

Willow Academy

Newsletter October 2015

I was delighted to visit Willow Academy today at the start of a new academic year. Mrs Buckley gave me a tour of the academy and introduced me to all of the children in their classes. I was made to feel most welcome by both the staff and the children. I was particularly impressed with the positive learning behaviour that I saw in the classes. The children were eager to tell me what they were learning and were respectful and polite to each other and the adults with whom they were working.

A special mention to Year 6, who looked so smart in their new uniform. They were keen to tell me how much they liked wearing it and how 'grown up,' it made them feel.

Congratulations to all the children on their high levels of attendance this term. Thank you to the staff who gave up their time in the holidays to prepare the learning environments for the children. It is much appreciated.'

Anne Butel, NLE

Regional Director of Primary Academies

Can we just reiterate that KS2 children should not arrive in the playground for school before 8:40 am. Please don't allow children to bring balls etc. as they are unsupervised at this time and accidents can occur.

Egyptian Day

Year 5 Egyptian day was a great success! We all thoroughly enjoyed our day dressing up and acting like ancient Egyptians. Many thanks to our parent helpers, your support allowed our children to have the best learning possible.



Year 3 visit to Murton Park

On our visit to Murton Park children were shown how pre-historic people survived. They also completed Iron Age activities including hunting, farming, creating pots and grinding seeds to make flour, along with listening to stories about the Ice Man.

If you would like to see more photos of the visit please go to the gallery section of our website.



Conisbrough Castle

Both Year 4 classes went to Conisbrough Castle and had a very exciting and interesting time. They learnt lots about how the Normans lived. The children had time to look around the keep and make their own drawings.

Everyone had a good time and the children's behaviour was a credit to the school; again photos of the day are on the website.

Reminder for Parents/Carers

School Photographs are on Tuesday 13th October.

The Travelling Book Fair is in school, starting today, until Wednesday 14th October (3.30 – 4.30 pm)

Changes to KS2 SATS in 2016

What parents need to know:

In the summer of 2016, children in Year 2 and Year 6 will be the first to take the new SATS papers. These tests in English and Mathematics will reflect the new National Curriculum and are intended to be more rigorous. There will also be a completely new marking scheme to replace the existing National Curriculum levels.

At the end of Year 6, children will be tested in:

- Reading
- Mathematics
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

These tests will be both set and marked externally and the results will be used to measure the school's performance (for example: reporting to Ofsted and publishing league tables).

Your child's mark will be used in conjunction with teacher assessment to give a broader picture of their attainment.

How will SATS be marked?

You will be given your child's raw score (the actual number of marks they get) alongside their scaled score and whether they have reached the National Average.

When will SATS take place in 2016?

Key Stage 2 SATS will be administered in the week commencing Monday 16th May 21016. Parents should note that all Year 6 pupils must be in school during SATS week.. Under no circumstances should holiday at this time.