



## **Dear Parents and Carers**

This week, we have been busy with a range of trips and experiences. Year 1 went to a farm as part of their learning about where food comes from; children from nursery to year 4 saw Paddleboat theatre's amazing production of 'the Elves and the Shoemaker', our Young Carers went to a pizza making afternoon, Year 4 went to the RAMM to extend their knowledge about Ancient Egypt and Year 6 went next door to St James to see their students' wonderful production of Sister Act. Have a wonderful weekend.

## **Dates for your diary**

Friday 21st March – Red Nose Day & Exe Factor competition (details to follow)

Wednesday 26th March – Rocksteady concert – parents of children who partake in Rocksteady welcome. 10am in the hall.

Friday 28th March – Mother's Day Cream tea, 2-3pm in the hall.

Friday 28th March – Eid celebrations in school

Monday 31st March – Year 1 and 2 Easter celebration at St Boniface Church, Whipton – 1.30pm.

Tuesday 1st April – EYFS Easter activities in the hall – 2.30pm

Thursday 3rd April – Year 2 trip to the Mosque

Thursday 3rd April – KS2 Spring Concert on the back playground 2.30pm.

## **Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day**

Children are invited to come dressed as 'something funny for money'. The suggested donation for this non-uniform day is £1, but please give what you feel you can. There will also be our annual Exe Factor competition at 2pm - any parents of children who are performing should have had an email and we hope you can join us in the hall.

## **Friends of Willowbrook**

Don't forget Wednesday 19th is the last date for Mother's Day gift forms and cream tea bookings. Forms need to be returned to the class with the money and cream tea can be

booked on our website [www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofwillowbrook](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofwillowbrook). Thank you for your continued support.

### **Nursery Places**

Parents who have children turning 3 from April/May 2025 onwards need to apply for their places for September 2025-2026. The children will start in the term after their third birthday, but we are already filling up. Applications are available from reception and on our website [here](#).

### **Top Readers this week are:**

3F	Elliot W	5P	Anabel S
3H	Erin H	5T	Harriet B
4E	Anya M	6BGR	Imogen H
4R	Maryam S	6W	Elias C

### **Young Carers trip**

This week our UKS2 Young Carers were treated to a pizza making afternoon at the Westbank Centre in Exminster. The children had a brilliant time and thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands dirty. The organisers were very complimentary of the children's lovely manners; they emailed Mrs B-G after the session to say 'the children were a credit to Willowbrook'!

### **World Book Day**

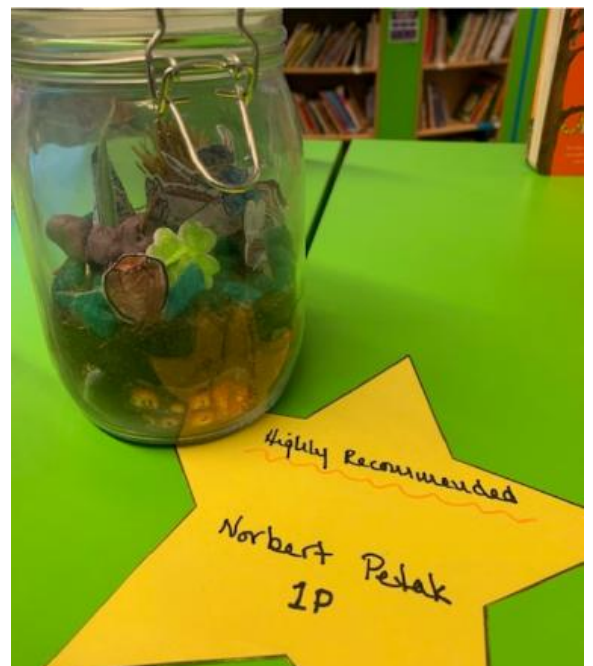
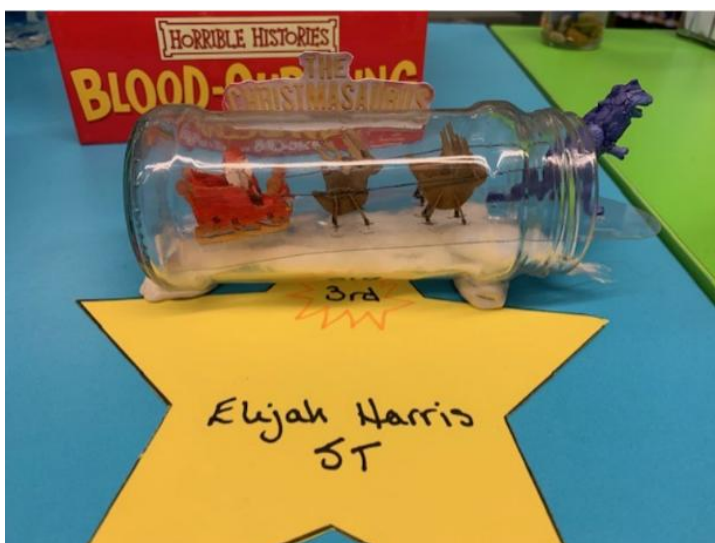
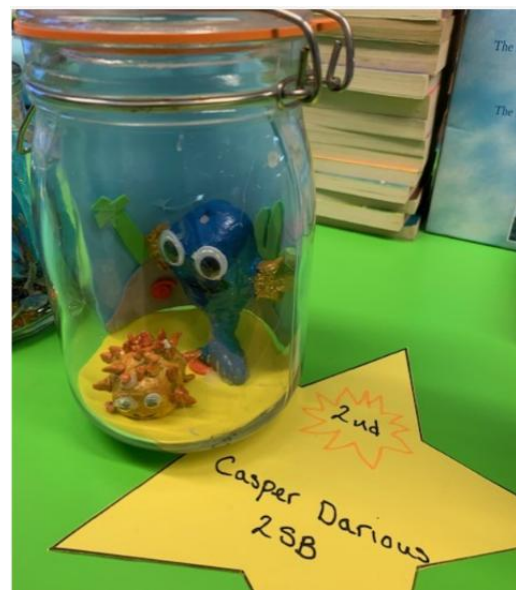
We had a fantastic World Book Day, filled with creativity and a love for reading! The children showcased wonderful outfits, took part in our 'Extreme reading photo challenge', and impressed us with their imaginative 'story in a jar' competition entries. Our cake and Willy the Wonka chocolate bar sale were a great success - well done to those who found a golden wrapper and claimed their prize! A particular highlight of the day was seeing our older children reading to our younger readers. A huge thank you to parents/ carers for your effort in putting together such brilliant costumes. Your support made the day very special.

Extreme reading winners:

N- Tegan Watts	Y4- Zachary Wannell
Y1- Tanisha White	Y5- Indie Carter
Y2- Erin Chart	Y6 – Maks Stefanowski
Y3 – Travis Billinge	

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Book in a Jar Competition! We had lots of brilliant entries which have been widely admired. One of our newest members of staff, who stopped, enchanted, to look at the entries every time she passed the library, has chosen the winning entries. They are:

1st:	Sharing a Shell	Josh G	REM
2nd:	Barry, the Fish with Fingers	Casper D	2SB
3rd	The Christmasaurus	Elijah H	5T
Highly Recommended:	The Highway Rat	Norbert P	1P
	The Gruffalo	Lincoln U	3H







## Year 4 Trip to the RAMM

Year 4 went to the RAMM this week as part of their history unit on the Ancient Egyptians. Afterwards, the children gave us this feedback on the experience:

Chloe – I really liked going to the museum because of the activities, especially the Ancient Egyptian boardgame Sennet.

Samuel – I liked looking at a real-life mummy in the room with hieroglyphs all over the walls.

Maryam – I loved doing the mummification activity because it helped me understand how the Egyptians mummified bodies.

Aria – I loved learning about all the Ancient Egyptian animals.

Jenson – My favourite part was seeing the animals at the museum and learning about which ones the Egyptians worshipped.

Chase – My favourite part was learning how to mummify a body using a doll and wrapping the body parts in linen.

Evie: I enjoyed the Senet board game and playing it in a pair with my best friend!

Anya: My favourite room in the museum was the bird room, it was amazing!

Cacius: I found seeing the real-life Mummy interesting. The lady was called Shep-En Mut who used to be a farmer.

Leon: My favourite part was spending time with my friends outside of school.

Filip: I thought the hieroglyphics on the wall around the Egyptian sarcophagus were really cool.

Kubra: I was interested in the scarab beetle which they created from the dung beetle.

Zach: I liked the train journey and sitting with all of my friends!

Phoebe V: I liked the part when we went upstairs and looked through a box which was a replica of Tutankhamun's tomb like Howard Carter did!

Alice: I liked the 'Fly on the wall' room where we saw lots of different animals and insects!





## Reception Reading Event

Thank you to all the parents who came to the Reception reading evening last Thursday. We loved seeing you and sharing books with your family. The children enjoyed making Ramadan lanterns, drawing book covers and exploring resources related to lots of fantastic stories.



## Paddleboat theatre

We were lucky to have a visit from Paddleboat theatre this week. They performed their wonderful production of 'the Elves and the Shoemaker.'



## Northbrook pool

You may be aware of the potential closure of Northbrook swimming pool. A consultation by Exeter council will be published on the council's website soon but there is also a petition which has been launched by the local community. We are very conscious of how important community facilities are and thought it would be worth sharing the link below in case you wish to share your views.

<https://www.change.org/p/prevent-the-closure-of-northbrook-swimming-pool>

## School Values Feedback

Thank you for your feedback regarding the change in School Values. It has been really valuable and has given us lots to think about. On the whole, the feedback has been positive and in favour of the changes. Where there have been some questions or potential issues raised, I have collated our thoughts to these to provide some clarity around the decision making.

Although we will be launching the school values fully in September, starting with Respect in Autumn 1, we will introduce the children to all 6 over the course of the Summer term to start the conversation.

These are the common threads from the responses:

Feedback	Our thoughts
6 values are too many – the children won't remember them.	Although 6 is more than 4 to remember for the children, we will focus on 1 value each half term (for example, focus on respect in Autumn 1) This approach of 1 value per half term is well used in some of the best performing schools.
There are lots of words on the poster – some of the words are not synonyms for the value word.	All of the 6 values will need a lot of teaching and embedding into our curriculum. The words below the value are not meant as synonyms but are words that will be shared with the children to get to the true core of the value. For example, to fully understand 'respect' children need to understand diversity and equality. They are not exclusive – we will be using a range of age-appropriate terminology to explain the values to the children. Children won't be expected to be able to name all 6 words and all 4 words beneath them – they will be able to remember the 6 values and be able to articulate what they mean. It may be that for younger children, we just use the values and not the other words to keep it simpler.
The words may be too tricky for the younger children.	We understand that many of the children, particularly the youngest children, won't understand the meaning of all of these values at present. They will be fully taught to the children in an age-appropriate way and will become part of our everyday vocabulary in school. We want to be more aspirational about our language and this starts with our values; we have many really bright children who we know will help us share this understanding over time.
Why the decision to take out 'Friendship'?	The choice to take 'Friendship' out as a value does not mean that we do not value the concept of friendship. We feel that friendship is a product of respect, compassion and community and is not a stand-alone value. We will of course be talking to the children about friendship and positive relationships through our school values as well as our PSHE curriculum. The aim is that, in time, our values drive how we act and behave – both staff and children.

There were a few other responses that were related to individual experiences, which we have also taken on board. Thank you again for helping to shape our aspirational values.

## Week 1 School meals menu

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Main Meal</b>	<b>Main Meal</b>	<b>Main Meal</b>	<b>Main Meal</b>	<b>Main Meal</b>
Thai Style Chicken Curry with Savoury Rice and Naan Bread	Brunch – Sausage, Bacon, Hash Brown and Baked Beans	Roast Shoulder of Pork with Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg and Gravy	Beef Lasagne with Focaccia Bread and Peas	Breaded Fish or Salmon Fingers with Chips and Beans
<b>Vegetarian Meal</b>	<b>Vegetarian Meal</b>	<b>Vegetarian Meal</b>	<b>Vegetarian Meal</b>	<b>Vegetarian Meal</b>
Tomato and Basil Pasta Bake with Focaccia Bread and Salad Sticks	Mushroom Stroganoff with Steamed Rice and Naan Bread	Roasted Vegetable and Cheese Quiche with Seasonal Vegetables	Vegetable and Five Bean Pie topped with Mashed Potato and Peas	Roasted Vegetable Fajita with Chips and Beans
<b>Jacket Potato</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b>
Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo
<b>Dessert</b>	<b>Dessert</b>	<b>Dessert</b>	<b>Dessert</b>	<b>Dessert</b>
Raspberry Shortbread	Apple Flapjack	Chocolate Cake and Custard	Jelly with Fruit	Lemon Cookie