



The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2026

Issue 12

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Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer term is now in full swing, made even more enjoyable by the lovely sunshine we've been experiencing this week.

We began the term with resilience workshops for all pupils, from Pre-School through to Year 6. These sessions were delivered by MiniMe Mindfulness, an organisation that provides children's mindset mentoring and works with a number of local schools. We will be running further workshops later this term and again at the start of next year as part of our whole-school approach to supporting pupils' social, emotional and mental health.

There has also been plenty of excitement around school as work on the WPS Hub has begun and parts of the school site have become a building area. We are incredibly proud of how well the children have adapted to the temporary changes, including new arrangements for lining up at playtimes and lunchtimes. Their flexibility and positive attitudes have been a real credit to them. It has been wonderful to see the children's curiosity about the work taking place, especially the diggers! Fortunately, the building work has not caused too much disruption in terms of noise or daily routines.

Thank you, too, for your cooperation in using the new pathway through the playground. We really appreciate your support with this. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the work, and you can also see some photos below.

Wishing you all a wonderful, sunny weekend!

Best wishes,

Miss Paalanen



Key Dates & School Notices

School Calendar:

Fri 24 Apr: *Newsletter Issue 12*

WSA Movie Night *[Entry at 5.50pm, Film starts at 6pm]*

Wed 29 Apr: Year 6 Leavers & Class photos *[Please respond to the separate email if you **do not** want your child included]*

Get Active Lunch menu change

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

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Mon 11- Thu 14 May: Year 6 SATs

Mon 18 - Thu 21 May: Year 6 Bikeability workshop

Fri 22 May: Last day of Summer 1 Term

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

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

Mon 08-Fri 12 Jun: Year 6 Residential to Bushcraft

Mon 15-Tue 16 Jun: Year 6 Catch Your Breath Workshop *[mornings only]*

Wed 01-Fri 03 Jul: Year 5 Residential to Hilltop

Fri 10 Jul: Whole School Jump up morning *[pupils to return to current classes in the afternoon]*

Northstowe Secondary College Induction Day for Year 6

Year 6 Leavers' Party

Tue 14 Jul: Cottenham Village College Induction Day for Year 6

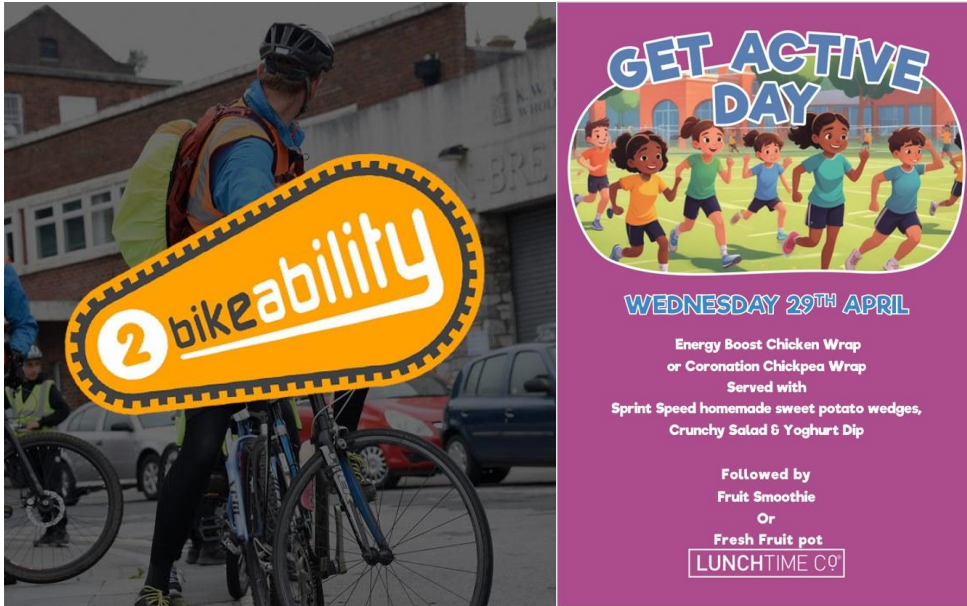
Wed 15-Fri 17 Jul: Swavesey Village College Induction Days for Year 6

Fri 17 Jul: Last day of the Academic Year - **No After School Club**

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Mon 20 Jul: Professional Day *[School & Pre-school closed]*

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:

Lunch Menu Change:

On Wed 29 Apr, the Week-3 Wednesday lunch will be replaced with our **Get Active Menu**, featuring energy-boosting wraps and a fruit smoothie. A jacket potato will still be available as a third option on the day.

If you would like your child to take part, please book their meal via Pupil Asset.

Reception September 2026:

Quick reminder for those who haven't already, please confirm your child's acceptance of Reception place by **Fri 01 May**. Please do this via the application portal, If you are unable to do this please contact the school office or notify the Admissions Team in writing.

Late Arrivals:

We have noticed **an increase in late arrivals** in the mornings. Being on time is important, as it helps children settle into the day calmly and ensures they do not miss valuable learning time.

If you are experiencing any challenges that are affecting punctuality, please let your child's class teacher or the school office know. **We are here to support you and can work together to find helpful solutions.** Thank you for your continued support in helping your child arrive at school on time each day.

Netball Fever: Tournament Recap

On Wed 15 Apr, 6 of our Y6 pupils took part in the **Netball B team finals** tournament at Impington Village College alongside 15 other schools. The team played amazingly well, winning several of their games and finishing 6th out of 16 teams.

Mrs Rodgers was especially proud of the team for winning the 'Spirit of the Games' award. This award is presented to the school who have demonstrated excellent sporting values throughout the afternoon and is nominated by other teams. The teams commented that Willingham had shown excellent teamwork, positivity towards other teams, encouragement to each other and towards the opposition and were very supportive. Well done Y6, we are very proud of you all!



One week later, on Wed 22 Apr, it was the turn of the 7 strong year 5/6 A team to take part in their finals netball tournament at Comberton Village College. They had been successful in earlier rounds and had qualified for the higher **A team Shield Final**. This resulted in them facing a more challenging set of matches.

They kept playing with great sportsmanship, teamwork, determination and positivity, but on this occasion the games didn't go their way. They didn't give up and managed a good win for their final game. We were delighted at the presentations to discover that they too had **won the 'Spirit of the Games' award after being nominated 5 times by other teams and umpires**, the same as the B team.

This was quite an achievement for both teams and we are very proud of all those who took part. We have seen them all grow in confidence and skill, through their commitment to netball club and love to share in the enjoyment they have playing netball.



Pre-School Highlights & New Wraparound Care Offer

Our Honey-pot children have had a very exciting start to the Summer Term! We were delighted to welcome a fire engine visit, which sparked lots of curiosity and enthusiasm. The children enjoyed meeting the firefighters, exploring the equipment, and learning about how they help keep us safe.

We have also been observing a real-life science experience in our setting, as the children watched frogspawn gradually transform into tadpoles. This has led to lots of discussions and excitement as we follow their development each day.

To top it all off, the children had great fun making their own pizzas. They loved choosing their toppings and practising their spreading and fine motor skills—plus, of course, enjoying the delicious results!

It's been a fantastic time full of hands-on learning and memorable experiences.





We're excited to share some wonderful news! ✨

From September 2026, Honeypot Pre-school will be expanding its provision. Following feedback from our families, we'll be introducing **wraparound care** to offer greater flexibility and support around the pre-school day.

If you wish to book your child on the wraparound care, please contact Pre-school Manager, Kate via honeypot@willingham.cambs.sch.uk or complete our online form below;

[Honeypot Pre-school Wraparound Care - Bookings for Sept 2026 – Fill in form](#)

We look forward to supporting our families even more in the future ❤️

Pre-school Wraparound Care

NEW

September 2026

Offering extended childcare to support busy families!

- 🕒 **Early Start: 8:00am – 9:00am**
- 🕒 **Late Finish: 3:00pm – 5:00pm**

- ✓ **Safe, caring environment**
- ✓ **Fun, engaging activities**
- ✓ **Flexible options for working families**
- ✓ **Alongside our high-quality pre-school core sessions (9:00am–3:00pm)**
- ✓ **Accepting Tax-Free Childcare & childcare vouchers (save 20%)**

Limited Spaces – booking recommended!

Honeypot Pre-school,
Thodays Close, Willingham CB24 5LE
01954 201567
honeypot@willingham.cambs.sch.uk

Exploring Sounds and Rhythm

We were delighted to welcome Josh Asokan, concert pianist and founder of [Odyssey Ensemble](#), to Willingham on Mon 20 April. During assembly, Josh spoke to the whole school about his own musical journey, explaining how he began teaching himself the piano at just two years old. He shared how music quickly became a powerful way for him to express himself, long before he had any formal lessons.

As he grew older, Josh's love of music became closely connected with his passion for social justice. He spoke about how his interest in refugee advocacy developed, and how this led him to found Odyssey Ensemble. Through this charity, Josh now uses music as a tool to raise awareness, build empathy, and advocate for refugees, showing pupils how creativity can be used to make a real difference in the world.

Throughout the morning, Josh also led interactive and engaging workshops with Years 2, 3 and 4. These sessions built brilliantly on the pupils' current music units, giving them the opportunity to explore pitch and rhythm in new ways. The children participated enthusiastically and came away inspired by Josh's message that music can be both creative and meaningful.



Discover, Feel, Learn: Inside Our Sensory Workshop



Another busy start to our Sensory Workshop group this term! A recent focus in our group has been on the use of painting activities to support attention skills alongside sensory expression.

Children took part in a short mindfulness activity, observing daffodils closely and noticing details such as shape, colour and scent before creating still life watercolour paintings. We have also been experimenting with using a variety of tools to paint, using things such as cotton buds, cotton reels and straws. We enjoyed finding out how different movements and tools can change the marks we make.

Other activities have included an alphabet sand dig and a sea shell discovery activity where we used magnifying glass to study shells up close while feeling, exploring and describing them.

We are proud to share here some of the children's beautiful finished work.

Mindset & Wellbeing Workshop

Kate from Mini Me Mindfulness visited us last Thursday and Friday to help us continue exploring *resilience* and the idea of “**I can’t do it... yet!**”

As well as spending time in Honeypot, Kate led a whole-school assembly and followed this up with a half-hour class session. During these sessions, we breathed, we meditated, we listened to resilience stories and we danced! Oh, and some of us got gently bopped on the head with a big inflatable mallet! The question was... when we got knocked over, did we choose to **get back up again?**

Interesting fact: mindful breathing activates the *parasympathetic nervous system* (the part of the body that helps us feel calm and settled) which can help to quiet our busy minds!

Kate will be visiting again next half term. During her visit, she will also be running a parent workshop on how to support your child’s mindset and wellbeing at home. As soon as the date is confirmed, we will share further details.



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




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

17 th Apr	24 th Apr
R SB 96.80%	R SB 99.11%
½ SP 96.33%	½ BP 98.85%


Here. Everyday. Ready. On time.

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


17 th Apr	24 th Apr
5 MW/LC 98.33%	3 KK/SH 96.58%
4 JB 97.60%	5 MW/LC 96.06%




WPS House Points




1400



1425



1457



1232

[Weeks ending 17th & 24th April]

Contact Us



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Honeypot Pre-school - Manager Kate Van Dort

honey_pot@willingham.cambs.sch.uk | 01954 201567

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 mленk@willingham.cambs.sch.uk who will be able to offer support and advice.