



The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

Issue 2

In this Issue:

- Headteacher's message
- Key dates
- Carnegie Mental Health Award
- Harvest assembly
- H.E.R.O Bears & House Points
- School notices
- Online safety



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Willingham Primary School, we know that school lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Research clearly shows the link between regular attendance and educational progress and achievement. That's why we ask all parents and carers to work with us to make sure children achieve the highest possible attendance, and that any difficulties are shared with the school, and that shared approach to increasing attendance is committed to.

Even a few days of absence can add up quickly and mean your child misses important learning and shared experiences with their classmates. Good attendance gives children the very best chance to succeed both now and in the future. We of course recognise that there may be exceptional or unavoidable reasons for absence, or absences relating to persistent health issues, but would like to work with you to limit any absences.

We kindly remind families that, wherever possible, medical and other appointments should be booked outside of school hours to minimise disruption to learning. Our Attendance Policy is available on the school website and sets out expectations clearly.

Each school has to appoint an Attendance Champion, to support families with improving attendance. Mrs Walker continues to hold that important role at WPS. She is here to help with advice and guidance if you are finding attendance challenging. When attendance does not reach expected levels, Mrs Walker will also arrange meetings so that we can work together to improve things.

Thank you for helping us to ensure that your child makes the most of every school day.

Wishing you all a nice weekend and looking forward to seeing every one of you at school on Monday.

Best wishes, Miss Paalanen



ATTENDANCE MATTERS			
<i>Please note, one day is two sessions.</i>			
190 days in school (a school year)	16 sessions absent	20 sessions absent	38 sessions absent
	182 days in school	180 days in school	almost 4 weeks of missed education
100% Attendance Excellent record	96% Attendance Good record	95% Attendance Needs to improve	90% Attendance Cause for concern
Well done! Best possible chance of gaining the knowledge, experiences and confidence needed to enable choice now and later in life in order to live a happy, fulfilling life.		We are concerned. Fewer opportunities to gain knowledge, experiences and confidence, possibly leading to reduced choice and happiness later in life.	

Key Dates

School Calendar:

Fri 3rd Oct - WSA Pre-loved Sale [POSTPONED]

Mon 6th Oct- Reception 2026 School Tour with Mr Emmess [1.30pm or 2.30pm - Please book a slot via the School Office]

Tue 7th Oct- EYFS Parent/Carer Information meeting [3.30-4.30pm in the New Hall]

Fri 10th Oct- Reception 2026 School Tour with Mr Emmess [1.30pm or 2.30pm - Please book a slot via the School Office]

Mon 13th Oct- Reception 2026 School Tour with Mr Emmess [1.30pm or 2.30pm - Please book a slot via the School Office]

Thu 16th Oct- Year 3 Trip to Sedgwick Museum

Fri 17th Oct- WSA Film Night [see separate email, all consents must be completed & returned by Mon 13th]

Wed 22nd Oct- Years 4 & 5 Food Waste Workshop [4 one-hour workshops]

Thu 23rd Oct - Last day of Autumn Term 1

Fri 24th Oct - Professional Training Day [school & preschool closed] No breakfast club or after school club

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 Saving (clocks go back)- Sun 26th Oct 2025

Halloween - Fri 31st Oct 2025

Bonfire Night - Wed 5th Nov 2025

Remembrance Sunday - Sun 9th Nov 2025

Upcoming Newsletters:

23rd Oct

14th Nov



Carnegie Mental Health Award for schools



We are pleased to announce that we have passed the Mental Health Award for Schools, being awarded a BRONZE achievement. This demonstrates everything the school does to promote good mental health and wellbeing for all.

The Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools exists to strengthen the mental health of the next generation by supporting schools to make a positive change at all levels of the UK's education system, thereby improving outcomes and life chances. This initiative is focused on evidence-based solutions which address schools', pupils and parents/carers needs; and brings together a professional community of school mental health experts; and leading innovation within the area. [<https://schooladvice.co.uk/carnegie-school-of-education>]

Harvest Assembly



It was lovely to have the whole school come together for a Harvest Celebration last Tuesday - the first time our Reception classes have joined us in the hall for an assembly. Revd. Ed Green joined us and shared some words about Harvest, and each year group performed a song or a poem.

If you wish to make a donation to mark the occasion, please donate directly via the below links;

[Ely Food Bank](#)

[Cambridge City Food Bank](#)

[Cambridgeshire Food Hubs](#)

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

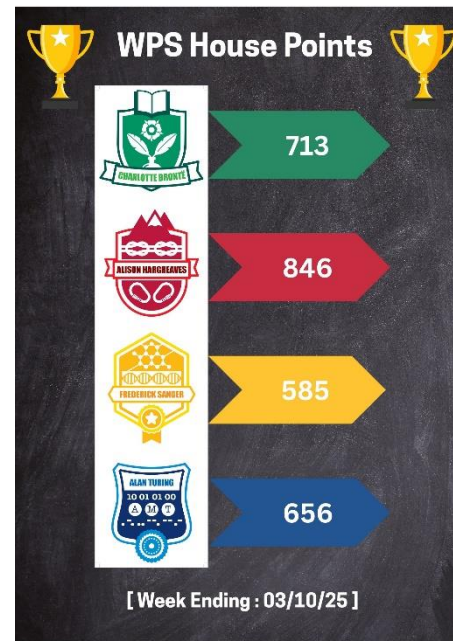
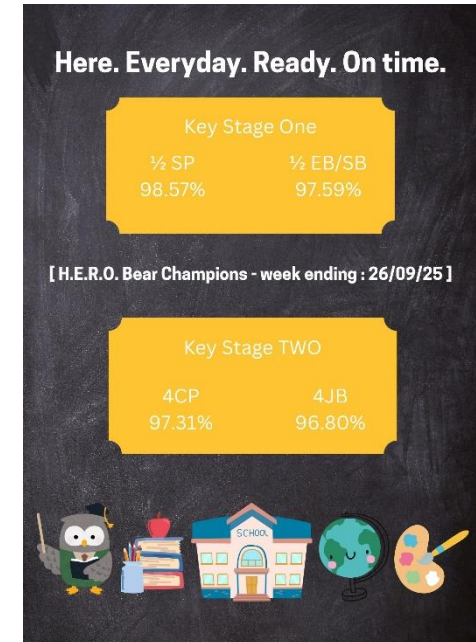
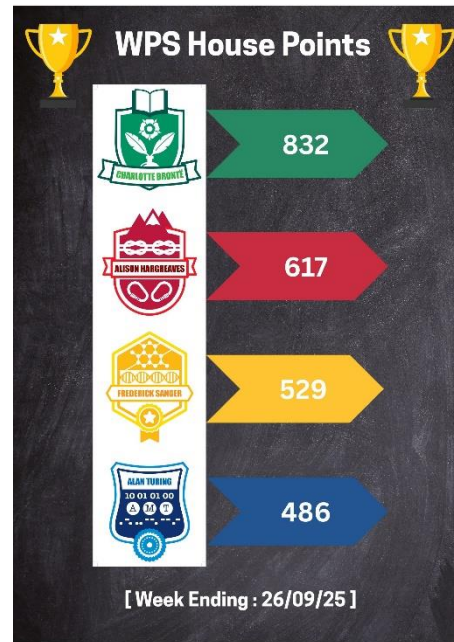
Congratulations to our newly appointed House Captains!

Bronte- Sofia Farrukh & Buddy Patel

Hargreaves- Betty Merrill & James Brittain

Sanger - John Barber & Verity Unwin-Riches

Turing - Erin Carey & Henry Dunham



School Notices

Staffing updates

Earlier this week, we said goodbye to Mrs Moore, a teaching assistant working in our Reception Class. She has worked at WPS for over 8 years and will be missed. We wish her all the best in her new career. In the past few weeks, we have also welcomed two new members of staff. Both Miss Agnew and Mrs Alabdah will be working as Teaching Assistants. We are excited to welcome them to WPS.

Winter Weather Outdoor Clothing and Naming Clothing:

Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing with them every day, to wear outside at break and lunchtimes, as we are approaching the winter months. Please ensure that ALL uniform, PE items and coats/clothing etc. are named. We seem to have a lot of unnamed lost property items. Lost items that are named, will be returned to your child; however lost unnamed items could end up in the second-hand uniform sale.

Reception 2026 Starters School Tours:

Please contact the school office via email [office@willingham.camsb.sch.uk] or phone [01954 283030] to book your slot for school tour with Mr Emmess. Please see poster for dates.

Road Traffic Incident

We are aware of the incident on Thoday's Close yesterday, Thursday 2nd October, at the end of the school day. Thankfully, no-one was hurt. The police were called and took some statements. If you were a witness to the incident, we would encourage you to speak to the police. We have requested the incident number and a phone number/email address to share with parents/carers who are willing to give a statement; we hope to share this next week. In the meantime, anyone who witnessed could of course call the non-emergency phone number, 101, reference the incident time and place and request to give a statement. Thank you very much to the parents and staff who helped manage the situation.

WSA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale:

Dear Parents/Carers,

Due to the weather, the preloved uniform sale planned for today will be postponed. In the meantime, please send any uniform requests to willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com.

We are also now accepting donations of branded and non-branded school clothing, except non-branded white polos and shirts.

Kind regards,

The WSA

**RECEPTION 2026
INTAKE SCHOOL
TOURS 2025**

Willingham Primary School

Mon 6th Oct
Fri 10th Oct
Mon 13th Oct

Mon 10th Nov
Fri 14th Nov
Fri 21st Nov

School
Tours at
1.30pm or
2.30pm

Please contact the school office
to book a place on a tour

Thodays Close, Willingham, CB24 5LE
office@willingham.camsb.sch.uk
01954 283030

Online Safety - Sharing Photos

In today's digital age, sharing images of precious moments on social media is a commonplace, and - while that's a lovely thing to do- it does come with some risks attached. This guide can help parents/carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choice about safely sharing photos of children online.

Contact Us



Willingham Primary School - Headteacher Mona Paalanen

office@willingham.cambs.sch.uk | 01954 283030

Honeypot Pre-school - Manager Kate Van Dort

honeypot@willingham.cambs.sch.uk | 01954 201567

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, Mrs Lenk, in confidence via email mlenk@willingham.cambs.sch.uk, who will be able to offer support and advice.

