



WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

Newsletter

Diary Dates



February

15th Valentine's Day Cake Sale

15th End of Spring Term 1

25th Children return to school-

26th SATS meeting for Year 2 Parents

March

7th World Book Day- more info to follow

15th Red Nose Day- more info to follow

15th EYFS Coffee Morning

18th EYFS visit to the Post Office

22nd Year 1 Coffee Morning

From the Headteacher

15th February 2019



We're halfway through the school year! This time has passed so quickly it's hard to believe that our EYFS classes are halfway to Year 1! And that our Year 2's are half way to the Juniors!

Thank you to all the lovely helpers and to the PTA who have made STEM week such a success! The children have had a wonderful day with the Happy Puzzle Company and the Space Dome (paid for by the lovely PTA) and the visit from some of our scientific parents (and past parents) who shared their work with the children.

Parking continues to be an issue outside of the school, with some parents persisting in parking inconsiderately, across our neighbours' drives and over the double yellow lines. I would hope that everyone who comes to our school would be considerate and polite to other road users and to those have parked legally, and wouldn't engage in a dispute over parking, particularly when they have their children with them- Please bear in mind that your children will be learning from your habits- good and bad!

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



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 PTA



Donations

Thank you for all of the donations that you have been kind enough to contribute to the school this year. We are still welcoming book donations for the second hand book sale on World Book Day (March 7th). All donations can be left in the blue PTA box in reception by March 1st. Thank you

With Mother's Day fast approaching, we are also still in need of lots of donations for our 'Secret Shop'. Please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted gifts you may have including: toiletries, notebooks, candles, mugs, socks, ties, novelties, jewellery, and chocolates.

Thank you

Thank you to Mercedes Gully for a very generous donation of £350 in matched funding. It has made a huge impact on our total raised so far this year. Please do ask your company if they do a charity match scheme. It makes such a difference to us.

Thank you to Billy Button Gifts for their very kind donation of a plaque for our outdoor reading cupboard. www.facebook.com/billybuttongiftsuk/

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket for the school lottery. I know there were parents, friends, family and staff who all bought a ticket to help raise money for the school. Even though no-one won the £25,000 jackpot, Zoe H (Year 1 mum) managed to bag £20... every little helps! Don't forget to sign up to the next draw.



WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

Newsletter

Spring Term Checklist

February

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

15th Red Nose Day- more information to follow

15th EYFS Coffee Morning

18th EYFS Visit to the Post Office- more information to follow

22nd Year 1 Coffee Morning

26th, 27th and 28th Parents Evening

27th and 28th SAGE Volunteers in to create sensory garden

29th Spring Disco 6pm-8pm

April

1st Martin the Puppet Man

5th Easter Assembly- all parents welcome to attend! 9:30am in the hall.

END OF TERM- EASTER HOLIDAYS

23rd INSET Day- No school for the children today

24th Children return to school- start of Summer Term 1

A note from the School Immunisation Team at the Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Dear Parent/Carers of Reception to Year 5 Children who received the Flu Vaccination Autumn 2018

Berkshire Healthcare Trust wants to thank you for your support in having your child vaccinated against flu autumn 2018. We are pleased to inform you that with your help we achieved an overall uptake of 67.3% across Berkshire and immunised a total of 49,361 children in over 300 locations. The school immunisation teams could not do this without your support, and we are constantly trying to improve our services, therefore would be grateful if you would spend a few minutes to complete this short online questionnaire by close of play 1st March 2019 to help us make such improvements. Please click on the link below and thank you for your support in this matter.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M6N8B33>



WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

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!

