



The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Issue 3

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Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up the first half term of the school year, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a well-deserved and restful break.

In my pre-term letter, I mentioned the exciting development of our new building, the WPS Wraparound Care Hub. While we had hoped to share more progress by now, unfortunately, there have been delays beyond our control. We are now anticipating construction to begin in January at the earliest. I'll continue to keep you updated as things progress.

This half term, our focus has been on strengthening our English curriculum, particularly in the area of writing. All staff have received training to ensure consistency and high standards across the school. Our revised English curriculum aligns closely with the DfE Writing Framework, aiming to build strong foundational writing skills while also teaching children the different purposes of writing. We've also placed emphasis on handwriting, presentation, and encouraging children to take pride in their work.

For you to be able to celebrate your child/ren's successes with them, we are excited to host our first Open Classrooms on Wednesday 19th November 3.30-5pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to visit your child's classroom, view their English books and other work, and connect informally with their class teacher between parent evenings. We hope to see many of you there!

Looking ahead to next half term, we'll continue embedding our English curriculum and begin further development of our Oracy Curriculum. I'll keep you informed of our progress through future newsletters.

Finally, I encourage you to read more about our Anti-Bullying Policy, as well as our guidance on healthy snacks and birthday treats, which you'll find further down in this newsletter.

Wishing you all a fantastic half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 3rd November.

Best wishes,

Miss Paalanen



Consultation on Anti-Bullying policy

The school is currently consulting the community on the Anti-Bullying policy. [The policy is accessible through this link](#). The policy has been adopted from the Local Authority model policy, which was created in collaboration with the PSHE services, who also provide the school's PSHE curriculum.

If you have any questions, comments or queries about the policy, please submit them to the working party using [this Microsoft Form](#).

The policy will be further reviewed following any feedback from the community before it will be ratified in the next Curriculum Governing Committee.

A new section on Behaviour and Anti-Bullying has also been created on the school website under Safeguarding. [Direct link is here](#).

Key Dates

School Calendar:

Thu 23rd Oct - Last day of Autumn Term 1

WSA Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale [From 3pm]

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

Wed 5th Nov - School Photographs [From 8.30am]

Wed 5th Nov - Last date to return Christmas card design to school

Fri 7th Nov - WSA Pre-loved Uniform Sale [From 2.50pm]

Mon 10th Nov - 2 min silence for Remembrance Day

Reception 2026 school tour with Mr Emmess [1.30pm & 2.30pm]

Fri 14th Nov - Reception 2026 school tour with Mr Emmess [1.30pm & 2.30pm]

Wed 19th Nov - Open Classrooms [3.30-5pm]

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

WSA Events - Save the date

Fri 28th Nov 2025 - Christmas Fayre [5 - 7.30pm]

Sun 22nd Mar 2026 - Pre-loved sale/Easter Egg Bingo & WSA AGM - time tbc

Sat 26th Sept 2026 - WSA Colour Run - time tbc

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:

14th Nov

28th Nov

Attendance message from the Local Authority

Regular attendance at an early years setting or at school is fundamental to children's learning, development, and long-term life chances. Every day children spend in an educational environment provides vital opportunities to build relationships, develop routines, and engage in meaningful learning experiences. When children attend consistently, they are more likely to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

With the focus now more than ever on the importance of regular attendance at school or early years provision, the Local Authority has worked with partners to produce this short film which shares key messages about the benefits of regular attendance from the perspectives of professionals, parents/ carers and children alike. The link to the film is below.

[Watch the short film.](#)

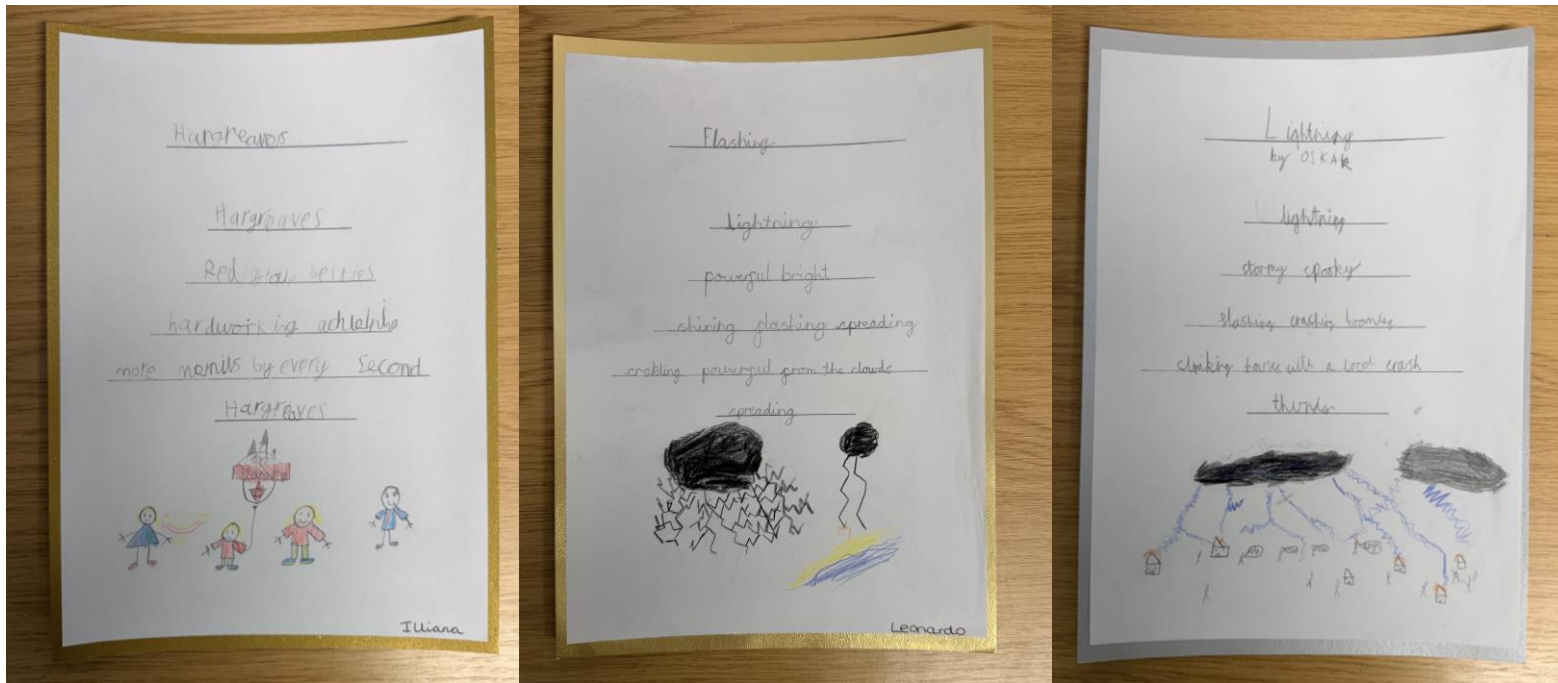


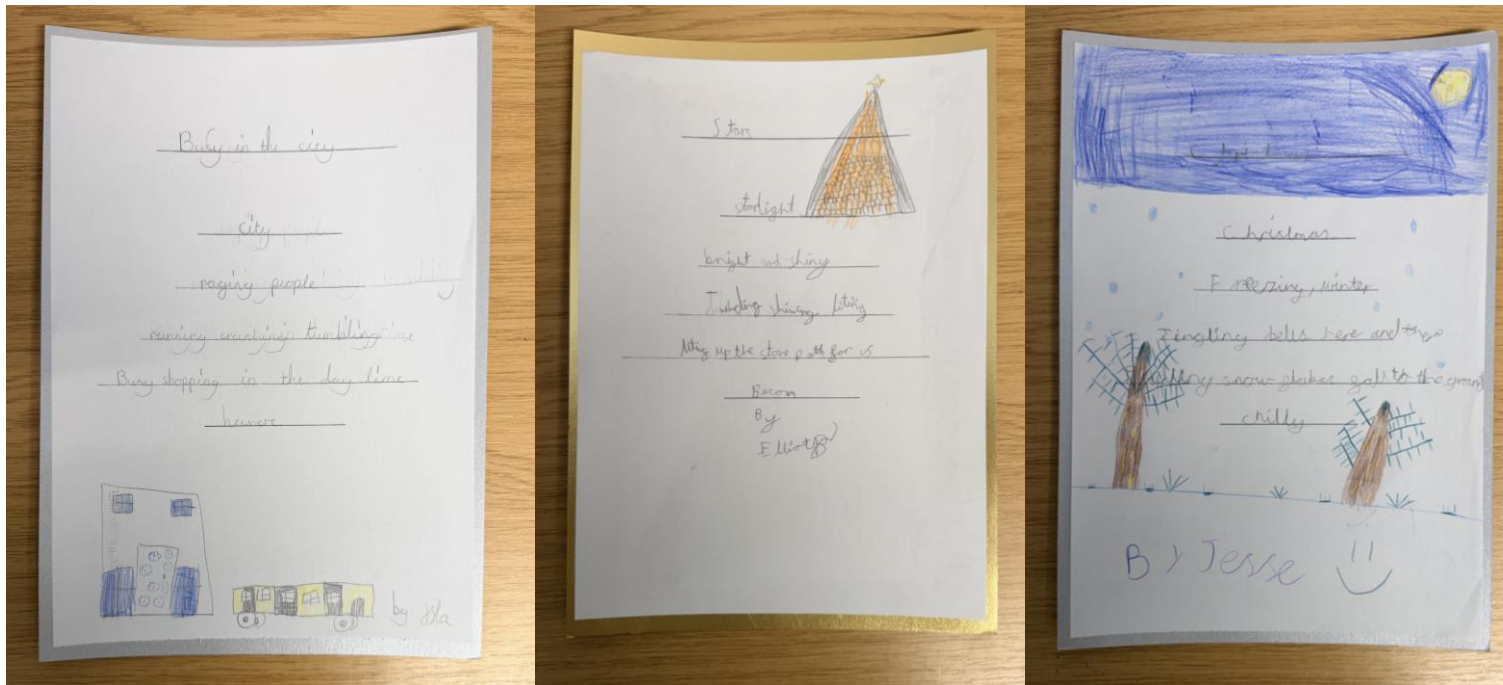
The World of Cinquain poems

This term in English, Miss Pepper's Year 4s have been diving into the world of cinquain poems - a short, five-line poem with a unique syllable pattern: 2 syllables in the first line, 4 in the second, 6 in the third, 8 in the fourth, and 2 in the final line. Therefore, it's all about choosing words carefully and creatively!

The children thoroughly enjoyed learning how to write poems with rhythm, structure, and imagination and they've each written their own.

We're excited to include a selection of their work & hope you enjoy reading them as much as we enjoyed writing them!





Healthy snacks and Birthday celebrations

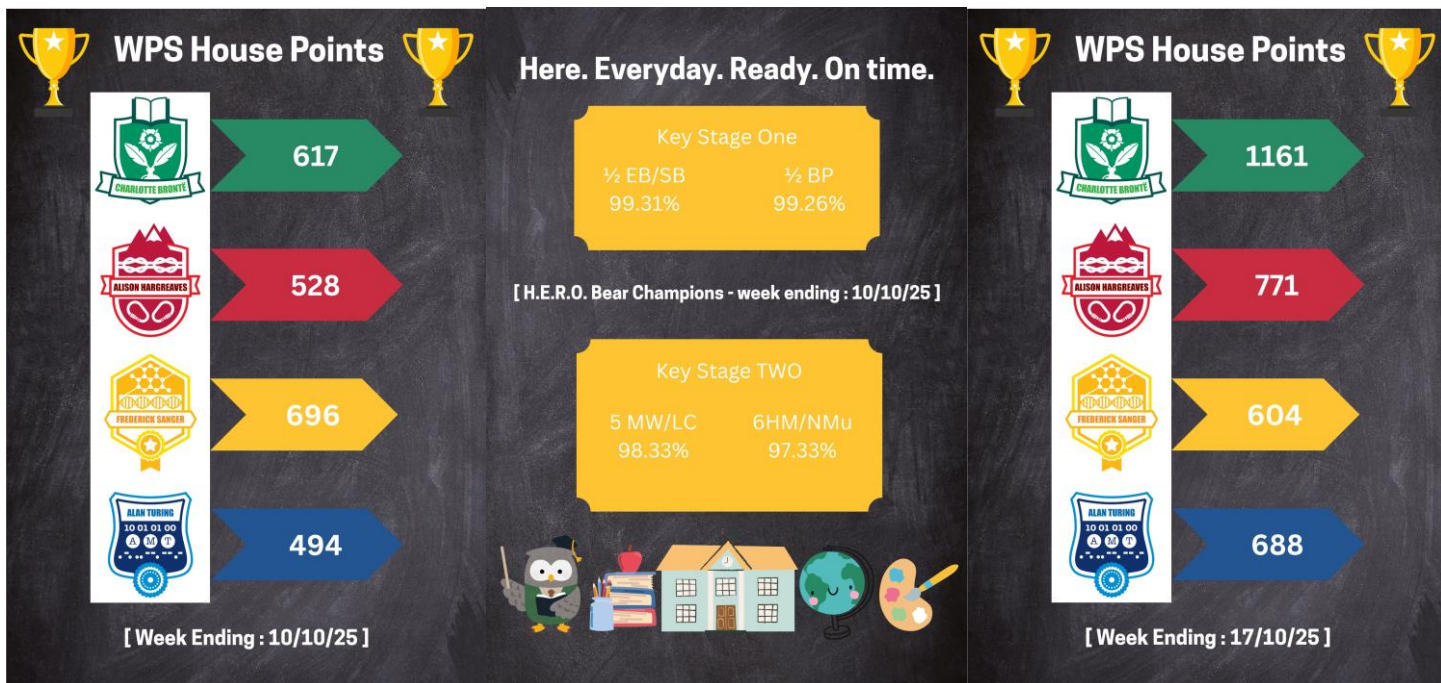
Last week in assembly, we talked about healthy eating and the importance of that for our bodies and minds. The assembly had two main messages, which we wanted to share with parents and carers as well.

- Healthy snacks:** As you will know, children are allowed to bring a healthy snack to school to have in their morning break. Children from Reception to Year 2 get a fruit snack from school. Unfortunately, we have noticed that some children are bringing sweets and snacks with high fat and salt (such as crisps) as a snack to school. As a school, we want to promote healthy eating as it is proven to have long-term effects on pupils overall health and wellbeing and would always encourage families to make healthy choices when choosing the snacks to bring to school.
- Birthday treats:** There is a long standing tradition for sharing birthday treats in many primary schools. However, more and more schools are banning this due to allergies and the impact excess sugar has on children. There is no expectation that birthday sweets need to be shared in school. Most classes already sing a song to celebrate birthdays and we try to make the day feel special for the birthday child. If your child would like to share something with their class to mark a birthday, we would encourage it to be something else instead of sweets. A nice idea would be to bring a book to the class library or a plant to look after in the class.

DfE run a Sugar Smart campaign, which is a public health initiative to help reduce sugar consumption, especially among children. One of their resources called "Getting Sugar Smart" accessible on the school website: <https://www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=3825&type=pdf>



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



Here. Everyday. Ready. On time.

Key Stage One

R SoB ½ EB/SaB
99.64% 98.97%

[H.E.R.O. Bear Champions - week ending : 17/10/25]

Key Stage TWO

6 LS/NMc 3 KK/SH
99.33% 98.85%



WPS House Points



686



832



717



668

[Week Ending : 24/10/25]

Here. Everyday. Ready. On time.

Key Stage One

R MB/CP ½ EB/SaB
99.55% 99.14%

[H.E.R.O. Bear Champions - week ending : 24/10/25]

Key Stage TWO

6 LS/NMc 4 CP
& 5MW/LC 96.17%
96.67%



WPS House Points
End of Half Term Winners

Bronte
5009

[HARD WORK : INTEGRITY : KINDNESS]

Willingham School Association

Dear Parents and Carers,

The WSA are putting together some fantastic hampers for our upcoming Christmas Raffle! Each year group has been assigned a coloured theme and we're hoping you could help us by bringing in relevant donations by **Monday 8th December 2025**. Any donation will be greatly received and wonderful whatever the size.

Here are the themes:

- **HONEYPOT - ALL THINGS CHOCOLATE**
- **RECEPTION - RED**
- **YEAR 1 - ORANGE**
- **YEAR 2 - YELLOW / GOLD**
- **YEAR 3 - GREEN**
- **YEAR 4 - BLUE / SILVER**
- **YEAR 5 - PURPLE**
- **YEAR 6 - PINK**

If you're stuck for ideas please see the posters in classroom windows. Otherwise, feel free to let your creativity run wild with these themes. Raffle tickets will be sent home in book bags after half term, available to purchase at our Winter Wonderland event on Friday 28th November and you can even grab extra raffle tickets from the office if you'd like more chances to win!

Collection boxes for hamper items will be located in the classrooms from Monday 3rd November.

Thanks in advance for your support in making this event a success. We're looking forward to seeing what you come up with for the hampers and good luck in the draw!

Best wishes,

Willingham School Association



School Notices

Poppy Appeal:

We have a selection of items (as per the attached photo) on sale at the school office, with all contributions going to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

As last year, there are no suggested prices, please just make a reasonable donation for your selected items, which will go to this important charity.

This year we also have a QR code available for you to make a donation.

Contact details update:

Have any of your contact details changed recently? A reminder to contact the office with any updates to the emergency contact details for your child(ren). Please email through change of details and your child's name to office@willingham.cambs.sch.uk.

Medical appointments during the school day:

For absences relating to a medical appointment, please make the school office aware of date/time of appointment, time of collection or dropping off and meal option for the day. There is an expectation that the pupil will be in school for registration and/or return to school after the appointment, depending on where the appointment falls within the school day and the health of the pupil. Supporting information may be requested to authorise this absence. This can be a text message which clearly identifies who the appointment is for, or an appointment card/letter. A period of absence will only be authorised in relation to the timing and length of the appointment.

School meals menu:

Please tap to view the [Autumn 2-Spring 1 School Menu](#), this will start after the October Half Term (Mon 3rd Nov).



Keeping the school premises and surroundings clean:

Please could we ask everyone's help to ensure that the school site and surroundings are clean and tidy. All rubbish and dog mess should be picked up and put in the bins provided.

Xmas4school Artwork:

Last date to return Christmas card designs to the school office is **Wednesday 5th November**. Any card designs received after this date will miss the deadline to be posted to the Christmas card company.

Online Safety - Online Slang

Slang moves fast and for young people, it's not just how they talk but how they identify themselves and their feelings. [Here](#) are some key learning tips to keep the adults connected and understand the lingo, even if it sounds baffling!

Contact Us



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Honeypot Pre-school - Manager Kate Van Dort

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TAKE NOTE...

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE SLANG

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
Slang moves fast – and for many young people, it's not just how they talk, but how they share their identity and feelings. Learning key terms helps adults connect and show understanding, even if the lingo seems baffling at first.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION
Words like 'raz' or 'slaps' can be misunderstood by adults, leading to awkward moments or a breakdown in trust. These phrases can carry subtle racial messages among young people.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS
Slang changes quickly. Words like 'brat' might sound innocent one week and be vulgarized the next. This makes it hard for adults to understand and for children to misstep.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR EXCLUSION
Young people are using terms like 'slaps' or 'NPC' to hide social issues or exclude others. What looks like harmless banter might actually reinforce social divisions or bullying.

PERFORMING FOR THE ALGORITHM
Slang often reflects what's popular on platforms like TikTok. Young users might exaggerate or act out for likes, creating online personas that don't match their real selves.

CONTENT MODERATION WITH CODED SPEECH
To avoid content filters, young people sometimes use slang or emojis to hide offensive content. This means harmful content is harder to spot.

LONG-TERM DIGITAL FOOTPRINT
A single thoughtless post can travel fast, but it also leaves a permanent record. Even if deleted, it can be recovered. This is especially true for children, but not just for them.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP UP, DON'T CATCH UP
Follow youth culture trends or ask your child about new slang. Staying informed shows that you're engaged and open to understanding their world.

FOCUS ON CONNECTION OVER CONTROL
Being someone your child can talk to is more valuable than using strict limits or monitoring apps. Openness builds trust.

ASK, DON'T INTERROGATE
Use open questions to invite conversation. You're not quizzing them – just trying to learn more about their online lives.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL MEDIA LITERACY
Talk about where slang comes from, how it spreads, and how it can impact others. This helps young people and language evolve thoughtfully.

ONLINE SLANG CHEAT SHEET – The following slang terms are common examples – please be aware this list is not exhaustive and both meaning and prevalence change easily.

COMMON SLANG:

- Sigma** – Independent, self-reliant (often male); mid-level social status.
- Chad** – Confident, successful, attractive; often male.
- Skibidi Toilet** – Meme; expresses chaos or fun.
- Clout** – Social media likes or attention.
- Clout chaser** – Someone seeking attention or fame.
- Clout bait** – Content designed to attract attention.
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- Clout bait** – Content designed to attract attention.

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING SLANG:

- Beep** – An outfit creator (e.g. OnlyFans); indicates exposure to NSFW material.
- Beep or gnat** – Sexualized or demeaning comment towards someone's body or appearance.
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Meet Our Expert
Keith Hired is a globally recognized thought leader and the first in Chief of Empathy.org, the world's number one empathy resource. He has an MSc in Business Technology from Loughborough University and an MBA from Loughborough University.

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The National College

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

