



# The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026

**Issue 7**

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## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term may have started in cold temperatures, but we have been keeping busy and warm in school!

As mentioned in the November newsletter, we are focusing this term on building pupil independence and resilience. Before our Monday assembly, I asked some Year 5 and Year 6 children about what independence means to them. They shared thoughtful ideas about being able, and willing, to do things for themselves without relying on others.

During the assembly, we explored why independence matters, from building confidence to preparing for the future. The children then shared examples of things they can already do independently, ranging from tying their shoelaces to feeding their pets. They shared some great examples!

There are many ways for children to develop independence both at home and at school. Being able to take care of themselves is a life-long skill, and it grows best when children are supported by trusted adults.

While independence matters, remembering that asking for help is a strength is just as important.

As a school, we want children to feel confident tackling new challenges, but also comfortable turning to trusted adults when they need guidance. Independence grows step by step, and every small success such as zipping up a coat, starting a piece of work without prompting, or organising their belongings, helps build the resilience they will need as they move through school and beyond.

Over the coming weeks, teachers will continue to encourage pupils to take manageable risks, try things for themselves and celebrate their efforts. We encourage you to join with this at home as well.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend!

Best wishes,

Miss Paalanen



## Key Dates & School Notices

### School Calendar:

**Wed 21st Jan** - [3.30-4pm] Year 1 Phonics Parent/Carer Information Evening

**Thu 22nd Jan**- [3.30-4pm] Year 6 SATS & [4-4.30pm] Year 6 Bushcraft Residential Parent/Carer Information Evenings

**Fri 23rd Jan**- O2 Young Voices Choir Trip

**Tue 28th Jan**- [3.30-4pm] Year 4 Multiple Timetables Check Parent/Carer Information Evening

**Tue 3rd Feb**- Years 5 & 6 West Stowe Anglo Saxon Village Trip

**Tue 10th Feb**- Year 1/2 'The Stone Age' Performance [from 2.15pm in the New Hall]

**Wed 11th Feb**- Year 1/2 'The Stone Age' Performance [from 2.15pm in the New Hall]

**Thu 12th Feb**- Year 1/2 'The Stone Age' Performance [from 6pm in the New Hall]

**Fri 13th Feb**- Last day of Spring 1 Term

**Mon 16th -Fri 20th Feb**- *Half Term Break [School and Pre-school Closed]*

**Mon 23rd Feb**- Start of Spring 2 Term - *All pupils to return to school*

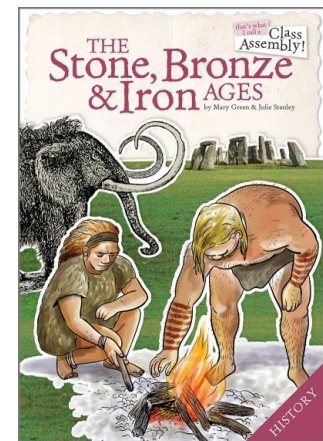
*Please use this link for dates of 2025/26 academic year -*

<https://www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=164>

### Notices:

#### Year 1/2 'The Stone Age' Performance:

Following the email sent on Wed 14th Jan, please use the link to complete your initial 2 performance ticket orders; by Mon 26th Jan. Thank you for all that have completed your orders already. If you have any queries regarding tickets, please contact Georgia Warburton from the School Office via [gwarburton@willingham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:gwarburton@willingham.cambs.sch.uk).



**Emergency Contact Details update:**

Have any of your contact details changed recently?

A reminder to contact the School Office with any updates to the emergency contact details for your child(ren). This includes any changes to phone numbers, email address and home addresses. Please email through change of details and your child's name to [office@willingham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@willingham.cambs.sch.uk), or you can log into Pupil Asset and amend any changes yourself.

**Staff update:**

We have successfully appointed Faye Ibbertson to work in After School Club. She will work in After School Club every night and we look forward to joining her to the team next week.

We are pleased to share with you that Ms Varty has been invited to contribute as an Art specialist for the Northern Ireland's Curriculum Taskforce Advisory Committee. During the next few months she will be attending the working group meetings to share her insights on how to curate a knowledge rich art curriculum for Northern Ireland. This is a fantastic acknowledgement of the work that Ms Varty has done with the Art Curriculum at WPS and we are proud that she is able to contribute to the curriculum reform work that is on-going.

**Knowledge Organisers:**

The Spring Term knowledge organisers are uploaded to [the school website](#).

## The JTA say 'Twenty is Plenty'



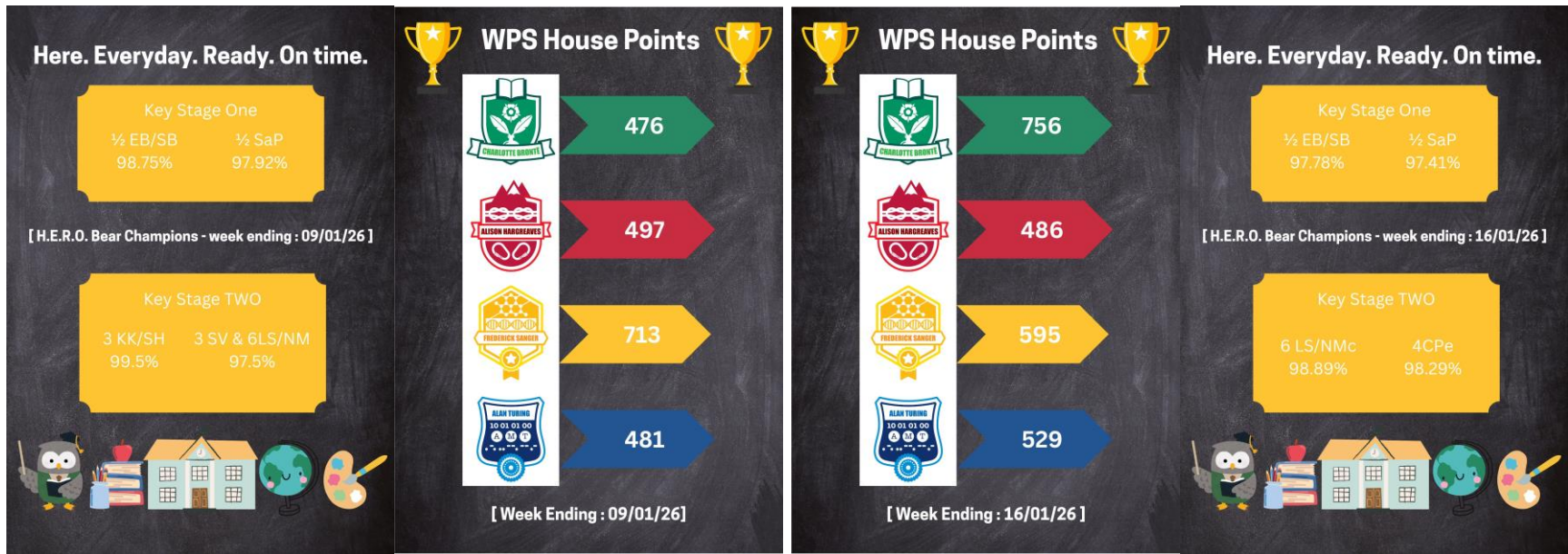
We are the Junior Traveler Ambassadors (JTA).

Last term we ran a successful competition called 'Be Bright, Be Seen.' We encouraged students to think about the darker days and the importance of being seen while travelling to and from school.

This term, we want the whole school community, including our adults, to think about safety on the roads around the village. Look out for our '20 is plenty!' posters and our next competition.



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



## Online Safety - Essential Top Tips

These are 10 tips that provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.





## Cambridgeshire Skills + Communities Service Courses

To begin 2026, Cambridgeshire Skills + Communities Service are offering **learning opportunities** aimed at supporting parents & carers. These workshops and courses focus on building confidence, supporting wellbeing and strengthening key practical skills.

### **Supporting Your Anxious Child – Online Workshop**

[Full course details - Supporting Your Anxious Child](#)

 **Date:** 19 January 2026

 **Time:** 12pm–2pm

 **Location:** Online (live tutor-led)

This supportive workshop helps parents and carers increase their understanding of anxiety in children and develop practical ways to help them manage these feelings.

#### **Participants will explore:**

- How to recognise signs and possible causes of stress/anxiety in children
- Tools and techniques to support children’s emotional wellbeing
- Communication and listening strategies
- How to access wider support
- Potential next steps, including routes into work with children



**SUPPORTING YOUR ANXIOUS CHILD WORKSHOP** 

**SUITABLE FOR PARENTS OF PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN**

**ON THIS COURSE YOU WILL WORK ALONGSIDE YOUR TUTOR AND OTHER PARENTS TO INCREASE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF ANXIETY IN CHILDREN. YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO: -RECOGNISE THE SIGNS OF ANXIETY. - IDENTIFY SOME OF THE POSSIBLE REASONS CHILDREN HAVE ANXIETY. - DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO HELP YOUR CHILD MANAGE THESE FEELINGS IN A SUPPORTIVE GROUP.**

**DATE: 19TH JANUARY 2026**

**TIME: 12PM - 2PM**

**ONLINE**



**CALL 01353 613013 SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO**

## 📖 Functional Skills English (Entry 3 – Level 2)

[Full course details- Functional Skill English](#)

📍 **Location:** Broad Leas Centre, St Ives

📅 **Start Date:** 7 January 2026

🕒 **Duration:** 23 weeks | 2 hours per week

\*\*\* Learners can still enrol on this course past the start date \*\*\*

Our accredited Functional Skills English course helps adults build essential reading, writing, speaking and listening skills for life, work and supporting their families.

### Learners will develop skills in:

- Spelling, punctuation, reading and writing
- Speaking, listening and communication through discussions and presentations
- Reading for information and identifying key points
- Writing for different purposes (persuasive, informative, descriptive)
- Producing written texts such as statements, letters and reports

Learners will work with a tutor to set personalised learning goals and complete an **accredited City & Guilds qualification**, widely recognised by employers and education providers.

If you have any questions regarding either courses, please do contact [cambsales@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cambsales@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or call 01353 613013



The poster features a dark blue background with a white circular logo in the top left containing the text 'CAMBRIDGESHIRE SKILLS'. To the right is a circular inset image of a man and a woman looking at a tablet. The main text is in white and black, providing course details. A QR code is located on the right side. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook, along with the Cambridgeshire County Council logo and website information.

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE SKILLS**

## Functional Skills English

**Broad Leas Centre, St. Ives**  
**7th Jan - 15th July 2026**  
**1pm - 3pm**

Our accredited Functional Skills English course gives you the essential, practical skills in English that you can apply at work, at home or in your community. Sessions running every Wednesday. Call 01353 613013 to book or scan QR code.

[www.instagram.com/cambridgeshire\\_skills/](https://www.instagram.com/cambridgeshire_skills/)  
[www.linkedin.com/company/cambridgeshire-skills](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cambridgeshire-skills)  
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Cambridgeshire County Council  
[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cambs-skills](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cambs-skills)

## Contact Us

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Honeypot Pre-school - Manager Kate Van Dort

[honeypot@willingham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:mленk@willingham.cambs.sch.uk) who will be able to offer support and advice.

