



The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 19th September 2025

Issue 1



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Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first *Willingham Scoop* of this academic year! We've had a fantastic start to the term, and it has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled back into school life. The first few weeks are always about establishing positive routines and sharing the high expectations we hold for all pupils, not only in their learning but in every aspect of school life.

Thank you to those who were able to attend our Curriculum Evenings. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to hear about the exciting learning planned for the year ahead. As many of you will already know, we use Knowledge Organisers across the school, from Honeyptot right through to Year 6, to capture the key knowledge and vocabulary for each foundation subject unit. These are available on [our school website](#) for you to access at any time during the term. We hope you find them useful in supporting your child's learning and sparking interesting conversations at home.

In my pre-term letter, I mentioned that Ofsted were due to release a new inspection framework. This has now been published and states that schools will typically be inspected once every four years. Our most recent inspection took place in June 2023, so we may not be due another visit for a little while. If you would like more information, the full details can be found on [the Ofsted website](#). As before, the framework places importance on the views of parents and carers, as we do as a school. So please don't wait to hear from Ofsted, but do share your thoughts, both positive and development areas, with us at any point of the year.

We are looking forward to a term full of new learning, exciting opportunities, and continued growth for every child.

Wishing you all a nice autumn weekend.

Best wishes, Miss Paalanen



Key Dates

School Calendar:

Sat 20th Sep - WSA Family Fun & Colour Run event [all day, at the school]

Tue 23rd Sep - Parent/Carers consultations for Reception Year [3.30-5pm, in classrooms]

Wed 24th Sep - Parent/Carers consultations for Reception Year [3.30-5pm, in classrooms]

Thu 25th Sep - Parent/Carers consultations for Reception Year [3.30-5pm, in classrooms]

Volunteer Safeguarding Training with Mrs Walker [6-7pm, online]

Tue 30th Sep - Parents/Carers consultations for Years 1-6 [3.30-6pm, see separate email]

Thu 2nd Oct - Parents/Carers consultation for Years 1-6 [3.30-6.30pm, see separate email]

Cottenham Village College & Northstowe Secondary Year 6 Open Evening [see separate email]

Wed 22nd Oct - Years 4 & 5 Food Waste Workshop [classroom workshops for pupils]

Thu 23rd Oct - Last day of Autumn Term 1

Fri 24th Oct - *Professional Training Day [school & preschool closed]*

Mon 27th-Fri 31st Oct - *Half Term Holiday [school & preschool closed]*

Mon 3rd Nov - Welcome to Autumn Term 2 - pupils back in school

Please use this link for dates of 2025/26 academic year - <https://www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=164>

Other dates:

Day Light Savings Ends - Sun 26th Oct 2025 (clocks go back)

Bonfire Night - Wed 5th Nov 2025

Remembrance Sunday - Sun 9th Nov 2025

Upcoming Newsletters:

3rd Oct

23rd Oct



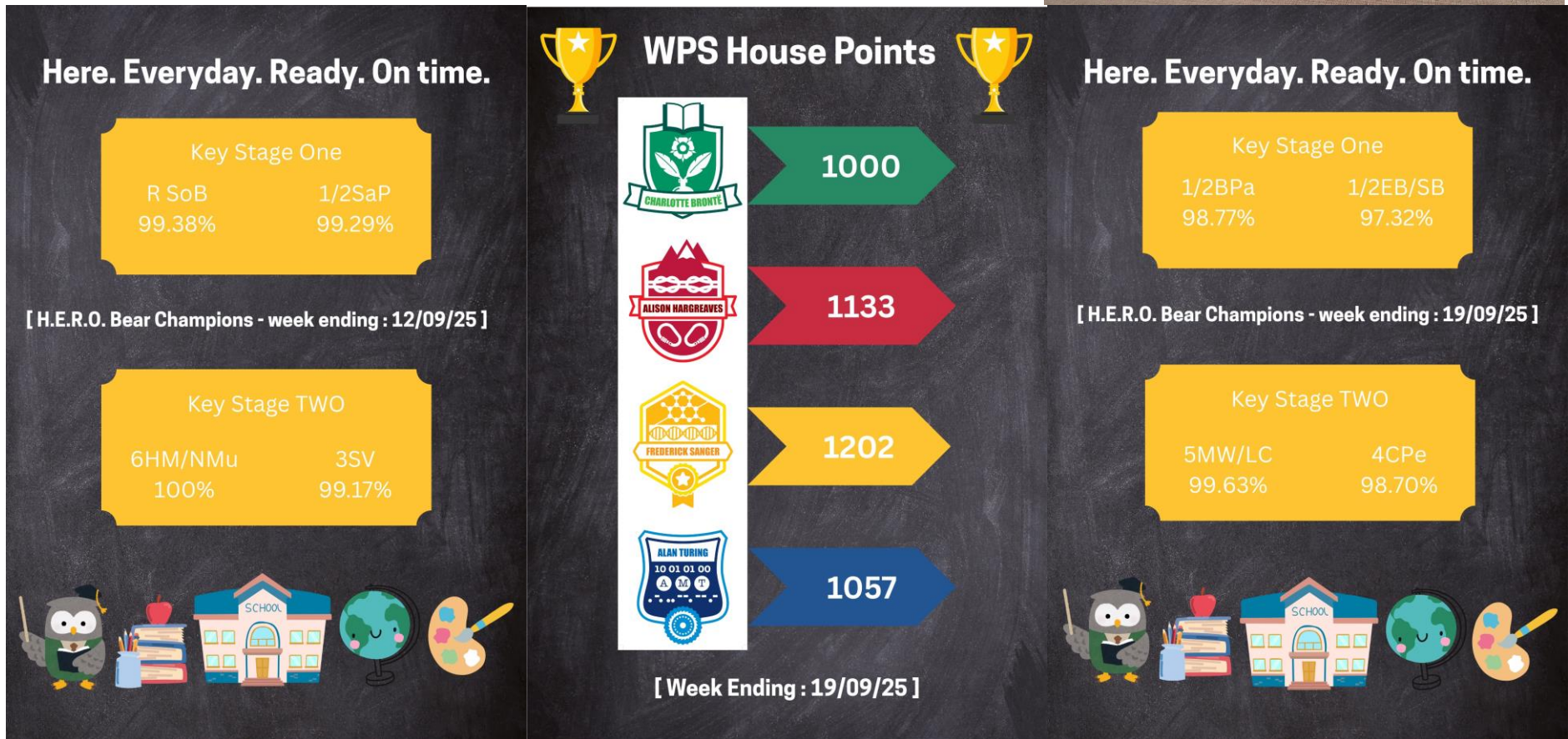
New Reception Starters

It was fantastic to welcome the 56 new EYFS children into our reception classes last week. They all looked incredibly smart in their school uniforms and coped well with the change in their routines. This week, they started attending school every day.

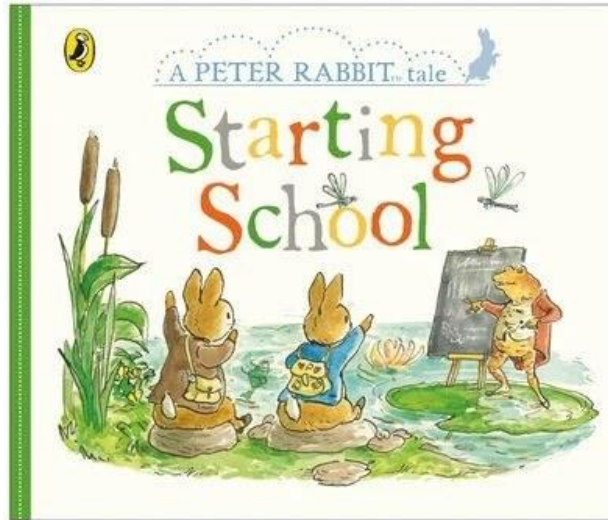
A big thank you to all of our older children who have been so kind, welcoming and generous with their time, as they have shown our youngest children what we do best at WPS.



H.E.R.O. Bears & House Points



Applying for September 2026



[Primary School Admission - September 2026](#)

The application process for children due to start primary school in September 2026 opens on **Thursday 11 September 2025**. The national closing date for applications is **Thursday 15 January 2026**, so it is very important that parents do apply by the closing date to give them the best opportunity to obtain a place at their preferred school.

[Secondary School Admissions - September 2026](#)

Applications are now open for all Year 6 pupils moving to secondary school in September 2026. Deadline to submit applications is **31 October 2025**. All applications received on time will be allocated a school place on National Offer Day: **2 March 2026**.

Please note, the portal has planned maintenance from Saturday 20th - Monday 22nd September (9am). Please do not log into this system during this downtime as information may be lost or system may be unresponsive.

School Notices

- Tiger routes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. These routes have been designed to better connect our towns, villages, and communities – offering faster journey times, more frequent services, and improved reliability. [Bus Route Tiger 12 Longstanton to Sutton](#)
- If you require to take your child out of school during term time, please complete an [application for term time leave of absence](#) and return to the school office for the Headteacher's response.
- From Monday 1st September 2025, the Mental Health Support Team will officially be launching online self-referrals. Please see the attached poster for the a QR code access or use [website address](#), which takes you to the information about our service and the self-referrals. It also signposts to YOUNited for those not covered by an MHST school. *Please see poster attached to email.*



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Contact Us



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Help is available if you are experiencing domestic abuse. Call the national domestic abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247. Or contact our Domestic Abuse Lead, Mona Paalanen, in confidence via email head@willingham.cambs.sch.uk who will be able to offer support and advice.

