



# The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 22nd May 2026

**Issue 14**

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**Headteacher's Message**



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a glorious summer day to finish the half term on.

As you will probably have read in my letter earlier this week, the last half term has been a particularly busy period for the school as we ensure our staffing structure continues to support the high-quality education and care we want for all children at our school. Because of this, the half term seems to have flown by.

A special mention must go to our fantastic Year 6 cohort, who completed their SATs last week with great maturity, resilience, and positivity. We are incredibly proud of the way they approached the week.

As in previous years, the final half term of the school year is packed with exciting events, including Sports Days, swimming, and a range of end-of-year activities. Another important focus at this time of year is transition.

In this newsletter, you will find resources to support children moving from Honeyptot into Reception. Preparing children for school is a national priority and one we are delighted to share with parents and carers. Please do speak to our staff if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's transition in more detail. We will also share further information about the start of the new school year after half term (both in writing and the meeting on 10th June).

Transition to secondary school is equally important, and work with our secondary partners has already begun. This will continue throughout Summer 2 through PSHE lessons, whole-class discussions, and targeted support for pupils who may need additional guidance and reassurance.

For the rest of the school, we will share information about class teacher allocations for our 14 classes later in June, and we look forward to our annual "Jump Up Morning" in July.

Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, however, we still have seven wonderful weeks of this school year to enjoy together.

Until then, I hope you all have a restful, sunny, and enjoyable half-term break.

Best wishes,

Miss Paalanen



## Key Dates & School Notices

### School Calendar:

**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]*

Hilltop Residential Parent/Carers Information Evening *[5.30pm, New Hall]*

WSA After-school Swimming Sessions open *(Weather permtting)*

**Thu 04 Jun:** MiniMe Mindfulness Workshop for Pupils

MiniMe Mindfulness Parent Training and Information Session *[New Hall, 2.30pm]*

**Fri 05 Jun:** MiniMe Mindfulness Workshop for Pupils

WSA Pre-loved Unifrom Sale *[2.50-3.30pm]*

**Mon 08 Jun:** Year 6 Residential to Bushcraft **depart**

**Wed 10 Jun:** New Reception Sept 2026 In-take Parent/Carer Information Meeting *[6pm, New Hall]*

**Fri 12 Jun:** Year 6 Residential to Bushcraft **return**

**Mon 15 Jun:** Year 6 Catch Your Breath Workshop *[9.30-12pm]*

**Tue 16 Jun:** Year 6 Catch Your Breath Workshop *[9.30-12pm]*

Reception trip to Wicken Fen

**Wed 17 Jun:** Key Stage One Sports Morning *[9.30-11.30am, School Field]*

**Thu 18 Jun:** Key Stage Two Sports Morning *[9.30-11.30am, School Field]*

**Fri 19 Jun:** WSA 'Not Just for Father's' Day Event *[Lunchtime & 3pm sessions]*

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**Sat 20 Jun:** Honeypot Pre-school Open Morning and Stay & Play Session for Sept 2026 starters

**Tue 23 Jun:** New Reception Sept 2026 Stay and Play session *[1.15-2pm, Reception Classrooms]*

**Wed 01 Jul:** Year 5 Residential to Hilltop **depart**

**Fri 03 Jul:** Year 5 Residential to Hilltop **return**

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**Sun 05 Jul:** WSA Fen Gallop & Summer Fete at the Ploughman Hall and Recreation ground in Willingham

**Tue 07 Jul:** Rocksteady Concert for Parents/Carer of Band Members [1-3pm, New Hall]

Years 5 & 6 Performance of 'Scheherazade' [Evening, New Hall]

**Wed 08 Jul:** Years 5 & 6 Performance of 'Scheherazade' [Evening, New Hall]

**Thu 09 Jul:** Years 5 & 6 Performance of 'Scheherazade' [Evening, New Hall]

**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

WSA Quiz Night (18s Only) - **Save the Date** - more details to follow soon

**Wed 15-Thu 16 Jul:** Swavesey Village College Induction Days for Year 6

**Fri 17 Jul:** Last day of the Academic Year - **No After School Club - all pupils to be collected at 3.15pm**

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

Please use this link for dates of 2025/26 & 2026/27 academic year - <https://www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=164>



**THE  
FEN  
GALLOP**  
FAMILY RUNNING FESTIVAL

## School Notices:

### Warming weather expected:

As the weather gets warmer, please apply sun cream to your child before school and ensure they bring a named sunhat for break and lunchtime.

We would also like to remind parents that open-toed shoes or sandals should not be worn to school, as they can increase the risk of injuries during playtimes and outdoor activities.

### Illnesses through school:

We have recently noticed a return of sickness/diarrhoea across the school community.

To help reduce the spread of infection, we kindly remind all families that children must remain off school for a *minimum of 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea* before returning to school. In addition, any child with a temperature or fever should also remain at home until they are *well enough* to return to school.

This guidance is important in helping us protect the health and wellbeing of all pupils and staff. We appreciate your support and cooperation in helping to keep our school community healthy.

Please be assured that the school continues to follow its daily cleaning procedures, *with particular attention given to high-contact areas and shared spaces.*

### MiniMe Mindfulness Parent Session:

Following the email sent on Tuesday 19th May, please use the link below to book onto the parent session with our mindfulness coach, Kate Middleton.

Please [register here](#).

**MiniMe Mindfulness**  
Mindset Mentoring 4 Kids

**Kate Middleton**  
Franchisee & Mindset Mentor

Helping pre-school and primary school children build their internal superpowers with Positive Mindfulness and Mindset Techniques in a fun and innovative way. **07946 514504**  
[minimemindfulness.co.uk](http://minimemindfulness.co.uk)

WINNER  
CLUB 100

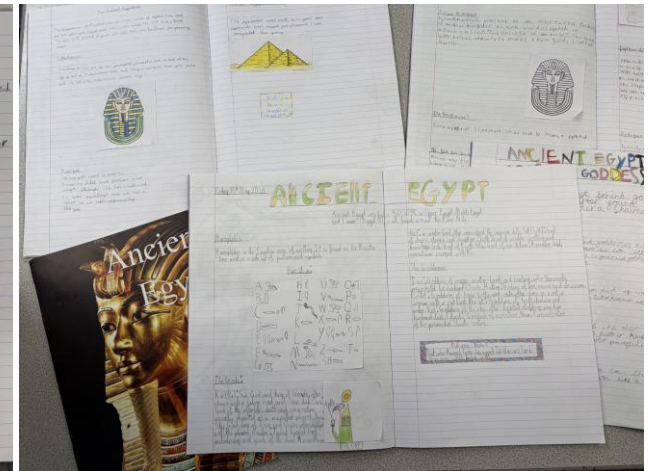
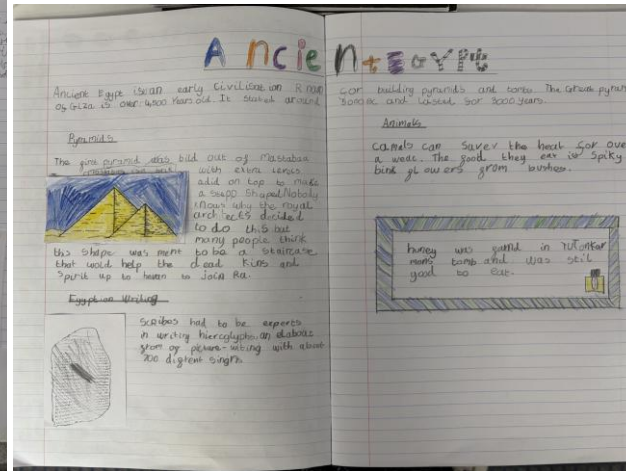
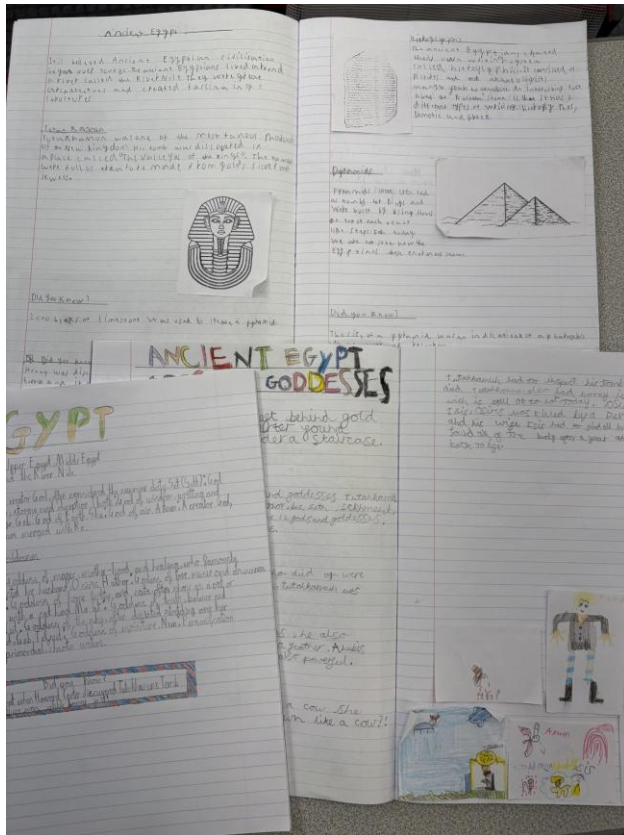
SM  
news  
STRENGTH & COURAGE AWARDS  
Children's Wellbeing  
Business of the Year 2023

ghp  
WINNER  
NUTRITIONAL  
AWARDS

MiniMe Mindfulness

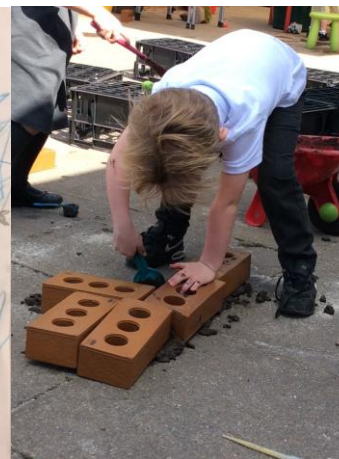
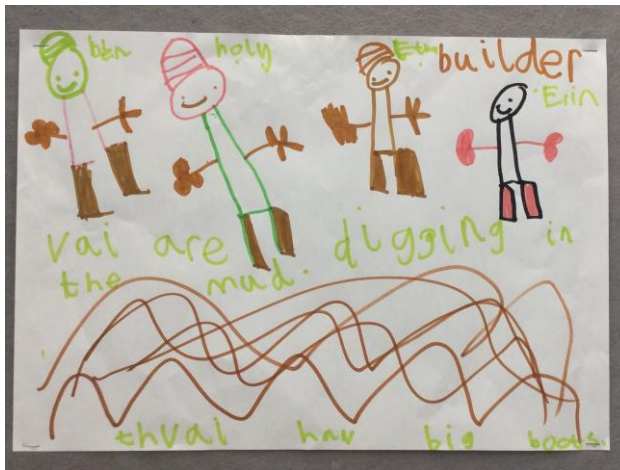
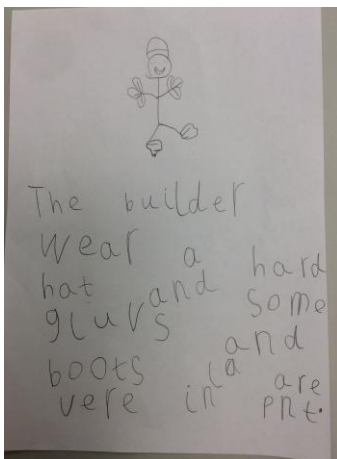
# Non-Chronological Superstars

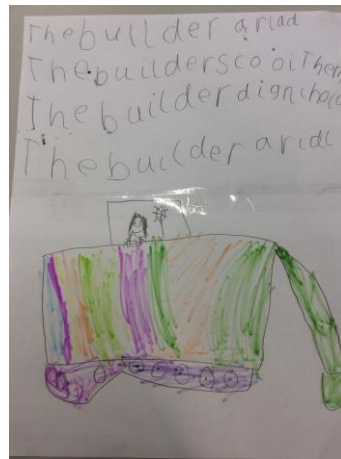
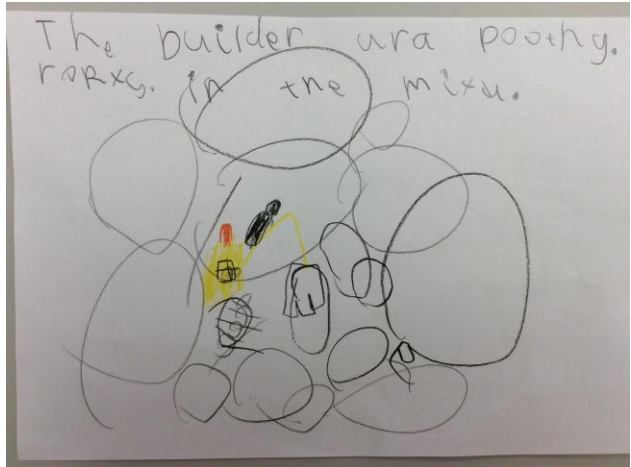
This week, the children in Year 3 have been busy creating fantastic non-chronological reports, showcasing all the interesting facts they have discovered about the ancient Egyptian civilisation. From learning about pharaohs and pyramids to exploring mummification and Egyptian gods, the pupils have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout their learning. They have especially loved using their publishing books to present their work neatly and creatively, taking great pride in their finished reports. Well done, Year 3, for your excellent effort and impressive historical knowledge!



## Building Our Curiosity

Our Reception Classes have loved watching the building work so far this term. They have been inspired to build their own buildings and do some fantastic pieces of writing!





## Tiny Hands: Planting and Baking

The HoneyPot children have been busy learning about the life cycle of plants. They explored how seeds grow into plants and had a wonderful time planting their very own sunflower seeds. We're excited to watch them grow over the coming weeks!

To link our learning with something hands-on (and delicious!), the children also worked together to bake blueberry muffins. They enjoyed measuring, mixing, and, of course, tasting their creations.



## Ready, Steady, Reception



Starting school is an exciting milestone, and there are simple things you can do at home over the coming months to help your child feel confident and ready. As we look ahead to your child starting Reception in September, we'd like to share a selection of helpful links and resources to support a smooth and positive transition into school life.

[50 Things to do before their 5](#)

[Starting Reception - Help get your child ready](#)

[School Uniform](#)

**Willingham**  
Primary School  
**Uniform**

**Official School  
Uniform  
Supplier**

**Order Online**  
Fast order turnaround

Scan the QR code to shop **your** uniform directly

[www.schooltrends.co.uk](http://www.schooltrends.co.uk)

Order before **July 21<sup>st</sup>** and get 15% off with code: **FRESH26**

Trusted Quality School Approved Great Value

The advertisement features a stack of folded school uniforms in white, blue, dark blue, red, and green. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the main text area.

## Getting Creative at After School Club



One of our regular ASC attendees saw this huge laptop trolley box in the school and thought it would be a great playhouse. The ASC staff rose to the challenge and with the help of some of the children, got creative. It isn't finished, but you get the idea.

This has led to us introducing junk modelling at ASC, with that in mind we would love you to save your recycling for us over half term, we are welcoming small boxes, yogurt pots, plastic bottle tops, small drinks bottles etc (please could these be washed and dry) Much appreciated the ASC team.

## WSA: Supporting Our School Together

### After School Swimming Sessions:

Following the email sent on this morning, we are excited to share that the booking link is now open for our After-school Swimming sessions.

Please note that places are **only** available to pupils of Willingham Primary School in years EYFS (reception) - year 6. Every Child must have a responsible adult poolside even those in Years 5 and 6 that might normally walk home alone.

Please familiarise yourselves and children with our [Pool Rules](#) and **be ready to make a splash!!**

### Volunteer opportunities:

The WSA have a full day of activities planned in the village on **Sunday 5th July 2026** to raise funds.

This year we will be focusing on playground apparatus since the pirate ship is no longer repairable. We'd love to see as many Honey-pot Pre-school and Willingham Primary School Families there enjoying the day. We do, however, need help to make it happen.

Volunteer opportunities for "Fen Gallop and Village Fete Sunday 5th July 2026" are now open. Please click on the following web link to go to the sign-up sheet: [volunteersignup](#). To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page - *It only takes a few seconds to do.*

*Thank you for your support, The Willingham School Association committee*

### Save the dates:

**Friday Ice cream Sale** - Every Friday after school from Fri 05 June - Fri 17 July

**Colour Run** - Sat 26 Sept



**We Need You! Join the WSA**

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE**

**WHO ARE WE?**  
A group of Parents & Carers and School Staff supporting a thriving school community

**OUR MISSION?**  
To enrich every pupils school experience with extra resources, equipment and learning opportunities

**WHY JOIN?**  
Contribute to your child's education, school environment and create a sense of belonging

**SEE YOU SOON**  
(Not just) Father's Day Event - Fri 19<sup>th</sup> June  
Fen Gallop & Summer Fete - Sun 5<sup>th</sup> July

## Consultation on Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) Policy

The school is currently consulting with the community on the proposed Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy. The draft policy can be accessed here: [RSE draft Policy](#) The policy has been developed in collaboration with the PSHE Service, who provide the school's PSHE curriculum.

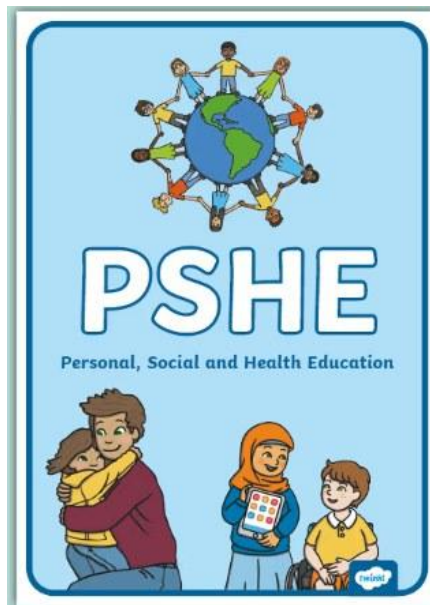
Parents and carers are also invited to review the [PSHE and RSE curriculum overviews](#) for each phase of the school:

- **EYFS Curriculum**
- **Year 1 & 2 Curriculum**
- **Year 3 & 4 Curriculum**
- **Year 5 & 6 Curriculum**

If you have any questions, comments, or feedback regarding the policy or curriculum, please submit them using this Microsoft Form: [Consultation on the Relationships and Sex Education Policy – Fill out form.](#)

Following the consultation period, the policy will be reviewed before being presented to the Curriculum Governing Committee for ratification.

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback.



## Active School Travel Survey

Dear Parent/Carers

**Take part in this survey to share your experiences of walking, wheeling, or cycling to primary school, and what could make it better**

Our school has agreed to take part in a project about walking, wheeling and cycling to school.

The survey is run by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), Britain's largest social research organisation. NatCen are running the survey for Active Travel England, who work to make walking, wheeling and cycling a safe and attractive choice for everyday trips.

The online survey should take around 10 minutes and should be completed by **31st August 2026**. To take part, please use the following link: [https://survey.natcen.ac.uk/mriWeb/mriWeb.dll?I.Project=P2042601\\_MAI\\_V1&i.user1=122756](https://survey.natcen.ac.uk/mriWeb/mriWeb.dll?I.Project=P2042601_MAI_V1&i.user1=122756)

### Please note:

- Taking part is your choice.
- There are no right or wrong answers.
- You can complete the survey once for each child in reception, year 1, year 5 or year 6.
- Your child does not have to regularly walk, wheel or cycle to school for you to take part in the survey.

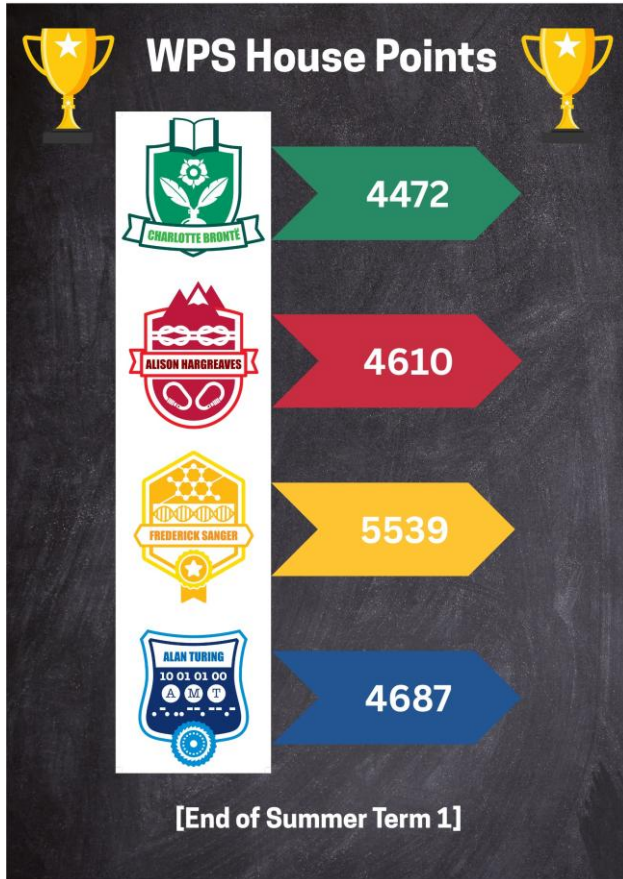
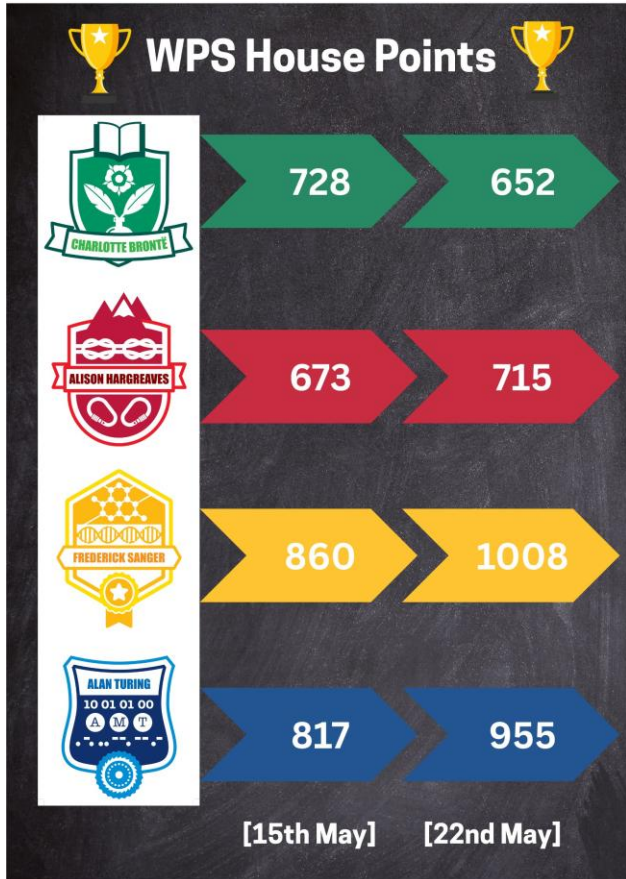
### What will I be asked?

- How you travel to school.
- What helps or makes it hard to walk, wheel or cycle to school.
- What you think about changes to help children travel actively to school.



*If parents at your school have any questions about this survey, or have trouble accessing the survey, please contact the evaluation team at 0808 168 1356 or via email at [ASTSurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:ASTSurvey@natcen.ac.uk)*

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



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

15 <sup>th</sup> May	22 <sup>nd</sup> May
½ BP 98.62%	½ SP 97.04%
R MB/CP 97.93%	½ BP 96.17%

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

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

15 <sup>th</sup> May	22 <sup>nd</sup> May
5 MW/LC 99.33%	6 HM/NMu 98.15%
4 CP 98.46%	4 CP 97.86%

## Borras Construction Update

Borras Construction are currently completing the brickwork up to Finished Floor Level (DPC level). The floor reinforcement has now been installed, and we are currently awaiting the concrete delivery for the floor slab.

The concrete will be left to cure over the bank holiday weekend, and works will resume on Tuesday with the continuation of the brickwork and blockwork. Scaffold installation is planned for the next couple of weeks.

During the school holidays, we are also planning to install ducting near the main hall to allow the new building to be connected to the existing building for electricity and data services. This work will involve the temporary removal and reinstatement of some paving slabs.



## Contact Us

Willingham Primary School - Headteacher Mona Paalanen

[office@willingham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@willingham.cambs.sch.uk) | 01954 283030

Honeypot Pre-school - Manager Kate Van Dort

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