



The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 13 March 2026

Issue 10

In this Issue:

- Jr Travel Ambassadors
- Roots to Food
- Sensory Workshop
- Bee Netball
- School Games - Speed Stacking
- Keeping Children Safe- Support for Parents/Carers
- Easter Break Activities

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring is definitely in the air! The brighter mornings, warmer days and first spring flowers have brought lovely energy to the school and nothing marks this season more clearly than our annual celebration of World Book Day. It was wonderful to see so many fantastic costumes across the school and to share in the children's excitement. Days like this truly help nurture our pupils' love of reading and support our commitment to the National Year of Reading.

We also had a very delicious week in school last week, quite literally! Thanks to the generous funding from the The Willingham British School Trust, every class took part in the Roots to Food workshops. The building was filled with amazing smells as pupils explored new flavours, tasted food they might not usually try, and worked together to follow a recipe (which was sent home last week if you wish to try it at home). During the workshop, they also practiced their cooking skills and learned about nutrition and healthy choices working as chefs.

It's been joyful two weeks of creativity, learning, and shared experiences, just what spring should feel like in primary school.

Lastly, the building works for the Wraparound Care Hub did not start as planned during February half-term. This further delay was unexpected and a shame, as it pushes back the completion date. According to the latest timelines, construction will start over the Easter holidays, which allows them to do some of the most disruptive works, during the two week holiday period.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,
Miss Paalanen



Key Dates & School Notices

School Calendar:

Mon 16 Mar: Book Fair in the Library [3.15-4.15pm]

Tue 17 Mar: Book Fair in the Library [3.15-4.15pm]

Fri 20 Mar: Red Nose Day - Wear Something RED

WSA Pre-loved clothing sale [see WSA newsletter below]

Sat 21 Mar: WSA Easter Egg Bingo [see WSA newsletter below]

Mon 23 Mar: Rocksteady Concert [for parents/carers of band members only]

Tue 24 Mar: Years 3 & 4 Performance of 'Hoodwinked' [Starts at 6pm in the New Hall]

Wed 25 Mar: Years 3 & 4 Performance of 'Hoodwinked' [Starts at 6pm in the New Hall]

Thu 26 Mar: Years 3 & 4 Performance of 'Hoodwinked' [Starts at 1.45pm in the New Hall]

Fri 27 Mar: Last day of Spring Term 2 [NO After School Club, ALL children to be collect from school at 3.15pm]

End of Term reports to parents/carers

Newsletter Issue 11

Sun 29 Mar: Daylight Saving Time - Clocks spring forward

Mon 30 Mar-Friday 10 Apr: Easter Break [School & Pre-school closed]

Mon 13 Apr: Start of Summer Term 1 [School Open - Breakfast Club & After School Club resume]

Thu 16 Apr: National Reception Offer Day for September 2026

Tue 21 Apr: Parents/Carers Consultations [New Hall, 3.30-6.30pm, information to follow]

Thu 23 Apr: Parents/Carers Consultations [New Hall, 3.30-6pm, information to follow]

Fri 24 Apr: Newsletter Issue 12

Wed 29 Apr: Class photos

Mon 4 May: May Day Bank Holiday [School & Pre-school closed for the day]

Fri 8 May: Year 3 Bikeability workshop

Newsletter Issue 13

Mon 18-Thu 21 May: Year 6 Bikeability workshop



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

School Notices:

WPS Book Fair:

Come and visit the Book Fair on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 March with our very own Mrs. Lenk! 📖

She'll be hosting the fair in the school library [3.15-4.15pm], where there will be loads of exciting books and discoveries waiting for you. We hope to see you there!

Y3/4 Performance:

A big thank you to all the parents who have already ordered their tickets for our upcoming "Hoodwinked" performances. We really appreciate your support and are excited for the children to share their hard work with you.

We have successfully sold out both evening performances, so if you haven't got a ticket yet, there are still 29 tickets available for the Thursday 26 March afternoon performance, please make sure to secure yours, via the link within performance emails previously sent out.

Also, the WSA will be offering refreshments and tickets for a raffle before each show across the three performance days. If you are able to help in any way, even for a short time, it would be greatly appreciated and will help make the event a success. Thank you for your continued support.

School Trip Medications:

If your child requires medication for the duration of a school trip (for example, travel sickness tablets), please ensure that school staff are aware so that the medical requirement is recorded and we can keep their pupil asset profile up-to-date.

All medication must be handed to the school office prior to the trip in the original packaging, with clear dosage instructions provided on a school medical form, and clearly labelled with the child's name. Medication cannot be administered unless these requirements have been met.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils during school trips. 🚌📄

From Willingham School Association

WSA NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH - MOTHERS DAY GIFTS
FRIDAY 20TH MARCH - PRE LOVED CLOTHING SALE 3:15-4:30PM
SATURDAY 21ST MARCH - PRELOVED CLOTHING SALE 10:30-2PM
- EASTER BINGO & AGM 2-4:30PM
FRIDAY 27TH MARCH - KRISPY KREME DONUT SALE
FRIDAY 24TH APRIL - MOVIE NIGHT

FUNDRAISING

WINTER WONDERLAND £2000
EASY FUNDRAISING £92.92
REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE £140

MONEY SPENT

£1840 TOWARDS WICKEN FEN TRIP
£1368.50 TOWARDS WEST STOWE TRIP
£281 TTRS & NUMBOTS SUBSCRIPTION

DONATIONS WANTED

EASTER EGGS
UNIFORM DONATIONS
(NAME LABELS REMOVED)
8 X 8FT SHED
10 X 10FT CONCRETE SHED BASE



**AHOY THERE
ME HEARTIES!
AVAST YE!**

**THE SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND
PIRATE SHIP HAS
SUNKEN DOWN TO
DAVEY JONES' LOCKER**

**WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK!
TO SAVE PLAY-TIME
FOR OUR ADVENTURE LOVING
BUCCANNERS!**

**REPLACEMENT APPARATUS IS EXPECTED TO COST
OVER £30K!**

**ANY 'PIECES OF EIGHT' THAT YOU CAN
DONATE WILL BE TREASURED AND
SPENT ON URGENTLY NEEDED
OUTDOOR PLAY.**

PLEASE SCAN



**TO DONATE WHAT YOU CAN
WHY NOT SHARE WITH SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY TOO**
<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q8H60FGU>

THANK YOU - THE WILLINGHAM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (AND THE CHILDREN OF WILLINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL)



Donations Wanted:

Pre-loved clothing sale donations:

Women's, men's and children's clothing | Sportswear, nightwear, knitwear, jackets & coats, jeans, trousers, dresses, tops, babywear | New (unworn) underwear, socks and tights | Paired shoes (sandals, trainers, boots, etc.) | Jewellery, accessories, watches, sunglasses | Handbags, belts, hats, scarves, gloves, wallets and purses

Donations drop-off:

Please return filled bags to the school bike shed via the staff car park on Thursday 19 March 2026. A WSA volunteer will be present at 9:00am and 12:00 noon to assist.

Easter Egg Bingo & AGM:

All donations of Easter eggs and goodies are very much appreciated. Please leave any donations in the box at the school office by Friday 20 March.

Jr Travel Ambassadors



On Monday 9 March, the pupils of Willingham Primary enjoyed an informative and fun assembly from the Junior Travel Ambassadors. They learned about the importance of safe equipment with some help from Sheldon the egg!

The JTA want as many people as possible to Bike, Scooter or Walk to school next week (16-20 March) for The Big Walk & Wheel. Of course they are holding a competition too! The JTA will select a bicycle or scooter each day and place a golden ribbon on it and those winners can collect a prize from the school office. Selected students that walk to school can also win a prize.

Roots To Food

We had a fantastic Roots to Food session in school last week!

The children, across the school, eagerly took part and showed brilliant enthusiasm as they worked together to cook a nutritious meal from scratch. They listened carefully, followed instructions well and were excited to try the food they had prepared themselves. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved, demonstrating great teamwork and confidence in the kitchen. The children really showed how capable they are, and many were proud to taste something new that they had helped create.

Well done to everyone for such super participation!







Teriyaki Chicken or Quorn with Bombay Noodles (serves 4)

4 Small Chicken Breast diced (or :
1 x 200g bag Frozen Diced Quorn)
½ tsp Dried Chilli Flakes
4tbs Light Soy Sauce
2tbs Clear Honey
4tbs Apple Juice
1 Red Onion thinly sliced
4 Spring Onion thinly sliced
50g Mangetout chopped in half
1 Whole Carrot peeled and sliced thinly
2 tsp Mild Curry Powder
1 tsp Turmeric
1 Red Pepper sliced
3 nests 200g Medium Egg Noodles
30g Fresh Ginger finely chopped
1 tsp Chopped Garlic
1 tbs Olive Oil
Water for steaming

Method

1. Place the chilli flakes, soy sauce, honey and Apple juice into bowl and whisk together to combine. Soak the noodles in a bowl in hot water with the curry powder and turmeric.
2. Place the chicken or Quorn into a clean bowl and add the garlic and ginger and stir together.
3. Heat a non-stick frying pan or saucepan or wok (with lid) until hot with a little oil
4. Sear the chicken in the hot pan for two minutes on each side, add 2 tbs water place the lid on the pan and steam for 90 seconds. Remove the lid carefully
5. Add the red onion to the chicken and steam for a further 1 minute with the lid on.
6. Now remove the lid carefully again and add the mangetout, carrots, peppers, spring onion and teriyaki marinade (honey, soy sauce, apple juice, chilli flakes)
7. Steam with the lid on gently for 2-3 minutes to reduce.
8. Stir the drained noodles through the teriyaki chicken and steam with the lid on for a further 1 minute
9. Remove the lid of the pan carefully and serve in to the centre of four plates.
10. Enjoy.

Sensory Workshop

Our Sensory Workshop group have been busy enjoying a range of activities this term. The children explored a “Dinosaur Ice Rescue”, using salt to melt ice and free the frozen dinosaurs.

We also had lots of fun during the colder weather with “Do You Want to Build a Snowman?”, where children used playdough along with a variety of materials to add eyes, hats, scarves and other creative details.

More recently, the group made bird feeders and mini bug hotels, which we placed in the school wildlife area. A few days later we returned to check them and were excited to spot a variety of mini-beasts beginning to move in!

The workshop continues to give children opportunities supporting sensory regulation, creativity and discovery through a variety of fun and purposeful sensory activities



Bee Netball League Tournament



On Tuesday 10 March, fourteen Year 5 and 6 children took part in the second round of the local schools' Bee Netball League, at Northstowe Secondary College. With the sun shining, our two teams competed with enthusiasm, playing short matches, against 4 other schools. They were able to put into practice all they had learnt as committed members of the school netball club run by Mrs Rodgers and Mrs Olds.

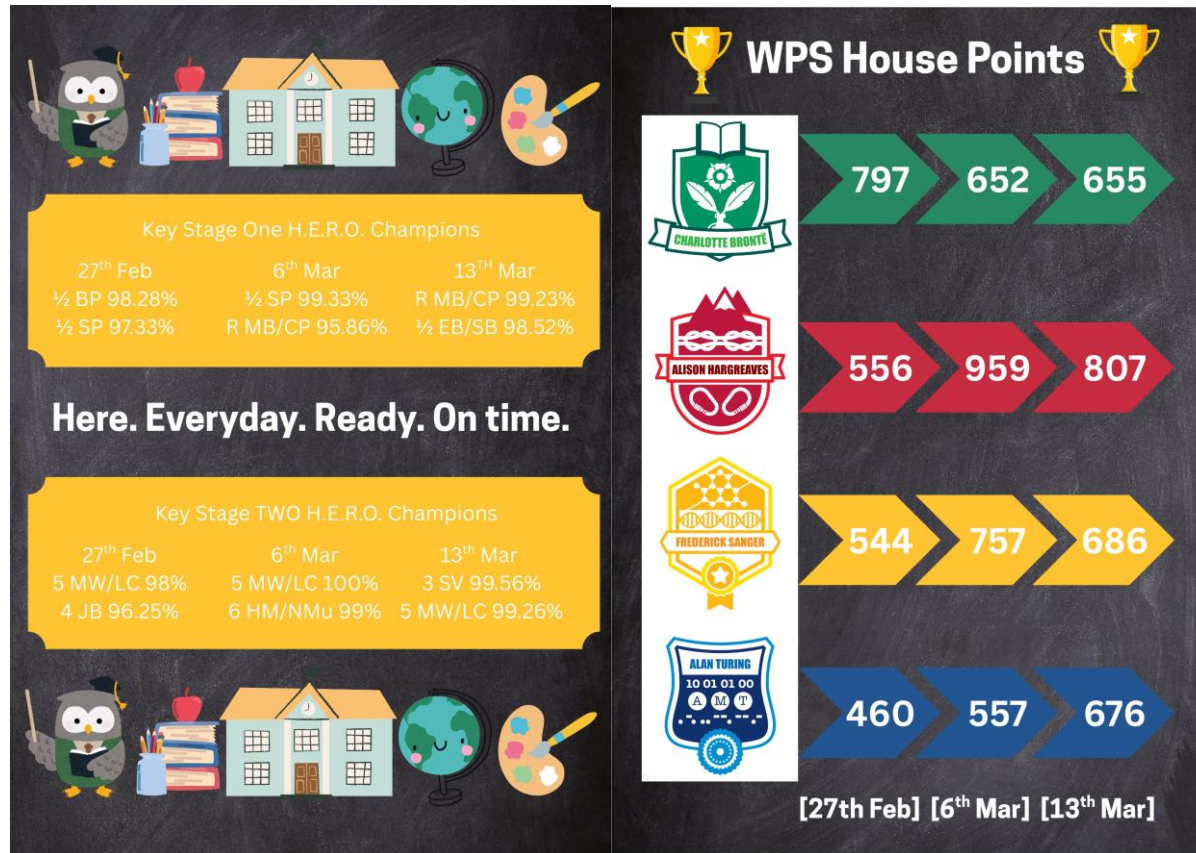
The Willingham Primary School children were fantastic representatives of our school and showed excellent sportsmanship, kindness, respect, determination and great teamwork, supporting each other and working well together. The matches were also a great opportunity for the children to develop and improve their individual netball skills. After a mixture of wins and losses they finished the tournament with big smiles and an enormous sense of pride. We look forward to moving on to the tournament finals next month.

School Games - Speed Stacking



A group of students had a great morning (Thu 12 Mar) at Melbourne Community College, taking part in a cup stacking event. The focus was on self belief and team spirit and our students proudly represented the school.

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



Keeping Children Safe - Support for Parents/Carers

'You won't know until you ask'

The Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT) has launched a new campaign to help parents have open conversations with children about harmful online content, including misogynistic material, body shaming and rage bait.

'You won't know until you ask' provides practical tools and prompts to support parents to talk about what children are seeing online, strengthen critical thinking, and challenge misinformation.

Help your child stay safe online <https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/> This provides useful practical information and tips for parents to know what to ask their children about their internet use and have conversations about difficult topics and harmful content.

Parent Power session on 'Drugs and Substances'

'CGL CYP Service' who cover the CYP substance misuse service delivery in Peterborough are running information sessions for parents/carers to gain a better understanding of substance use amongst young people.

Although it is a Peterborough based organisation, they are opening this up for parents/carers from other areas to attend. There are 2 sessions, one in the evening and one during the day. The sessions are online on: Tuesday, 17 March at 7.00 pm or Wednesday, 25 March at 1.30 pm. You can book through the links on the attached poster.



Parent Power session with CGL CYP service

Would you like to have a better understanding of substances use amongst young people . Do you feel like your young people have more knowledge than you? If so we have the session for you.

Join CGL CYP service to expand your knowledge on substances and what is trending among young people within Peterborough.

Join us for our online sessions: Tuesday 17th March @7pm or Wednesday 25th March @1.30pm

Use the links below to book onto one of our sessions:

[Eventbrite - Dashboard](#)

[Eventbrite - Dashboard](#)

We look forward to seeing you there

Easter Break Activities

Willingham Primary School is hosting 'The Next Thing Education Team'

We are excited to run our new WOW Camp at your school this Easter. The camp combines our popular Tech Camp with a range of exciting WOW experiences to create a fun and memorable holiday club for children aged 5–11. WOW Camp is designed to balance learning, creativity, and fun in a welcoming environment where children can make friends, build confidence, and feel proud of what they create.

Tech Activities such as

- 💡 Ingenious Inventors – Design and build electronic inventions to take home
- 🛠️ Minecraft Engineers – Complete creative Minecraft engineering challenges

WOW Experiences

- 🌸 WOW Science – Fun and interactive science demonstrations
- 🏃‍♂️ Inflation Obstacle Courses – Giant inflatables for active fun

Price: £45 per day | Special Offer: Book 4 days for £162 (£40.50 per day)

Click here to book now for paid places: <https://www.nextthing.education/easter-camps/>

HAF Places: Parents/carers of children in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) will receive an eligibility voucher via email and/or text from Holiday Activities which includes a 16 digit booking code and a link to the website to book for free.

If you have any questions or need support, please contact us on 01442 873150 or email info@nextthing.education.

EASTER CAMPS 2026
Tech-powered camps, packed with WOW experiences!

Example camp activities
Camps run 9 am - 4 pm

ROBOT LAB | ECU | ELECTRIC INVENTIONS | CREATIONS | ANIMATION
BOOK CIRCUITS | CRAZY CODING | MINECRAFT | MINECRAFT REDEMPTION | VIRTUAL REALITY

NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES
INFLATABLES | ANIMALS | STREET DANCE | GOLF | MARIKTO

WHAT TO EXPECT:
Daring hands-on tech exploration, our unforgettable WOW experiences, we help children to make, create, and discover - safely, step-by-step. We'll provide support and help build confidence with fun, interesting, and challenging activities.

AGES 5-11, £45 PER DAY OR £162 FOR 4 DAYS
LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!
WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150



If you are looking for activities to keep your children busy during the Easter break, please take a look at our Community & Clubs page, where you will find a list of local clubs and activities. Full details are included in the attachments.

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

Tap News & Events to view and enjoy our newsletter from this current school year. We hope you take a few moments to see the highlights, celebrations, and learning experiences our students have been part of.

Thank you for your continued support!



Willingham Primary School has successfully achieved the Bronze Standard of the Carnegie Mental Health Award for Schools in recognition of its clear commitment to developing a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing. Achieving the Bronze Standard reflects Willingham Primary School's dedication to creating a safe, inclusive and mentally healthy environment for its whole community and its ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.

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.