The Willingham Scoop – Friday 13th November 2026

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Headteacher's Corner

Dear Parents/Carers,

The completion of our new WPS Wraparound Hub is a moment of real celebration for our school community. What we see today is the result of months of construction work, but in truth, this project has been many years in the making. Developments of this scale do not happen overnight and rely on the commitment, perseverance and vision of many people along the way.

First and foremost, we would like to thank previous members of the school's leadership team, particularly Mr Morel, who successfully applied for the original funding grant and initiated this project more than eight years ago. His foresight laid the foundations for what has now become a reality.

We would also like to thank our governors, whose determination and persistence ensured that this project remained a priority. Their continued support helped maintain momentum and encouraged both the school and the Local Authority to keep driving the project forward.

Our thanks also go to the Local Authority project team, the architect and, of course, Borras Construction, whose professionalism and expertise have delivered a fantastic new facility for our children. In particular, we would like to recognise Chris Bell, Borras Construction's Site Manager, who is featured in the accompanying photograph. Chris has been an invaluable source of support throughout the build, patiently explaining each stage of the construction process, offering practical solutions to challenges and helping us keep the school community informed of progress. Thanks to his excellent management of the site, disruption to the day-to-day life of the school was kept to an absolute minimum, with the site remaining secure throughout the project.

A special thank you must also go to Jo Aldhouse, our long-standing School Business Manager, whose support and commitment have been instrumental throughout the planning and delivery of the project.

Finally, I would like to offer our sincere gratitude to our own Site Manager, Jon Thorley-Wraight. Quite simply, this project would not have succeeded without him. His extensive knowledge of the school grounds, buildings, underground services, cables and soakaways proved invaluable at every stage. Jon's expertise, dedication and knowledge have been irreplaceable throughout the process.

Together, all of these individuals have helped create something special for Willingham Primary School. The new WPS Wraparound Hub will enhance the provision we can offer to children and families, from

Pre-school through to Year 6, providing flexible, high-quality spaces, that will benefit our community for many years to come.

The work is not quite finished yet. Our next steps include furnishing the new library and the additional space that will be used both for wraparound care and by classes during the school day. We look forward to bringing these areas to life over the coming weeks. We are also hoping to invite representatives from across our community to a formal grand opening in January, giving us the opportunity to celebrate this achievement together and showcase the wonderful new facilities, that so many people have worked so hard to create.

Best wishes,

Miss M Paalanen





In the Diary..

November

Fri 13 - Individual School Photos

Mon 16 - Year 6 & Reception Weights & Measures Checks

Odd Socks Day for start of Anti Bullying Week

Wed 18 - Book fair in school library *[3.15-4.15pm]*

Thu 19 - Book fair in school library *[3.15-4.15pm]*

Fri 20 - Deadline for WSA 'Design a Christmas Bauble' Competition

Mon 23 - Whole school Nasal Flu Vaccine

Book fair in school library *[3.15-4.15pm]*

Tue 24 - Book fair in school library *[3.15-4.15pm]*

Fri 27 - WSA Winter Wonderland *[4.30-7.30pm, Primary School]*

December

Fri 04 - Deadline for WSA Coloured Hamper donations

Tue 08 - Reception 'Whoops -a-Daisy Angel' Performance [Doors open at 9.30am]

Nasal Flu Vaccine Mop up

WSA Christmas Pub Quiz *[The Bank Micropub, 7pm, 18+ Only]*

Wed 09 - WSA Festive Wreath Making Workshop *[7.30-9.30pm, Old Hall]* ***SOLD OUT***

WSA Hamper Draw

Thu 10 - Reception 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' Performance *[Doors open at 2.15pm]*

Fri 11 - WSA Christmas Movie Night *[Arrive at 5.50pm, Film starts at 6pm]*

Tue 15 - Rocksteady Parent Concert *[2.30pm, New Hall]*

Fri 18 - Christmas Jumper & Chirstmas Lunch Day

Last day of Autumn Term - ***No Breakfast Club or After School Club***

End of Aut Term Newsletter

Mon 21 Dec - Fri 1 Jan *- Christmas Break - School & Preschool closed*

January

Mon 04 - Professional Training Day

Tue 05 - Start of Spring Term - School & Preschool reopen

Wed 13 - Reception Vision Screening

Fri 22 - Young Voices at the O2

School Notices



Odd Socks Day - Mon 16 Nov

We will be kicking off **Anti-Bullying Week** by taking part in Odd Socks Day! We encourage all children to join in by wearing a pair of odd socks with their usual school uniform. They can be bright, colourful, patterned or completely different from one another! Odd Socks Day is a fun way to celebrate what makes us all unique and to remind us that it's okay to be different. Let's start Anti-Bullying Week by celebrating our differences, spreading kindness and showing that **we are all wonderfully unique!** We can't wait to see all the colourful combinations!

Please Keep to the Track on the School Field

With the recent damp weather, the field and grassy areas off the playground are becoming very soggy and muddy. Unfortunately, this mud is then being walked into school, making it difficult to keep our carpets clean and presentable.

We kindly ask that all parents/carers and children to **please stick to the designated track when crossing the school field and avoid walking on the grass** during drop-off and collection times.

Donations Wanted – After School Club

Our After School Club is looking for donations of **good-quality, pre-loved toys and games** to help keep the children entertained and having fun! If you have any of these items at home that are no longer being used and are in good condition, we would love to give them a new home!

We would be very grateful for any of the following items:

- Barbie dolls and accessories
- Baby dolls and accessories
- Doll buggies and prams
- Play dinosaurs, farm animals and zoo animals
- Toy tills, play money and play food
- Toy hoovers, cleaning trolleys and other role-play toys
- Dressing-up clothes
- Toy cars and garages
- Orchard Toys games
- Top Trumps



Remembrance Day - Sunday Service



On Sunday, 8th November a number of children from Willingham Primary School took part in the Remembrance Service at St Mary and All Saints' Church in Willingham. During the first part of the service, where the Roll of Honour is read aloud and the two minutes silence takes place, some of our Year 6 house captains laid a wreath on behalf of the school and the preschool. Inside the church, children from across the school joined Mrs Sutton at the front of the church, where they sang our special Remembrance song, "We Will Remember". All of the children who took part were a real credit to the school and were very respectful during the service. Many people told Mrs Sutton how much they enjoyed the children's singing too.

Pudsey visited WPS!!

We were delighted to welcome Pudsey for a visit yesterday. He came to say hi, thank us in person for raising money through RunPudsey and get everyone enthusiastic for Children in Need. He went into every classroom; waving his way through the school. The looks on the faces of the children showed that raising the excitement for Children in Need was a mission Pudsey accomplished! Thank you to everybody who is getting involved with Children in Need, Pudsey would be proud!

The visit was arranged in conjunction with BBC Radio Cambridgeshire who asked a small group of Year 5s and 6s, what they thought of the Pudsey visit, as well as recording the Christmas Countdown for the breakfast show. We will be the first school on the Christmas Countdown so tune in at 6:20am and 8:20am on the 1st December to hear the recording played on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire; kicking off their entire Christmas Countdown series.



Thank you everyone that joined in our Spotty Pudsey day on Thursday. It was great to see everyone creations of spots through the school, *including the staff!!* **Our current count stands at £168.91** - Really shows that any donation, big or small can support anyone!

Learning through movement





Last half term, 5LS/CP looked at paired sequences in gymnastics. They focused on how to match, mirror, compliment and contrast with their partner whilst they travelled, balanced, jumped and rolled. We started with sequences on the floor before creating our own paired sequences on the apparatus.



Panathlon at SVC

On Friday 6th, a group of our Key Stage Two pupils attended a sporting event at Swavesey Village College. The children thoroughly enjoy taking part in all the activities and were very excited to share they came 2nd place!!

Great representation of Willingham Primary and we look forward to many more achievements to come.

Creations in DT

In their DT lesson, Year 4 were given the task of creating mechanical system slingshot cars.

We had to include a rubber band, wooden wheels, lollipop sticks, tubing and lastly masking tape. Everyone enjoyed making the cars. When we tested them out, the teacher gave us a sticky note to see what we could improve. - Ella F

Everyone liked the lessons and found it very interesting to make a car. It was quite fun and simple. - Sienna B



An interview with our School Council

Our school councillors interviewed another of out teachers this week. We spoke to Miss Parkinson, one of out Year 4 teachers, about her love of history, reading and yummy desserts!



Have you always been a teacher? If not what did you do before?
I trained to be an archaeologist and then worked as a Chaplain's assistant in a boarding school before becoming a teacher.

Why did you choose to teach and what is your favourite part of the job?
I love working with children and watching them learn, and my favourite part now is reading stories aloud at the end of the day.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy baking, especially macarons! I also love running, swimming, painting and knitting. My grandmother taught me how to knit, and I love painting landscapes. I've done some of churches to celebrate friends' weddings. I am especially inspired by my favourite artist, Kurt Jackson.

What was your favourite subject in school?
Definitely History.

Who is in your family, does it include any pets?
My family consists of my Mum and Dad, and I have a younger sister and brother. I haven't got any pets, but I think a parrot would be fun!

What is your favourite children's book?
My favourite is a book called 'The Little White Horse' by Elizabeth Goudge. I still enjoy reading it now.

What is your favourite food?
I love Tiramisu, an Italian dessert.

Which famous person, dead or alive, would you like to meet and why?
I would like to meet C. S. Lewis, one of my favourite authors, and ask where he got all his amazing ideas from.

Can you tell us a joke?!
What is another name for Santa's elves?
We don't know!
Subordinate Clauses!!!

Thank you for talking to us Miss Parkinson, we loved hearing more about you and most of us agreed your desert island choices of a book and a huge bowl of Tiramisu sounded good, we probably wouldn't have bothered with your third choice of a toothbrush though!!!!

From the WSA

We have lots of festive plans coming up, and we would really appreciate your support with the following:

Christmas Jumper Donations

If you have any outgrown Christmas jumpers that are no longer needed, we would love to receive donations! Please ensure all jumpers are clean and in good condition so they can be enjoyed by another family.

Refreshments at School Performances

We are looking for volunteers to help support the WSA refreshment table at our upcoming parent performances, including the Reception Nativity and Rocksteady Concert. Whether you can spare a little time to help serve refreshments or support with preparations, every bit of help makes a difference! Please make contact with the details below, to find out the dates needed.

Teddy Donations for Winter Wonderland

We are collecting pre-loved teddies to use as prizes for our popular Teddy Tombola at the Winter Wonderland Christmas Fair! If you have any cuddly friends at home looking for a new home, we would be very grateful for donations. Please ensure all teddies are clean and in good condition.

Join the WSA Team – Members Needed!

Have you got any fresh ideas to help enrich our pupils' school life and help make special moments and experiences for them? We are always looking for new committee members and volunteers to join our friendly WSA team. With our exciting **Winter Wonderland event** coming up, now is a great time to get involved, share ideas and help make it magical!

Sign up to volunteer here:
https://volunteersignup.org/AXL9A



Willingham School Association:
willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com

Co Chairs: Fleur Tarpey & Sarah Morgan

Facebook: Willingham School Association

Get In Contact

Willingham Primary School - *Headteacher: Mona Paalanen*

For general enquiries, attendance and school information

01954 283030 | 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

Wraparound Care

For bookings and enquiries

Breakfast Club - abarnes@willingham.cambs.sch.uk

After-School Club - 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 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.

