



# The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 27th March 2026

**Issue 11**

In this Issue:

- **'Hoodwinked' Performance**
- **Reading Ambassadors Review**
- **Mayor's Day Out Project**
- **Rocksteady *Spring* Concert**
- **Discover, Feel, Learn: Inside Our Sensory Workshop**
- **Education Hub – Year 6 SATs Preparation**



## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The busy Spring Term has come to an end and all of a sudden two thirds of this academic year is behind us!

We are already looking ahead and planning for the next academic year. I am delighted to share that, thanks to careful financial planning and the continued growth of our school, we will be moving to a two-form entry structure from September 2026. This means there will be two classes in each year group, with no mixed-age classes. This change will allow us to provide a more consistently structured, progressive and enriching curriculum as children move through the school.

As part of this development, we are currently advertising for an experienced Early Years teacher to join us in September as our EYFS Lead. This role will be key in strengthening our Early Years provision, ensuring every child receives the very best start to their education, in line with [Department for Education strategy](#). The successful candidate will work closely with our excellent pre-school team and the wider leadership team.

You might also have heard that we are increasing our offer for the children in our pre-school with offering *an Early Start (8.00-9.00) and a Late Finish (15.00-17.00)* to accommodate better for the working parents in our community. If you are interested in this offer, please visit our school website.

Finally, the plans for the start of the construction of the new Wrap Around Hub are confirmed and I shared the news with the children in assembly on Monday. Please see the attached newsletter from Borrás Construction for more information about the project and the company. They are committed to providing social value through this project and will be working with us to give children opportunities to learn about the different aspects of construction throughout this 36 week project.

There is much to look forward to in the Summer term, and we will continue to keep you updated on all developments.

For now, I wish all our families a restful and enjoyable break.

Best wishes,

Miss Paalanen



## Key Dates & School Notices

### School Calendar:

**Fri 27 Mar:** Last day of term [**NO After School Club, all children to be collected at 3.15pm please**]

WSA Donut Sale [From 3pm]

Newsletter Issue 11

**Sun 29 Mar:** Clocks change - Daylight Saving Time

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

**Mon 13 Apr:** Start of Summer Term 1 [School & Pre-school reopen]

**Tue 21 Apr:** Parents/Carers Consultation Meetings [New Hall, 3.30-6.30pm]

**Thu 23 Apr:** Parents/Carers Consultation Meetings [New Hall, 3.30-6pm]

**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]

**Tue 5 May:** Summer Term 1 resumes

**Fri 8 May:** Year 3 Bikeability workshop

Newsletter Issue 13

**Mon 11- Thu 14 May:** Year 6 SATs

**Mon 18 - Thu 21 May:** Year 6 Bikeability workshop

**Fri 22 May:** Last day of term

Newsletter Issue 14

**Mon 25- Fri 29 May:** Half term break [School & Pre-school closed]

**Mon 1 Jun:** Start of Summer Term 2 [School & Pre-school reopen]

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:

## Easter trail!

Free fun family activity! Walk around the orchard to find the hidden letters and receive a small prize for correctly guessing the hidden word in the trees!

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
2.30pm — 4.30pm

Willingham Orchard, Earith Road

For information on this and other activities visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/willinghamactiongroup>



## Dog-free site

We would like to remind everyone that dogs (except for assistance dogs) should not be present on the school site.

## Parents/Carers Consultation Meetings:

This is a reminder to please book your parents' evening appointment as soon as possible.

Appointments are available on:

- Tue 21 Apr
- Thu 23 Apr

Bookings can be made via **Pupil Asset**. If you experience any difficulties when booking, please do not hesitate to email/call the school office, where a member of staff will be happy to assist you.

## School Menu Update:

We would like to inform you that there will be a change to the school menu following our return from the Easter break.

Our new **three-week rolling menu** (from the Lunchtime Company) is now available to view on the [school website](#), and a PDF copy has also been attached to this email for your convenience.

We kindly remind all parents and carers to inform the school office of **any** changes to their child's dietary requirements as soon as possible.

Please note, that on Wed 29 Apr the menu will change for our *Get Active Day*.

## End-of-day Collection Arrangements:

Please contact the school office with the **full name (this includes surname) and contact number** of the adult collecting your child/ren. Kindly confirm whether this adult is already listed for end-of-day collection or if they are a new authorised collector.

Where possible, children should be **collected directly from their class teacher**. If collections needs to take place via the school office, please be aware that there may be a short wait before the child is handed over.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MAIN MEAL</b>	Baked Sausage Roll served with Roasted Sweet Potatoes & Baked Beans or Fresh Salad	Meat Free! Wholesome Pans served with Jacket Potatoes, Roasted Carrot & Cucumber Slacks	Beef Bolognaise Pasta served with Garlic & Herb Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Roast Chicken served with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Brussels, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy	Pish Pudding or Autumn Pish Pudding served with Chips, Grated Peas or Baked Beans & Ketchup
<b>MEAT FREE</b>	Vegan Sausage Roll served with Crispy Sweet Potatoes, Peas & Peasobors	Chicken & Tomato Wholesome Pans served with Jacket Potato Wedges, Cucumber Carrots & Cucumber Slacks	Vegetable & Lentil Bolognaise served with Roast Bread, Garlic & Herb Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Quailflower Cheese served with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy	Vegan Sausage served with Chips, Grated Peas or Baked Beans & Ketchup
<b>PASTA &amp; JACKETS</b>	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad	Pasta Perle with Tomato or Cheese Sauce served with Fresh Salad and Chunky Bread	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad	Pasta Twists with Tomato or Cheese Sauce served with Fresh Salad and Chunky Bread	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad
<b>DESSERTS</b>	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts: Chocolate Chip Cake, Fruity Jelly, Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts: Raspberry Mousse with Berry Quills, Fresh Yogurt & Curls, Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts: Froyo, Berry Smoothie, Fruity Jelly, Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts: Vanilla Icecream, & Fruit Sauce, Fresh Yogurt & Curls, Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts: Chocolate and Sprouts, Fruity Jelly, Fresh Fruit Pot

Making luncheon the highlight of your day

## 'Hoodwinked' Performance

The production of Hoodwinked finally hit the stage this week and, if the audience's reactions are anything to go by, the children put on an amazing show! But as we know, the real hard work goes on behind the scenes, and so it proved this time around. In under four weeks, the children showed incredible hard work and determination to learn their lines and cues and, most challenging of all, take on feedback to help them become the best actors they could be.

Mr. Baugh was so proud of how the children listened to advice and used it to make marginal gains in their performances. One year 4 child remarked that, *'Everyone was really helpful to each other.'* I'm sure that all those who came to see the play would agree that the hard work, kindness and integrity the children showed truly paid off.



## Reading Ambassadors Review



In celebration of *World Book Day*, Mr Baugh interviewed a selection of our **Reading Ambassadors** to find out more about their **favourite books, authors, and reading recommendations**. 📖

To discover what our ambassadors have been sharing, please take a look at the **updated** [Reading Blog](#) on the school website. We hope their enthusiasm inspires even more children to pick up a book and enjoy reading! ✨

## Mayor's Day Out Project



Earlier this half term Year 1 & 2 had an exciting day out at *Flag Fen Archaeology Park*, stepping back in time to explore life in the Stone Age.

Having already studied this part of history, the visit helped pupils embed their knowledge through hands-on activities. They created Stone Age art, built wattle and daub walls, explored a roundhouse with a fire, handled artefacts, and made clay pots decorated with natural materials.

It was a fantastic experience that brought their learning about the Stone Age to life!

We were very grateful to have this trip fully funded by the *Mayor's Day Out Project*, which provides local schools with opportunities to experience memorable educational visits.

## Rocksteady Spring Concert



All of our Rocksteady bands performed at the parent concert on Mon 23 March, proudly showcasing their musical development on their instruments under the guidance of their band leader, Adrian.

Here is what he had to say about his time at WPS:

*“We’ve had another really positive term at Willingham since Christmas that has seen some big improvements in our students, both with their skills and seeing their confidence grow alongside their band mates in a fun and safe space.*

*We have also seen another amazing school funded band absolutely ace ‘We Will Rock You’ by getting a massive applause from our incredible concert audience, who really could see the opportunity this provides to children who might otherwise not have access to instruments or struggle in other areas of school.*

*Next term, we will be pushing on with increasing the skills further with a brand new set of songs to wow the crowds at our end of term concerts. These are always so well attended and become such a celebration of all the hard work the students put in, starting from the very first week after the holidays. We all can’t wait to get going again.”*

## Discover, Feel, Learn: Inside Our Sensory Workshop

In Sensory Workshop this half term, sessions have included a peppermint cream making session, where children explored the mixture through touch, smell and taste. They experienced the different textures and enjoyed the minty scent, before trying the finished product!

In our sound shaker activity, children experimented with different materials to create a range of sounds. They made choices about which sounds they liked best to make their own shaker and enjoyed comparing their creations with others. Our '*All Things Green*' session encouraged creativity through sensory exploration, as children coloured objects such as frogs, leaves and apples using a variety of green materials. This allowed them to explore texture, pressure and different shades of colour.



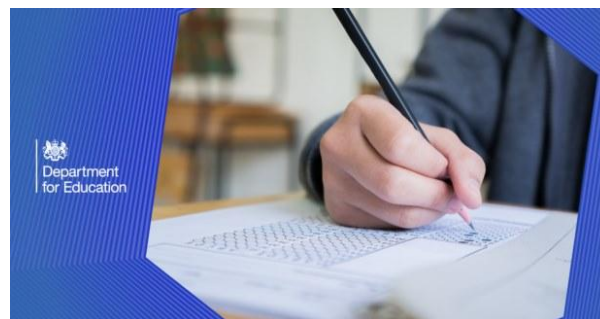
\* PEPPERMINT CREAM RECIPE \*

Ingredients:  
225G Icing Sugar | 115G Condensed Milk | 1-2 TSP Peppermint Extract

Method :

1. Mix the icing sugar and condensed milk in a bowl to make a soft dough (you may not need all the condensed milk).
2. Add the peppermint extract and mix until you have a smooth dough. Add a little more icing sugar if the mixture gets too sticky.
3. Dust a clean surface with icing sugar and roll out the mixture to 5mm (¼") thickness. Cut into shapes with a cutter or you can roll into balls and press gently to flatten them (this is what we did in the workshop).
4. Chill in the fridge for 1-2 hours.
5. Allow to set. Keep refrigerated in an airtight container and use within 3 weeks.

## Education Hub – Year 6 SATs Preparation



As we prepare for the Year 6 SATs in May, we want to ensure you have access to clear, reliable information to support your child. The **Department for Education's (DfE) Education Hub** provides straightforward, up-to-date guidance for families about what the SATs involve and how you can help at home.

[KS2 SATs 2026: What parents need to know](#)

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



Key Stage One H.E.R.O. Champions

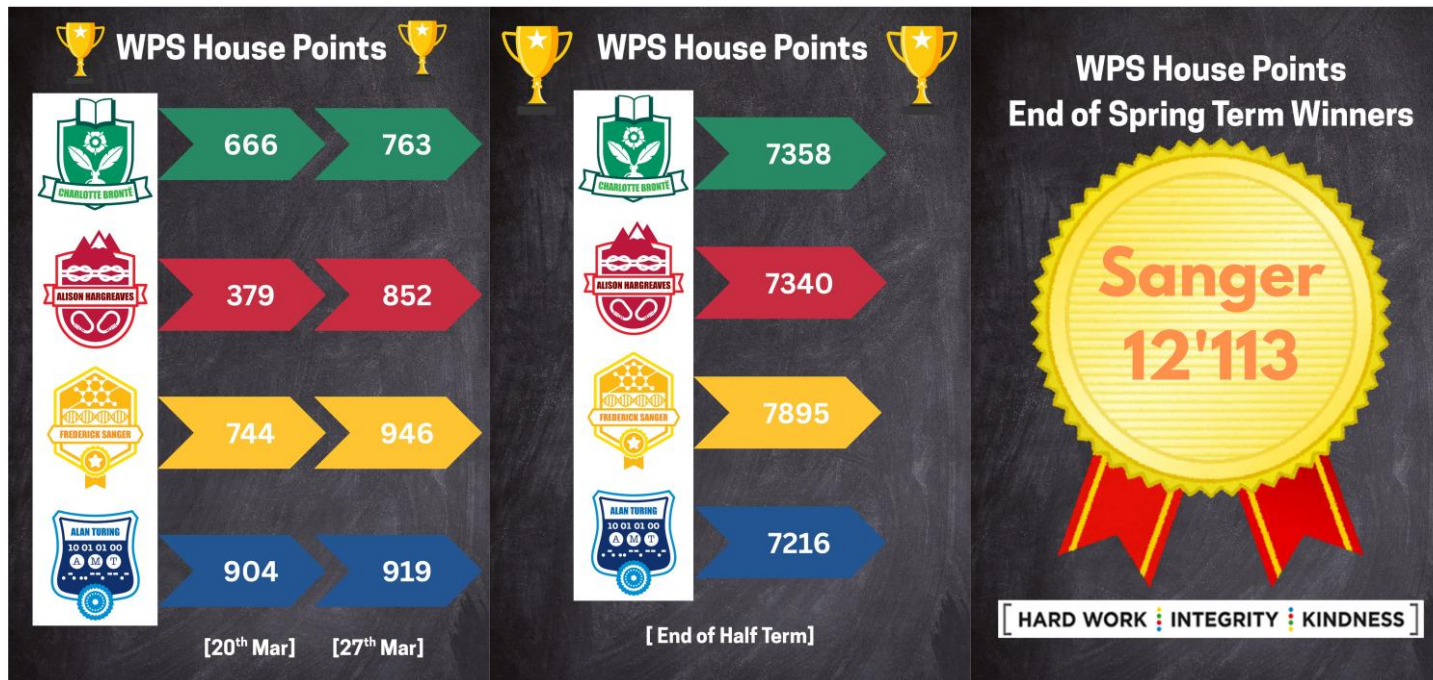
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar
R SB 95.77%	½ EB/SB 97.33%
½ BP 95.52%	½ BP 96.55%

**Here. Everyday. Ready. On time.**

Key Stage TWO H.E.R.O. Champions

20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar
4 JB 97.50%	3 KK/SH 97.31%
3 SV 96.54%	5 MW/LC 96%





## Contact Us



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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.



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