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## Headteacher's Corner

Dear Parents/Carers,

The first few weeks of the new academic year have flown by. It has been wonderful to see the children return with such enthusiasm and positivity, and I have been particularly impressed by how quickly they have settled into their new classes and routines. Our new starters in the pre-school, reception and across the school have also had an excellent beginning, demonstrating confidence, curiosity and a willingness to embrace new experiences.

During these first few weeks, we have dedicated time to revisiting our school rules, expectations and routines.

**Establishing these strong foundations helps to create a calm, safe and purposeful environment where all children can thrive.** The children have responded extremely well, and it has been lovely to see them demonstrating our school values in classrooms, around the school and on the playground.

Over the summer, **our Self-Regulation and Behaviour Management Policy was reviewed and updated.** We are committed to ensuring that our approach continues to support all children effectively and reflects best practice. We welcome feedback from our school community, and a consultation on the new policy is now open. Please take the opportunity to read the updated policy and share your views using the link below.

As we start the new academic year, I would also like to highlight the invaluable work of the Willingham School Association (WSA). The WSA works tirelessly to raise funds that directly benefit our children, including subsidising educational visits and experiences that would otherwise be considerably more expensive for families. Their support makes a real difference to what we can offer our pupils.



The WSA is currently looking for new members to join its committee. Becoming involved is a fantastic way to support the school community, meet other parents and carers, and help shape the events and fundraising activities that benefit all of our children. I would warmly encourage anyone who is interested to consider getting involved, please email [willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com) to register your interest. The more people who can contribute, the more we can achieve together for our school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to working with you all throughout the year ahead.

Best wishes,

Miss M Paalanen





## In the Diary..

### September

**Fri 18** - Mini Mindfulness Class Workshops

Parent workshop - Mini Mindfulness [2.45-3.15pm, New Hall]

**Sat 26** - WSA Colour Run & Fun Day - School Field

**Thu 24** - Swavesey Village College - Year 6 Open Evening [Presentation starts at 5pm]

**Tue 29** - Parent/Carer Consultations Evening **Reception - Year 6** [3.30-6pm, New Hall]

Northstowe Secondary College - Year 6 Open Evening [Presentation starts at 5pm]

**Wed 30** - Parent/Carer Consultations Evening **Year 6 only** [3.30-6.20pm, New Hall]

### October

**Thu 01** - Parent/Carer Consultations Evening **Reception - Year 5** [3.30-6.20pm, New Hall]

Cottenham Village College - Year 6 Open Evening [Presentations start at 4.30pm & 5.15pm]

**Tue 06** - Reception Parent Curriculum Presentation Evening [3.30-4.30pm, New Hall]

**Wed 07** - WSA Committee Meeting [11.30am-1pm, Meeting room at school]

**Fri 16** - WSA Halloween Movie Night [Arrive at 5.50pm, Film starts at 6pm]

**Thu 22** - Last day of Autumn Half Term 1

**Fri 23** - Professional Training Day - School & Preschool closed

**Mon 26-Fri 30** - Half Term Break - School & Preschool closed

**Sat 31** - WSA Halloween Bingo [2-4pm, New Hall]

### November

**Mon 02** - Resume of Autumn Term - School & Preschool reopen

**Fri 13** - Individual School Photos

**Fri 27** - WSA Winter Wonderland

### December

**Fri 18** - Last day of Autumn Term

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

**WSA UPCOMING EVENTS**



**26 SEP**

**COLOUR RUN & FUN DAY**  
TRAIN RIDES, BOUNCY CASTLE,  
PRE-LOVED CLOTHING SALE & STALLS

**16 OCT**

**HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT**  
INCLUDING A SWEET TREAT & SOFT DRINK

**31 OCT**

**HALLOWEEN BINGO**  
COSTUME COMPETITION & RAFFLE

**27 NOV**

**WINTER WONDERLAND**  
CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES AND STALLS

**08 DEC**

**CHRISTMAS QUIZ**  
AT THE BANK MICROPUB (18+ ONLY)

**11 DEC**

**CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT**  
INCLUDING SWEET TREAT & SOFT DRINK

How to sign up: Scan the QR code and complete the customer details with **your child's name** to book a place





## Worth Knowing..

- **Our New School Start Time**

A friendly reminder to families about our updated start-of-day arrangements. To ensure that we meet the Department for Education expectation of providing a minimum **32.5-hour school week**, our school day will begin **five minutes earlier**.

-  **Classroom Doors Open: 8:35am** – children can come into school, settle in and get ready for the day.
-  **Classroom Doors Close: 8:45am** – the register is taken and learning begins promptly.
-  **After 8:45am** – children arriving after the classroom doors have closed will be marked as **late**.

We understand that mornings can sometimes be busy, but every effort to arrive on time makes a real difference. **Thank you for helping us give every child the best possible start to their school day!**



- **A Gentle Reminder for Families with Dogs**

We kindly ask families bringing dogs to school to be mindful of children who may feel frightened or anxious around dogs.

For the safety and comfort of all our children, **dogs are not permitted within the school gates**, including at drop-off and collection times. We appreciate your support in keeping dogs outside the school grounds and giving children plenty of space as they arrive and leave school.

- **Consultation on the Self-Regulation and Behaviour Management Policy**

The school is currently consulting the community on the [Self- Regulation and Behaviour Management Policy](#). The policy has been slightly adjusted from our previous policy and we wanted to consult on it to ensure that parents and carers can have the opportunity to share their opinions.

[We'd love to hear from you - use this link to share your comments, thoughts and queries.](#) The policy will be further reviewed following any feedback from the community before it will be ratified in the next Curriculum Governing Committee.



## School Council - Visiting the New Build

Our school council representatives were excited to be invited into the currently unfinished new building. This is located around by the reception classrooms and Honeypot Pre-school. As a school council, we couldn't let ourselves have all the fun, so here is a summary of the information that we got!

First, we went inside, just for a view of the building, they were very busy plastering when we looked around. Then we asked some questions about the building and this is what we found out: the construction will be finished in November, so we will be able to use the building before Christmas. There are several different energy efficient features: heat pumps, solar panels and it even has acoustic panels, so rooms don't make horrible echoes. Then we followed Chris, the Site Manager, into the bathroom facilities which offer unisex toilets and baby changing facilities for any babies or pre-schoolers using the building.

I hope you found this useful and we look forward to updating you as the building gets close to completion.

*Willow (on behalf of the School Council)*

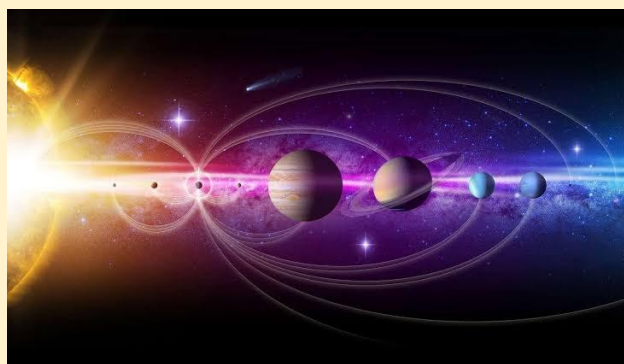


## New Term, New Start

### Year 5 have made a fantastic start to their new classes!

Pupils are thoroughly enjoying their new topics, exploring the wonders of the solar system, the geography of California, and the history of Arabia. Budding artists have been unleashed too, with pupils producing wonderful abstract art inspired by Kandinsky — do look out for their striking owl portraits on display in the corridor.

Behaviour has been excellent, with pupils setting a great example for others to follow. *Well done, Year 5!*





## Building Progress: We're under cover!



Borras Construction is pleased to confirm that plastering works to all internal walls have now been completed, marking another significant milestone in the project. Once the plaster has fully dried, the walls will receive their mist coat application, providing the necessary preparation for subsequent decoration works.

Following this, we will progress into the next phase of the project, with second-fix mechanical and electrical installations and carpentry works commencing. This will include the installation of internal doors, toilet cubicles and associated fixtures and fittings.

The project continues to progress in line with the planned programme, with the team maintaining focus on delivering the works safely and to a high standard.



## Willingham School Association

### Help Us Build a New Playground!

We're raising funds for exciting new playground equipment, including a trim trail, to give every child at Willingham Primary School more opportunities to play, explore and thrive.

Playtime is about so much more than fun. Active outdoor play supports children's mental health and wellbeing, helps pupils with SEND regulate and refocus, and provides valuable opportunities to develop social skills, confidence and resilience. It's also where friendships grow and some of childhood's happiest memories are made.

Every donation, big or small, will help us create a stimulating and inclusive outdoor space that benefits all our children for years to come.

Thank you for supporting our school community!

👉 **Donate to JustGiving:** <https://www.justgiving.com/charity/willinghamschoolassociation>

*"Helping our children climb higher, play together and create lifelong memories."*

**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**  
Colour Run Event – 11.30am | Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Sept  
WSA Committee Meeting – 11.30am | Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Oct

**GET INVOLVED. SHARE IDEAS. VOLUNTEER OR ATTEND AN EVENT**  
EMAIL US: WILLINGHAMSCHOOLASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM

**Willingham School Association:** [willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com)

**Co Chairs:** Fleur Tarpey & Sarah Morgan

**Facebook:** [Willingham School Association](#)



## After School Activities

With the start of the new term, we have some exciting after-school activities for our WPS children to join. Please use the link below to book your child's place, and be sure to confirm home arrangements with the activity leaders.

### Primary Sports Stars

- KS2 (Y3-6) Football on a Monday 3.15-4.15pm
- KS2 (Y3-6) Dodgeball on a Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm
- KS1 (Y1-2) Multi-Sports on a Thursday 3.15-4.15pm

### Mini Me Mindfulness

- Y1-6 Mindset Mentoring for Kids on Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm

### Studio Fogg

- KS1/2 Acro Dance on Thursday 3.20-4.15pm
- KS1/2 Ballet on Thursday 4.30-5.15pm





The Willingham Scoop – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2026

## Get In Contact

 **Willingham Primary School** - Headteacher: *Mona Paalanen*

For general enquiries, attendance and school information

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

 **Honeypot Preschool** - Pre-school Lead: *Kate Van Dort*

For preschool enquiries and admissions

**01954 201567** | [honeypot@willingham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:honeypot@willingham.cambs.sch.uk)

 **Wraparound Care**

For bookings and enquiries

Breakfast Club - [abarnes@willingham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:abarnes@willingham.cambs.sch.uk)

After-School Club - [woosc@willingham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:woosc@willingham.cambs.sch.uk)

 Thodays Close, Willingham, Cambridge, CB24 5LE

 <https://www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk/>

## We're Here to Help

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.



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.