



WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

Newsletter

Diary Dates



February

1 st	EYFS Family Coffee Morning
8 th	Year 1 Family Coffee Morning
11 th	Start of Science Week: Puzzle Day
12 th	Space Dome Day
14 th	Year 2 Visit to Windsor Castle
15 th	Valentine's Day Cake Sale
15 th	<u>End of Spring Term 1</u>
25 th	Children return to school-
26 th	SATS meeting for Year 2 Parents

March

7 th	World Book Day- more info to follow
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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 Headteacher

28th January 2019



What a beautiful day to start the week!

I am looking forward to having a chance to chat to the EYFS parents on Friday morning, for the first of our 'Family Coffee' sessions. The classroom door for EYFS will be open from 8:50am, and all EYFS parents are invited to come in with their children and have an opportunity to look around their classroom with them, and even do a little activity or two! From 9:00am parents are welcome to come into the hall for a cup of coffee or tea, and a chance to chat with your child's teacher and with me.

Year 1 Family Coffee day will be next Friday, 8th February, with the same timings, and then Year 2 will have their turn on Friday 15th February.

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

From the PTA



Your School Lottery

There is still plenty of time to buy your tickets for the first draw on February 9th. It couldn't be easier to play. Just follow this link

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/willow-bank-infant-school> to be in with a chance of winning the jackpot prize of £25,000. There is also a guaranteed smaller prize each week for one lucky Willow Bank supporter. The more people that play, the bigger the prizes and the more money our school gets!!!! Tickets are only £1 per play.

Wanted

The teachers have put in a wish list of things that they would like to help enhance your child's learning. Before we go out and source the things on the list, we thought it wise to see if anyone is willing to donate these items first.

- A small rug for a reading corner
- An outdoor sand tray
- An outdoor water tray
- Small cars
- Water toys (funnels, containers and boats)
- Sand toys (letters and number moulds)
- Construction toys (tool box, tools, mobilo)
- Small world toys (Happyland)
- Play Sand
- Playground Bark Chippings





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Happy Birthday !



Well done to this class!



Congratulations to these children!



Spring Term Checklist

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

26th SATS meeting for Year 2 parents

March

7th World Book Day



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Newsletter

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!

