



The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 14th November 2025

Issue 4

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Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first two weeks of this half-term have flown by, and it's been lovely to see how quickly everyone has settled back into the school routine, even as the days grow shorter and darker.

In my previous newsletter, I shared some reflections on the improvements we've made to our English curriculum. This time, I'd like to tell you about one of our next key focus areas in our school development plan:

“To promote pupil independence and resilience in their learning to enable them to succeed.”

There are several reasons we've chosen this focus.

Firstly, it aligns closely with our school's mission: to help all children at WPS succeed now and in the future. We believe that fostering independence and resilience will not only strengthen their learning but also equip them with essential life skills.

Secondly, after several years of concentrating on specific curriculum areas, we now feel it's the right time to build on that foundation by encouraging the learning behaviours that help children thrive.

Finally, our pupils are already familiar with the idea of *“keep getting better”* and that learning is *“hard work.”* We want to continue normalising the idea that learning can, and should at times, feel challenging. This is how true growth happens.

To achieve this, we'll be talking more about independence and resilience in assemblies and classrooms, while also providing opportunities for children to work independently and tackle tasks they might initially find tricky. Please be reassured that our staff will always be there to support and guide children. However, if your child mentions that the adults “didn't help” as much, it may be part of our effort to encourage perseverance rather than a lack of care. If you ever have concerns, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher.

Alongside this, we'll continue to develop our Oracy curriculum, which I mentioned in my last newsletter. This focus fits beautifully with the recently published [Curriculum and Assessment Review](#), which recommends that schools adopt an Oracy Framework to support the explicit teaching of speaking and listening skills.

Wishing you all a restful November weekend,

Best wishes, Miss Paalanen



Key Dates and Notices

School Calendar:

Fri 14th Nov - Children In Need Day

Newsletter

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

Fri 21st Nov - House afternoon for Children in Need

Reception 2026 School Tour with Mr Emmess [1.30pm or 2.30pm]

Wed 26th Nov - Book Fair in Library [3.15-4.15pm]

Thu 27th Nov- Book Fair in Library [3.15-4.15pm]

Mon 1st Dec- Book fair in Library [3.315-4.15pm]

Tue 2nd Dec- Year 2 Trip to the Polar Museum [Group 1 **2BP** & Group 2 **2EB/SB**]

Book fair in Library [3.315-4.15pm]

Fri 5th Dec- Year 1 Trip to the Polar Museum [Group 3 **1JE** & Group 4 **1SaP**]

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

WSA save the dates:

Fri 28th Nov- WSA Christmas Event [5-7.30pm] **After School Club held in Honeypot Building**

Wed 10th Dec - WSA Wreath Making Workshop [7.30-9.30pm]

Fri 12th Dec - WSA Christmas Colour Hamper Raffle Draw [at 12pm]

WSA Christmas themed Movie night [doors open from 5.50pm & films start 6pm]

Children in Need:

Thank you to all participating with wearing Odd Socks today, so far we have raised **over £300!**

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.

Staffing update:

Today, we say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Warcup, who has been with us since September 2023 and is leaving us to further her career in education.

We are also delighted to welcome two new members to our After-School Club team, Rosie Nay and Mariam Noorzad; who will be great additions to the club and help us continue providing a fun, safe, and supportive environment for the children.



Upcoming Newsletters:

28th Nov

19th Dec

Remembrance Sunday Service



On Sunday 9th November, seven of our House Captains took part in the Remembrance Service at St Mary and All Saints Church. The children laid a wreath on behalf of the school and preschool and they proved to be excellent ambassadors to the school and conducted themselves with great integrity throughout the proceedings.

After the wreath laying at the memorial and a two minutes' silence, there was a further service inside the church where a number of children from Willingham Primary School sang a song to the congregation that we had learnt in assembly called, "We Will Remember".

Well done to all of the children who took part and represented the school so well.

Anti-Bullying Week

This week is the Anti-Bullying Week. We had a whole school assembly on Wednesday lead by our PSHE lead Mrs Boyle. She talked about how we all have power in bullying situations and how we should use it for good.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the consultation for our Anti-Bullying Policy is still open. You can read [the policy here](#).

If you want to leave any comments, you can do it with [this form](#).



Happenings at Honeypot

Rangoli is a traditional Indian art form where intricate and kaleidoscopic patterns are created on the ground. At Honeypot, the children all enjoyed colouring their own Rangoli design in the garden.



This year, we took part with the Village Scarecrow event for the month of October. We made our scarecrow, which is still standing proudly outside the school. The children have enjoyed spotting the other scarecrows around the village and looking on the map at the different scarecrows.



We went leaf hunting around school and collected lots of leaves that we have been using for craft and other activities. The children also loved rolling in the leaves, down the hill; nearly the Honeypot building.



Willingham School Association

Donations Wanted!

With the upcoming WSA events, your generosity is much appreciated for the following donations;

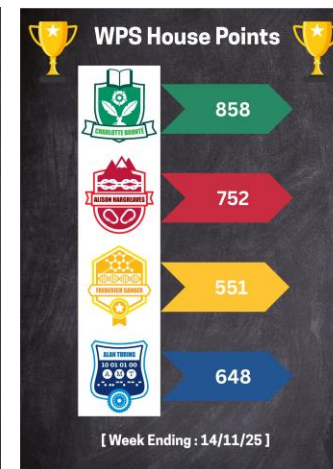
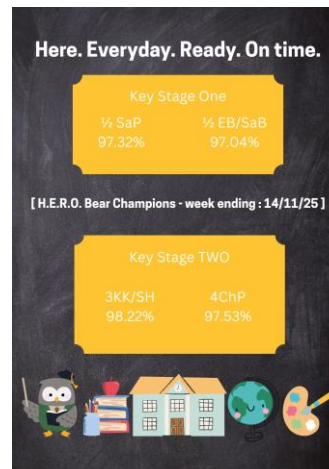
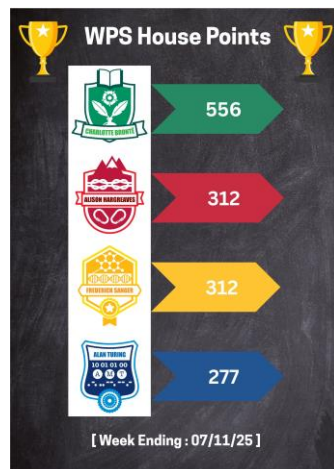
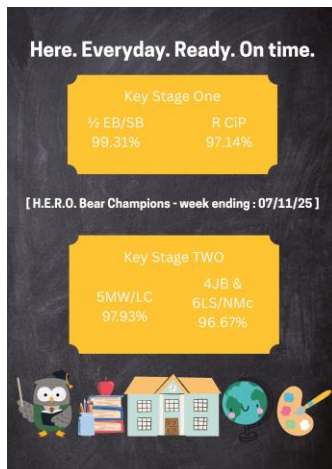
- Christmas jumpers, dress and t-shirts
- Hamper raffle items (each year group has their own colour to donate)
- Soft toys for Teddy tombola

Winter Wonderland:

Reminder that Tokens for games and activities are still available to purchase (by cash or QR code) from the school office, at 50p for token or 10 token bundles for £5.



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



Online Safety - For under 5s

As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children as an essential for education during the pandemic - it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddler using digital devices. [Top tips to help under -5s start their online safety journey.](#)

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

