



The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025

Issue 6

In this Issue:

- EYFS '*The BIG Little Nativity*' Performance
- Y1/2 Polar Museum trip
- Panathlon Swimming Gala Challenge
- From the WSA
- Willingham Advent Calendar Window *[day 16]*
- Christmas Carol Service and Choir
- Parent Guides - During the Festive Season



Please ensure you have read through our *entire* newsletter, as it contains important information regarding Parent/Carer events when we return in the New Year.

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the first term of this academic year draws to a close, it is time for us all to pause, relax and recharge. We often talk about end of term fatigue, and it is something we all feel at this time of year. One of the joys of the Autumn Term, however, is the sense of excitement that comes with festive lights and the Advent Windows around the village, helping to lift spirits and brighten the darker days.

This year, we were once again delighted to take part in the Willingham Advent Windows. The children attending the Sensory Workshop did a fantastic job creating our window, and we are incredibly proud of their creativity and effort (see photos below).

Today, during our final Celebration Assembly, all the adults joined me in thanking the children for their hard work this term. It has been wonderful to see them so engaged in their learning. We then turned the spotlight onto our staff, with the children joining me in expressing their thanks to all the adults who work so hard to support them every day. I know many of you will join me in appreciating the dedication and care shown by our staff, throughout the term.

Planning for the Spring Term is already well underway, but now it is time for everyone to enjoy a well-earned break and return refreshed for the year ahead.

On behalf of all the school staff, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful holiday.

Best wishes, Miss Paalanen



Key Dates & School Notices

School Calendar:

Fri 19th Dec- Last day of Autumn Term (*No After School Club*)

Christmas Jumper and Traditional Christmas Dinner Day

End of Term Reports

Mon 22nd Dec - Fri 2nd Jan - Christmas Break [School & Pre-school closed]

Mon 5th Jan - Professional Training Day [School & Pre-school closed to pupils]

Tue 6th Jan- School & Pre-school open for start of Spring Term (Breakfast & After School Club resume)

Tue 13th Jan - Parents/Carers Consultations [3.30-6.30pm, New Hall]

Wed 14th Jan- 2SB & 3KK ONLY Parents/Carers Consultations [from 3.30pm, Classroom to be confirmed]

Thu 15th Jan- Parents/Carers Consultations [3.30-6pm, New Hall]

Deadline for Reception 2026 Applications

Wed 21st Jan - Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Parents/Carers Information Meeting [from 3.30pm, New Hall]

Thu 22nd Jan - Year 6 SATS Parents/Carers Information Meeting [from 3.30pm, New Hall]

Fri 23rd Jan - Young Voices Choir trip at the O2

Wed 28th Jan - Year 4 Multiple Timetables Check Parents Information Meeting [from 3.30pm, New Hall]

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



We would like to say a HUGE well done and thank you to all of the children who took part in our 'Run Pudsey' fundraising challenge earlier this half term. The children showed fantastic enthusiasm, determination and kindness, and we are incredibly proud of them. Together, as a school, **we raised an amazing £2,526** for *Children in Need* - what an incredible achievement! We are hoping to receive the children's medals in the New Year, when we will be able to celebrate their efforts properly and thank them for the kindness and generosity they showed.

School Notices:

Parents/Carers Consultations with Teachers:

Please note that, due to Mrs Keeble attending a course on Thursday 15th January, appointments for **Year 3 (KK/SH)** will be available on **Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th January**.

Additionally, Mrs Boyle will be holding appointments for **Year 2 EB/SB Morning group** on **Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th January**.

Reception In-take September 2026:

If you have not already submitted an Application for your child for entry into primary school in September 2026, please note that applications must be completed and returned to the Admissions Team by the closing date of 15 January 2026. *Please see poster attached to email.*

EYFS 'The BIG Little Nativity' Performance



Performance:

This term, the EYFS children have been learning about the Christian story of the birth of Jesus and proudly performed their nativity play, *The Big Little Nativity*. The pupils approached their performances with great enthusiasm, delighting their audience with energetic singing and joyful dance moves.

Well done to all the children in EYFS for being such an essential part of our much-loved traditional Christmas production.

Online Ticket Purchasing

With the new school year comes a new process for purchasing performance tickets. Thank you to all parents/carers for being so accommodating as we trialed this new system, and for your patience while we resolved any initial teething problems along the way.

We are very pleased with the overall success of the system, which helped to ensure a smooth and welcoming experience on both performance days. This has confirmed that we will continue using this system for the foreseeable future.

Y1/2 Polar Museum Trip



At the beginning of December, Year 1 and Year 2 had the exciting opportunity to visit the Polar Museum in Cambridge to deepen their history learning about the explorer Ernest Shackleton. The visit helped bring their classroom lessons, from earlier this term, to life. The children learned more about Shackleton's ship, *Endurance*, and what life was like for the crew during their Antarctic expedition.

We were lucky to meet a museum expert who answered the children's thoughtful questions about how the explorers survived in such extreme conditions. The children also took part in an object hunt around the museum, searching for items that explorers would have taken with them on their journey. They particularly loved finding the 100-year-old chocolate bar!

A special thanks to all the wonderful parent helpers who came and made the trip possible.

Panathlon Swimming Gala Challenge

On Wednesday 10th December, we took a team of seven children to a Panathlon Swimming Gala Challenge, competing against several other schools in South Cambridgeshire. The children took part in a range of swimming races and challenges, scoring valuable points for their team. Every single child demonstrated our school values, showing kindness, support and respect throughout the event. They finished each activity with big smiles and an enormous sense of pride.

Not only that, but our school scored the highest number of points and secured first place - earning each of the children a gold medal, Panathlon towel, certificate and a trophy to bring back to school.

Well done team Willingham - We are incredibly proud!





From the Willingham School Association

Firstly, huge thanks to each and every one of you for supporting the WSA in whatever way you have been able this term - with our most recent event being the *Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre*. Whether it has been volunteering, donating items or attending events - it is massively appreciated!

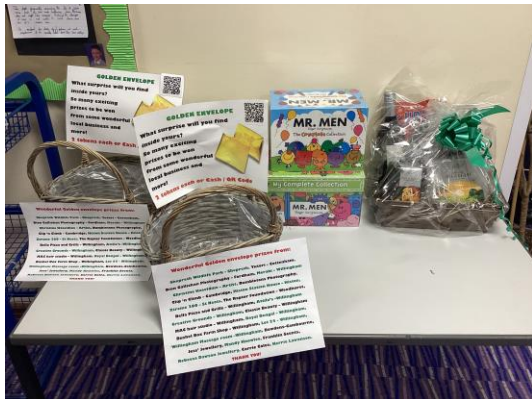
Since September we have raised in excess of £1800 and funded over £700 in items/activities.

The WSA are a small committee of both parents and some staff, working tirelessly to arrange events and activities all year round. We do this to not only to raise funds for the pupils of Willingham Primary School and Honeypot pre-school, but to ensure these events are inclusive and affordable to as many families as possible.

It would not be possible to execute our plans without parents, carers, staff, and in some cases pupils, volunteering their time to help at these events. We are always exceptionally grateful to those that do so in any way they can.

If you would be interested in being added to the WSA friends and volunteers WhatsApp chat, please email wsasecretary@willingham.cambs.ch.uk with permission to add your mobile number to this group. We share upcoming events and ask for help when needed, to share the load. There are many different ways to help contribute to fundraising for WPS and HP covering all skill sets. It could be popping up posters for events whilst walking the dog, selling refreshments at school performances/sports day or wrapping lucky dip prizes in the comfort of your own home!

Once again, we extend the thanks of the WSA committee to you for your help and support and wish you a wonderful Christmas.



Willingham Advent Calendar Window [day 16]



From our Sensory Workshop group:

Once again the children who attend our Sensory Workshop have worked together to make our amazing Advent Window. We asked the children what does Christmas mean to them and have incorporated all these elements in our design. Every child has made something on our window and they are very excited to see it on display for everyone to enjoy. We are immensely proud of all their creative work.

Christmas Carol Service and Choir

On Tuesday, the whole school walked to St Mary and All Saints Church to take part in our annual carol services. Both congregations were in fine voice and everyone left full of festive cheer! In both services, children told the story of the first Christmas and the choir shared some special Christmas songs that they had learnt for the event.

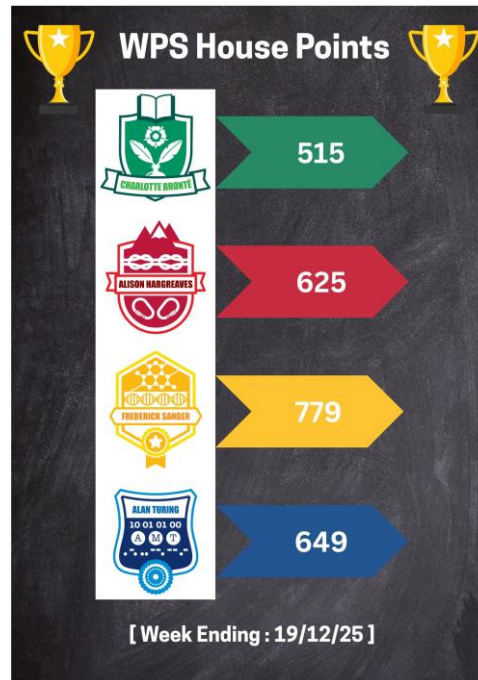
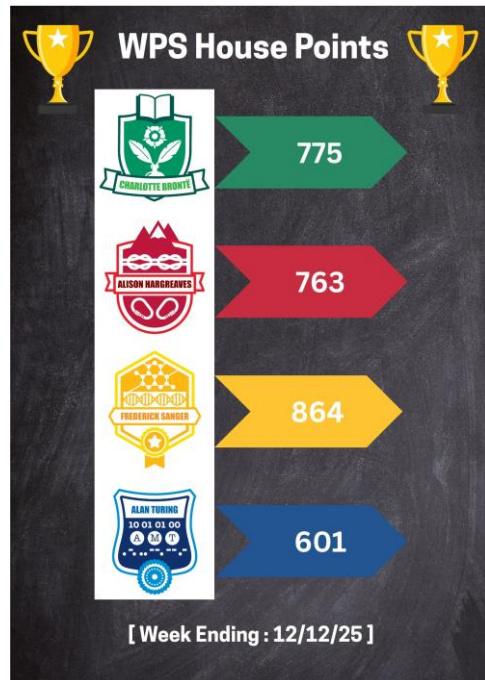
A special well done to the soloists and readers, who performed with confidence in front of a very large audience. It was a wonderful morning and we are now even more excited for Christmas to come!



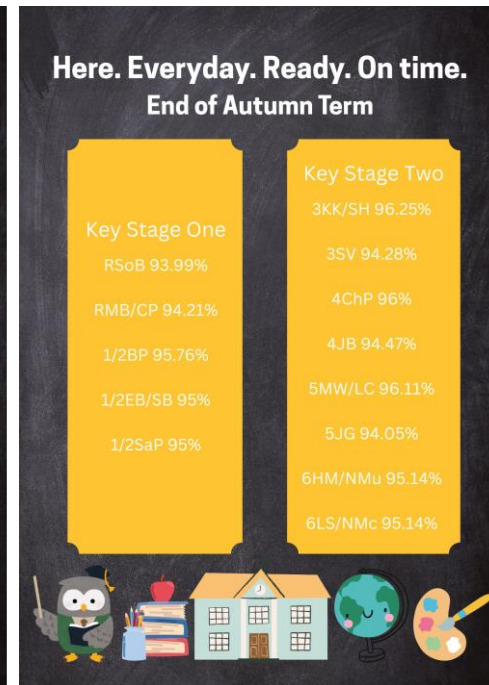
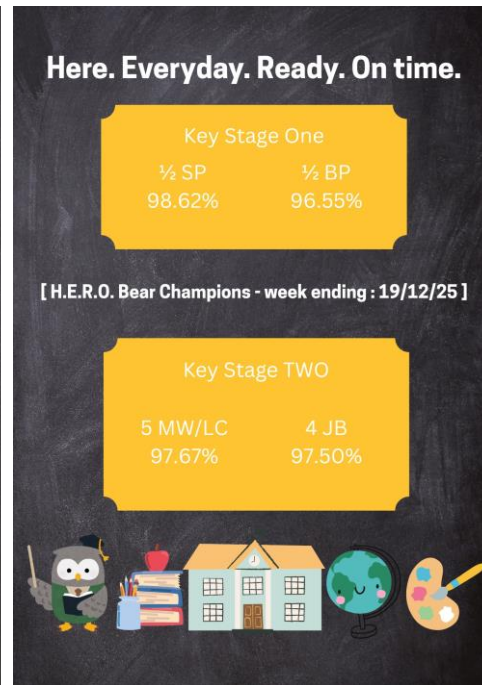
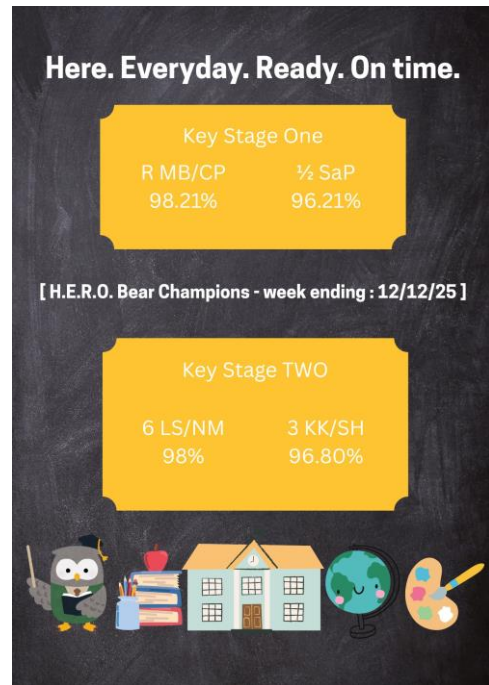
On Thursday, our Year 5 and 6 choir members had a rather wet walk to the Baptist Church. Once there, they performed a number of Christmas Songs to entertain the people who had come for the Baptist Church Christmas lunch. Once they had finished singing, Father Christmas appeared with a gift for everyone. The children sang beautifully and many members of the audience commented on how much they enjoyed listening to them. Well done choir!



House Points - End of Term



H.E.R.O. Bears - End of Term



Parent Guides - During the Festive Season



From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity of young people during the school holidays - staying safe during this festive season requires heightened awareness.



Christmas is the perfect opportunity to step away from our devices and for families to be able to spend some quality time together and enjoy each other's company - making every moment really matter.

Clubs and Camps

TALENT DANCE ACADEMY CHRISTMAS DANCE CAMP

AT WILLINGHAM GHA WILLINGHAM SCHOOL

22ND DECEMBER, 2025

DANCE - CRAFT - PHOTOSHOOT GAMES & MORE!

EYFS TO YEAR 6 | 8.30AM TO 3.30PM | £29.00PP TO BOOK VISIT

WWW.TALENTDANCEACADEMY.CO.UK

SUPER STAR SPORT AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

WILLINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

THODAYS CLOSE, CAMBRIDGE, CB24 5LE

START W/C 6TH JAN - 13TH FEB (5 WEEKS) 15:15PM - 16:15PM

Monday
 ⚽ Football (KS1) (4 - 5yrs) £5 per session £24 for 5 sessions

Tuesday
 🏀 Basketball (KS2) (7yrs - 11yrs) £5 per session £28.80 for 5 sessions

Wednesday
 ⚽ Dodgeball (KS2) (7yrs - 11yrs) £5 per session £28.80 for 5 sessions

Thursday
 🏭 Fun Factory KS1 & KS2 (5yrs - 11yrs) £5 per session £28.80 for 5 sessions

To BOOK:
 Visit www.superstarsport.co.uk
 Go to "Book Now" & select your club!

SUPER STAR SPORT LUNCHTIME CLUB

We are committed to keeping your children fit, active and healthy!

Our No.1 Rule Is To Have Fun!

Every Tuesday
 ⚽ Dodgeball (Hall) 12:00 - 12:30pm - KS2
 ⚽ 12:30 - 12:45pm - KS1

Every Thursday
 🏟️ Playground Games
 ⚽ Week 1 - 4 Square Game
 ⚽ Week 2 - Basketball
 ⚽ Week 3 - Ball Games
 ⚽ Week 4 - Target Games
 ⚽ Week 5 - Cricket
 ⚽ Week 6 - 4 Corner Games

These lunchtime clubs are provided in partnership with the school for all pupils.

TALENT DANCE ACADEMY

I am delighted to be able to invite your child along to the Talent Dance Academy After School Cheerleading Club at Willingham Primary School. In Spring Term 1 we are very lucky to be able to offer your child the exciting opportunity to attend our club!

Children will get the chance to learn a Dance routine, use our props and costumes, and learn Dance skills and put them into a mini performance for you at the end of the half term!

Club	Cost	Times	Day and Dates	Venue
Cheerleading Club Years 1 & 2	£27.50 5 Weeks	3.15pm to 4.15pm Collection from School Hall	Tuesdays 13 th January to the 10 th February Watching week 10 th February	Hall Miss Faith
Cheerleading Club Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	£27.50 5 Weeks	4.15pm to 5.15pm Drop off and Collection from School Hall	Tuesdays 13 th January to the 10 th February Watching week 10 th February	Hall Miss Faith

There are some pupil premium funded spaces available for our clubs! Please get in contact with us for more information and assistance before you book. A code will then be issued to you to input into the website, to help with the cost.

HOW TO APPLY
 Please go to www.talentdanceacademy.co.uk and follow the "Book Now" instructions online.
 Places are limited so it is essential you book and pay online!
 Children will need to wear leotards and their PE kit or appropriate Dance clothing.

If you would like more information about our clubs, or are having difficulty with signing up online, please email talentdanceacademy@btinternet.com and we will be more than happy to answer any questions and assist you.

You can go to our website www.talentdanceacademy.co.uk or also find us on Facebook "Talent Dance Academy".

Here you will find lots of useful information and also our up and coming camps, and events. Many thanks and we are very excited to welcome your child to our club!

Charlotte Cooney
Head Coach

From all of us at Willingham Primary School & Honeypot Pre-school



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 6th January for the start of the New Year!

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

