



Dear Parents and Carers

This week, I have been meeting with staff to review their mid-year assessments; these will be shared with you at the upcoming parents' evenings which you can now book through the Arbor app. Please do call the office if you are having difficulties and my apologies for a few glitches earlier this week. On the subject of the office, recently, we completed our new admin team with the recruitment of Victoria Broxton. She will be the front facing member of the team dealing with face to face, phone and e-mail enquiries.

Have a lovely weekend.

The 'Exe' Factor

It is nearly that time of year again - The 'Exe' Factor, our annual singing and dancing competition. Class teachers have slips for children to fill in if they wish to audition, which needs to be handed back in to their class teacher by Friday 14th February (before half term!). Auditions will then be held in the first week back after half term. Please help us to manage the children's expectations of this, as we always have a lot more children who apply than we do spaces to be able to perform. The actual concert will be held on Friday 21st March - the same day as comic relief. Parents of children who are performing will be invited in to share the experience. Thank you for your support with this fun event - it is always really enjoyed by all the children.

Friends of Willowbrook

Mother's Day - we are pleased we are able to host our mother's day cream tea again this year, this is a lovely opportunity for you to come and have cream tea in the hall with your children, tickets are £5 for adults, children are free and they will get cake, squash and other snacks, if your child would prefer a cream tea you can purchase them a child's ticket for £2.50. Tickets can be bought from our website www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofwillowbrook The cut off the orders is the **19th March** to allow us enough time to make sure we have enough food for everyone.

Mother's Day gifts - after half term we will be sending home forms to order Mother's Day gifts, if you would like to order one, please fill out the form with your child's name and class and how many gifts they would like.

We are changing the way we do this, this year. You will still need to preorder your gifts, we will not be able to accept money on the day as we won't have enough gifts, but children will collect gifts after school, in a shopping room. This means siblings can come in together and we can make sure they don't pick the same gift, parents can wait outside the classroom while children come in. If your child is in after school club that day, we will make sure they get to come and pick a gift. We will send out more details about this after half term.

Dates for your calendar for this half term

Friday 14th February: Intra school competition

w/b Monday 17th February: Half term

Top Readers

Here are the top readers in each class for this week.

| | | | |
|----|----------|-----|-----------|
| 3F | Elliot W | 5P | Gabriel S |
| 3H | Erin H | 5T | Awab I |
| 4E | Filip S | 6BR | Imogen H |
| 4R | Aria H | 6W | Barney C |

A Reminder: World Book Day Competition!

The first of our World Book Day competitions has arrived! If your child would like to enter, please return designs by 10th February. World Book Day is on 6th March, and we will be doing our annual dress up day.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week, the children have been learning about ways to stay mentally healthy. We have welcomed colleagues from the Mental Health Team who have delivered assemblies across the school with learning continuing back in the classroom. Ask your children if they can remember any of the '10 a day' ways they can help their mental health. Have a look at the poster below to see if any of these strategies could be used to support your mental health too.

Mental Health Support Team

'10 a day' choices towards balancing our mental health



Talk about your
feelings



Do something
you enjoy and
are good at



Keep yourself
hydrated



Eat well



Keep active in
mind and body



Take a break



Stay connected
to those you
care about



Ask for help



Be proud of your
very being



Actively care
for others

Numbots

Over the past two weeks, Jaxon and Sofia (both in Year 2) have each completed their Numbots 'Story'!

This means they have completed 995 levels (across 18 stages) of addition and subtraction challenges – a wonderful demonstration of our school value of 'excellence'!



As part of the celebrations, Jaxon and Sofia were interviewed about their achievement:

- **Can you tell me how you're feeling about completing your Numbots Story?**

Jaxon: *I feel amazing because I completed Platinum and Diamond and they're really hard with some subtractions that needed exchanges. Some people were shocked when I told them!*

Sofia: *I feel good because it was fun to get to Diamond and complete it! My friends are proud of me.*

- **What is your 'top tip' for playing Numbots?**

Sofia: *Don't give up!*

Jaxon: *Practise until you can answer quickly.*

- **Now that you've completed your Story, what is your next challenge?**

Jaxon: *I'm going back through the levels on Diamond trying to get all the levels to three stars so I can customise my robot even more.*

Sofia: *I'm trying to get all the trophies on Challenge mode.*

At Willowbrook, children from Reception-Year 6 have a Numbots account. We find that, when children play Numbots regularly, they tend to become more confident and excited about maths. Please ask your child's class teachers if you would like to find out more.

Weekly menu – Week 3

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Main Meal | Main Meal | Main Meal | Main Meal | Main Meal |
| Chicken Biryani with Naan Bread and Carrots | Pizza Day – Pepperoni Pizza with Potato Wedges and Baked Beans | Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg and Gravy | Beef Bolognese with Penna Pasta and Sweetcorn | Breaded Fish Fingers with Chips and Beans |
| Vegetarian Meal | Vegetarian Meal | Vegetarian Meal | Vegetarian Meal | Vegetarian Meal |
| Macaroni Cheese with Focaccia Bread and Carrots | Pizza Day – Margherita Pizza with Wedges and Baked Beans | Halloumi Traybake with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables | Butternut, Sweet Potato and Cauliflower Curry with Steamed Rice and Naan Bread | Courgette and Sweetcorn Fritter with Chips and Peas |
| Jacket Potato | Jacket Potato | Jacket Potato | Jacket Potato | Jacket Potato |
| 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 |
| Dessert | Dessert | Dessert | Dessert | Dessert |
| Fruit Platter | Fruity Flapjack | Iced Sponge | Pineapple Cake | Oaty Cookie |