



WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

Newsletter

Diary Dates



January

25th Non-Uniform Day

February

1st EYFS Family Coffee Morning

8th Year 1 Family Coffee Morning

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

From the Headteacher

18th January 2019



We have had a lovely week, with the start of the Year 2 football taster sessions and the Didi Rugby sessions for EYFS, and of course, a very brief flurry of snow!

This term is always a tricky term for our children- they never really seem to recover from the build-up to and excitement of Christmas until the February half term. We are seeing a lot of very tired little people in school, and would like to take this opportunity to remind you that children in our school age range should be having between 10½ to 11½ hours of sleep each night, with the older children having at least 10½ hours and our Reception children having at least 11½ hours.

We are looking for more reading volunteers in school- particularly male role models for reading- so if you know any dads, older brothers, uncles and grandads who may have some spare time and who are willing to commit to a regular time, we would love to hear from them!

Please note that the Film Night scheduled for the 1st February has been cancelled.

Have a lovely weekend!

Michelle Masters

From the PTA



Happy School Bags

Thank you so much to everyone who donated a bag to the 'Happy School Bags' collection last week. As a school, we managed to raise a whopping £185.25 (bringing our total for the year to £4,845). Don't worry if you missed out on this collection as there will be two more collections throughout the year. The next one is scheduled for the 29th of April and the third one is scheduled for the 24th September.

The filming of the Christmas Plays

As many of you are aware, both the Foundation Stage and the KS1 Christmas plays were filmed by some students from Waingels College. It was filmed from three different angles in the hall to try and capture as many children as possible.

Unfortunately, the students did not have the time to edit the three shots together, and this is not in our skill set to do! Is this something that you could help with? Do you, or does anyone in your family, know of someone who would be able to edit them together? If so, please do get in touch at wbis.pta@hotmail.com

World Book Day

World Book Day is taking place on March 7th and this seems like an excellent opportunity for a second hand book sale! If you've been having a post-Christmas clear out, we would welcome any donations of good condition books. Please could you leave all donations in the blue box in reception. Thank you

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.





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Happy Birthday to these children!



Congratulations to these children!



Spring Term Checklist

January

25th Non-Uniform Day

February

1st EYFS Family Coffee Morning

8th Year 1 Family Coffee Morning

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



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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. Ecobricks can also be packed with other non-biological un-recyclables that, uncontained, are toxic to the environment (i.e. styro-foam, wires, etc.).

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

Ecobricks 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

Ecobrick making is simple and straightforward. Ecobricks 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 ecobricks.

Step 1

Ecobricks are made with clean and dry plastic. Start by segregating your ecobrickable 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 ecobrick will lead to microbiological growth and methane forming inside your ecobrick.

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 ecobrick. 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 ecobrick, 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 ecobrick 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 ecobricks. Quality ecobricks ensure good constructions, make the most of the volume and energize the social spread of ecobricks.

Ecobricks that are too soft cannot be used for modules. Ecobricks 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 ecobrick 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 ecobricks and ecobrick 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!

