



# The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 19 June 2026

**Issue 15**

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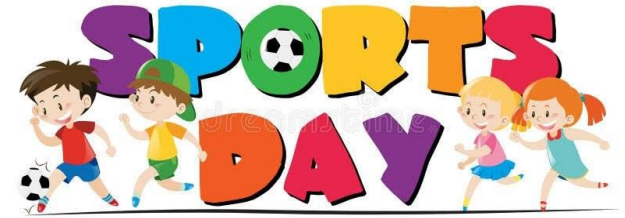
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## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you to everyone who came along to support Sports Mornings this week. The spectators truly make the event, and it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces cheering on the children. Your encouragement helps create such a positive atmosphere and makes the event even more special for everyone involved, so thank you!



As you will see below, construction of the WPS Hub is progressing well. The walls are now being built, and the roof is due to be installed next week. It has been fascinating to watch the building take shape before our eyes, and I know many of the children, particularly those at Honeypot, have been amazed by the transformation.

On other news, we have been reviewing our Self-Regulation and Behaviour Management Policy in preparation for September. This work has included strengthening the way we identify and support children, who need additional help to manage the demands of the school day and regulate their emotions. We will be sharing the updated policy with parents and carers for consultation in September.

As many of you will know, we describe our approach to behaviour as both warm and strict. Alongside clear expectations and support, we want to ensure that we have meaningful ways to recognise and celebrate the many children who demonstrate our school values of kindness, integrity, and hard work every day, and who consistently strive to be the best version of themselves. With this in mind, we are introducing WPS Postcards as a new way to celebrate positive behaviour and achievements. This initiative was launched this week with a postcard design competition, which you can read more about below.

I would also like to give you advance notice that the Full Governing Body will be reviewing the start of the school day at its meeting on 9 July. This is to ensure that we meet the Department for Education expectation of providing a minimum 32.5-hour school week. To comply with this guidance, we are proposing that the school day begins five minutes earlier, with the first bell at 8:35am and the second bell at 8:45am. Subject to approval by the Governing Body, we will confirm any changes via a whole-school email.

The weather forecast looks wonderful this weekend, so I hope you are able to enjoy some time outdoors with family and friends. Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Miss Paalanen

## Key Dates & School Notices

### School Calendar:

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

WSA Ice cream Sale *[3pm, outside school office & top of school field]*

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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]*

**Fri 26 Jun:** Music Assembly by Playground Proms *[11am, New Hall]*

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

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

WSA Pre-loved Uniform Sale *[from 2.50pm, outside school office]*

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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/Carers of Band Members *[1-3pm, New Hall]*

Years 5 & 6 Performance of 'Scheherazade -Tales of the Arabian Nights' *[New Hall at 6pm]*

**Wed 08 Jul:** Years 5 & 6 Performance of 'Scheherazade -Tales of the Arabian Nights' *[New Hall at 6pm]*

**Thu 09 Jul:** Years 5 & 6 Performance of 'Scheherazade -Tales of the Arabian Nights' *[New Hall at 6pm]*

**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

**Mon 13 Jul:** Music Celebration Assembly *[2-3pm, New Hall]*

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

WSA Quiz Night (18s Only) *[7pm, The Bank Micro Pub]*

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



**Fri 17 Jul:** Year 6 Leavers Assembly for Year 6 Parents [9.30am, New Hall]

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 2026/27 academic year - <https://www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=164>

### 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 sun hat 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 play times and outdoor activities.

#### Early Summer Holidays:

We understand that some families choose to take holidays during term time to take advantage of lower travel costs. If you are planning to do this, please let the school office know in advance and complete a [Term Time Leave of Absence form](#) so that our records are accurate.

#### 'Scheherazade -Tales of the Arabian Nights':

Gentle reminder for parents/carers to order their initial 2 tickets for our upcoming performance. If you have any queries, please contact Georgia Warburton directly - [gwarburton@willingham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:gwarburton@willingham.cambs.sch.uk).

General sale tickets will available on Monday 22nd June, an email will be shared when the link reopens.

#### Menu change on Fri 17 Jul:

Please note, that the school lunch menu will be different on Friday 17 July as we celebrate our Year 6 Leavers' Lunch.

Our Year 6 pupils have chosen their favourite meal from **Week 2, Day 2** of the school menu. The options available on the day will be:

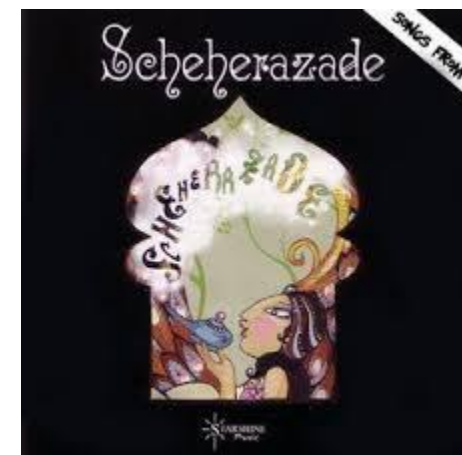
- **Hot Main Meal:** BBQ Pizza Pinwheel
- **Hot Vegetarian Meal:** Margherita Pizza Pinwheel

*Served with baked wedges, peas & sweetcorn*

- **Alternative Option:** Pasta Twists

*with a choice of tomato or cheese sauce, salad and chunky bread*

If you would like your child to have lunch on this day, please ensure you book their school meal through Pupil Asset. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to celebrating this special occasion with our Year 6 pupils.



# WPS Postcard Competition



## Postcard Competition

At WPS, we are proud to celebrate the positive behaviours our children demonstrate both at school and within the wider community. In line with our Behaviour and Self-Regulation Policy, we already use a range of rewards to recognise these achievements. We would now like to introduce WPS Postcards as an additional way of celebrating and sharing positive behaviour.

To launch this initiative, we are inviting pupils across the school to take part in a competition to design the first set of postcards that will be printed and used by WPS.

We encourage designs that reflect our school values of kindness, integrity and hard work, or our key drivers of active participation, equitable success and improvement.

If you would like to enter the competition, please complete your design within the space provided and return this sheet, along with your details, by **Friday 26th June 2026**.

Please ensure that your design stays within the allocated space.

Name of the pupil: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the pupil to draw their postcard design within.

As part of our ongoing work to recognise and celebrate positive behaviour, we launched the WPS Postcard Competition with pupils this week.

The aim of the postcards is to provide another way for us to acknowledge children who consistently demonstrate our school values and positive behaviours. We want the postcards to help us celebrate the everyday acts of kindness, integrity, hard work, improvement and participation that make a difference to our school community.

You can download the competition sheet here or pick up one from the school office, if your child would like to take part at home.

**Completed entries should be returned by Friday 26th June.**

Copies are also available on the school website - <https://www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=Parents&pid=7&action=saved>

## Active School Travel Survey

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Thank you for taking part in this survey by 31 August 2026**

**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.

More information about the project and what taking part involves can be found in the [Taking part page](#), [privacy notice](#) and [plain English privacy notice](#).

You can also email [ASTSurvey@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:ASTSurvey@natcen.ac.uk) or call 0808 168 1356 for more information.



## Ready, Steady, Reception

**Tue 23 June - 1.15-2pm**

### **EYFS Stay and Play session with Parents**

*Parents to arrive via the school office. Children **attending** Honeypot on this day, they will be brought to the Reception Classroom to meet you. Children **not** attending Honeypot on this day or who attend other settings, are to arrive with parents.*

**Fri 26 June**

### **Deadline of Data Collection forms**

*Please return your Data Collections forms, including end-of-day collection arrangements & applications for Wraparound Care, to the school office by 3.30pm. This helps with getting your child prepared on our school portal, ready for their start in September.*

**Fri 10 July**

### **'Getting Ready for School' session**

*You will be notified in advance whether your child is attending the morning or afternoon session. If your child attends Honeypot on this day, they will be brought to their session by the pre-school team. Children that do not attend Honeypot on this day or who attend other settings, are to arrive via the school office, once they have received confirmation of their child's session.*



## WSA: Supporting Our School Together

### After School Swimming Sessions:

The WSA are delighted to have reopened the school pool for after-school swimming sessions this Summer Term (weather permitting).

- Open to Willingham Primary School pupils in Reception (EYFS) to Year 6. Sessions run every weekday after school, except Thursdays.
- Every child must have a responsible adult poolside even those in Years 5 and 6 that might normally walk home alone.
- Spaces are limited, so please book early. By booking, you agree to the pool rules.
- Bookings are non-refundable unless a session is cancelled by the WSA. If you can no longer attend, let us know as soon as possible.

To book, please use the link below

<https://willingham-school-association.sumupstore.com/product/swimming-after-school-session-3-25pm-4-25pm>

### Fen Gallop Volunteers Wanted Sunday 5th July 2026:

With the Fen Gallop and Village fete fast approaching on Sunday 5th July 2026 we are asking if anyone has any spare time to help make it happen? We would be very grateful for any support you can offer. This is a big fundraiser for the school, but it is only possible if we have enough volunteers.

It such a fun day for the whole family, so why not come and help out for a short while and then stay and enjoy the music, stalls, activities and goodies on offer!

<https://volunteersignup.org/X9F7K>

### Easy Funding Raising App:

We're calling on all parents and carers this summer to help Willingham School Association fundraise. There's a really simple way you can help without donating anything - simply get the easyfundraising app! It's completely free and when you use it to do your normal day-to-day shopping with 8,000+ online retailers, we'll receive a free cashback donation, AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU. Even better, if you get the app and become our supporter this week, we get a £3 bonus donation just for inviting you.

Use the link below and install the app on your mobile device, then fill in the simple steps to become our supporter for free. This will make a huge difference!

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeId=82320&utm\\_campaign=summer-parent-power&utm\\_source=pmc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=SPPemail1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeId=82320&utm_campaign=summer-parent-power&utm_source=pmc&utm_medium=email&utm_content=SPPemail1)

Thanks for your support

**Not Just for Father's Day event:**

A huge thank you to everyone who attended this afternoon's Father's Day key ring making event! It was wonderful to see so many children getting creative together.

A special thank you to our amazing Year 6 children for helping the WSA, encouraging the younger children to get involved, and making the afternoon such a success.

We hope all of our father figures—and everyone celebrating this weekend—have a wonderful, sunny weekend! ☺



## National Thank a Teacher Day - Wed 17 Jun



As part of National Thank a Teacher Day, the WSA invited families to share messages of appreciation for our wonderful school staff. We were delighted by the many kind words received and wanted to share a few of them below. Thank you to everyone who took the time to recognise the dedication, care and hard work of our amazing team.

- *Love being a part of the WPS community!*
- *To the wonderful teachers and support staff at Willingham Primary School, On National Thank a Teacher Day, we just wanted you to know how much you mean to our family. So much of what you do happens in the small moments — a patient word on a hard morning, a bit of encouragement exactly when it's needed, a lesson taught with real care. They might feel ordinary to you, but they're the very things that quietly shape a childhood. Thank you for everything you've given my children. You've helped them grow not just in what they know, but in who they're becoming — kinder, braver, and more at home in themselves. To you they may be three children among so many; to us, the way you've looked after them means the world. We know how much of your work goes unseen, and how rarely you hear it back — so please hear it now: it matters more than you know, and none of it is ever wasted. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. With our deepest thanks.*
- *Thank you office team for all the plasters, all the calpol, and for always helping my child when he needs it over the past 5 years 🙏 I'm sure over that time you have had a lot of tears from him and a lot of moans 😊*
- *Dear Honey, Thank you for making learning so fun, For being a safe space, For inspiring me to become better, For guiding me into the right direction, For helping me grow, For pushing me to be the best version of myself. Thank you for your patience, your care and your support through our time at pre-school!*

## MiniMe Mindfulness Summer Camp

Hey Everybody!

I can't believe it is a week ago that I was delivering workshops across the whole school! Where has the week gone?! The rest of the half term will no doubt move at such a speed with all the exciting things that the Summer term brings. The next thing you know, it'll be the Summer holidays!

With this in mind, I am sharing details of the Summer holiday camps that I am running at **The Pavilion in Cottenham** in the holidays. There are 4 dates:

**Thursday 6th August**

**Friday 7th August**

**Tuesday 1st September – Professional Training Day**

**Wednesday 2nd September – Professional Training Day**

I have thoroughly enjoyed the time I have spent so far exploring our Superpowers that support children in knowing how to support their mental health and well-being with the children at Willingham. They have all got to spend a short time with me which is fabulous.

These camp days are a wonderful opportunity to go a bit deeper and not only explore games and stories as part of the activity but with more time, we are able to get involved in arts and crafts to support understanding; a mindful activity in itself and a great chance to get creative with the concepts!

I would love to welcome some of the children from Willingham to our delightful MiniMe Camp family. If this is of interest, for more information and to book, please see the booking details on the flyer. I will see you all in September when I am back at Willingham to explore the Superpower of BELIEF.

With gratitude,

Kate

**AGES 5-11**

**Holiday Camps**

**Cottenham Pavilion**  
9am-4pm

kate@minimemindfulness.co.uk

**Calm. Confidence. Resilience.**  
Supporting children with tools they can use for life.

We teach powerful mindfulness and mindset techniques in a fun and innovative way. Through Mentoring 4 Kids by Kids™ meditations, movement, stories, games and creative activities.

**MiniMe Mindfulness**  
Mindset Mentoring 4 Kids

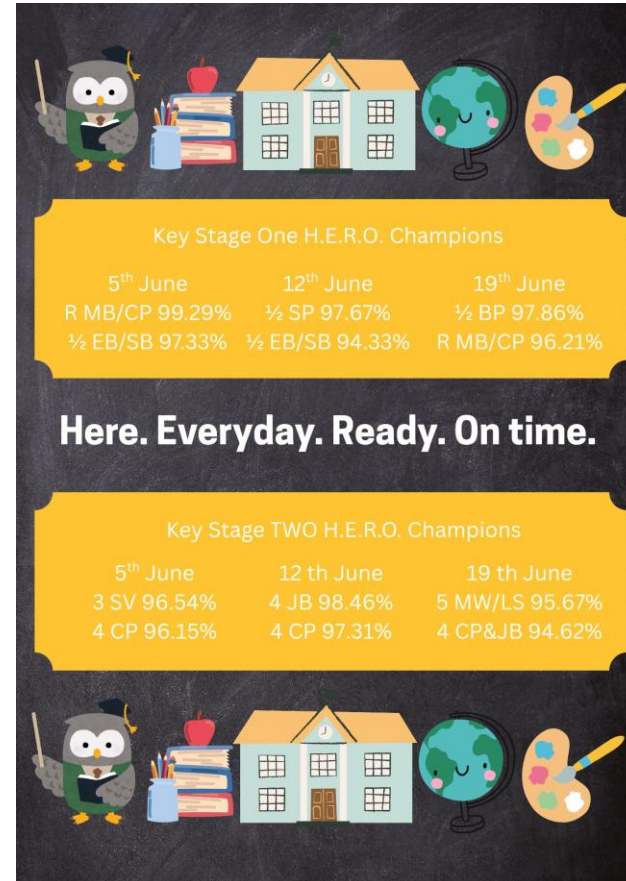
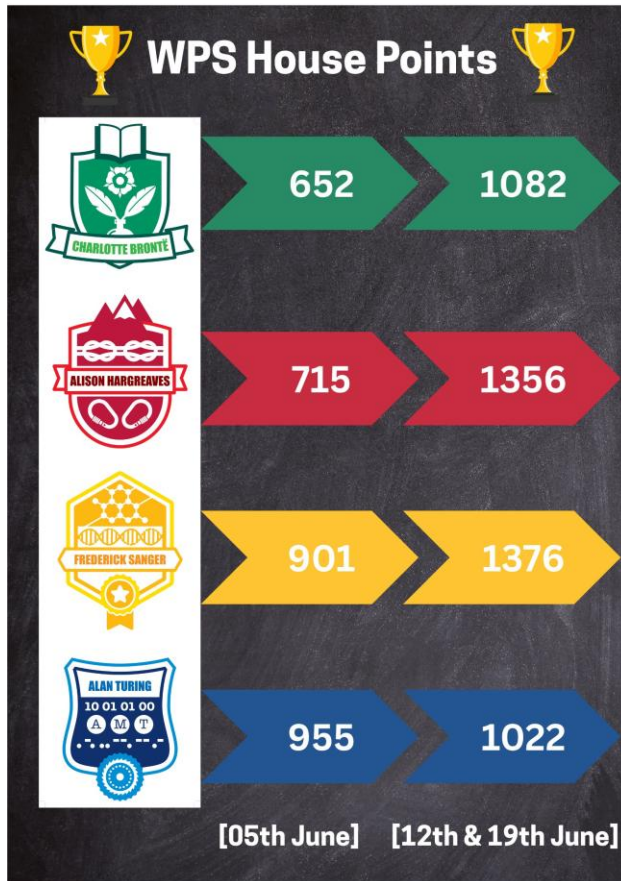
**Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Sept - £40**  
**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept - £40**  
**Both £75**

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Aug - £40**  
**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Aug - £40**  
**Both - £75**

**BOOK ONLINE:**

10% discount for additional siblings  
[cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk](http://cambridge.minimemindfulness.co.uk)

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



## Borras Construction Update

We are currently awaiting delivery of the roof materials, scheduled for Monday 22 June at 9:30am. In the meantime, works are progressing with the installation of the second lift of scaffolding.

Roof installation is due to commence on Monday and subject to weather conditions and programme requirements, we anticipate the roof will be completed, made watertight, and the solar panel installation substantially completed thereafter.




## WOW Tech Summer Camp

 Introducing the **NEW & IMPROVED WOW Camp – the Tech Camp SUPERCHARGED!**

Get ready for our biggest and most exciting summer yet, packed with live science shows, inflatables, VR, robotics, laser tag, Minecraft & Roblox workshops, DJing, movie making and much more.

 Ages 5–11

OFSTED registered

 Safe, trusted and fully staffed

Plus, all activities are delivered by specialist instructors, bringing even more energy, expertise and WOW moments to every day.

Visit our website for dates, venues and booking information - [www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)



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