuesday 5th September 2023

Wednesday 6th September 2023

Friday 9th February 2024

Friday 24th May 2024

Thank you for your continued support for the Woodland Academy Trust staff and schools.



WELLBEING

Be Respectful

We use manners

We use kind words

We listen to others

We follow instructions

We have a caring heart

We think of others' feelings



THINK OF THE WEEK

Thanks! Get thinking and discussing!

What's more important, being right or being nice?

Well done to:	
Magnolia - 89.1%	Yew - 93.3%
Hornbeam - 95.0%	★ Mulberry - 98.0%
Alder - 91.3%	Redwood - 92.4%
Laburnum - 96.0%	Almond - 96.5%
Hazel - 90.0%	★ Walnut - 95.9%
★ Larch - 94.2%	Sycamore - 94.6%



Reminder: -Bexley Immunisation Team will be visiting your school for **Nasal Flu Immunisation** on Tuesday 1st November. Parents to let the school know on the day if their child is unwell or have recently had his/her Asthma medication increased. This information from parents Must be passed to the lead nurse on arrival for the session before the immunisation session starts.

Please see the New Flu immunisation video to parent's the link is below.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20BUkHxVAdQ>

