



# The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 28th November 2025

**Issue 5**

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## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As with many organisations, school life is filled with development priorities. Once an objective has been set and actions taken to achieve it, we reach the most rewarding stage of the cycle: monitoring the impact of our work and celebrating the progress being made.

At WPS, our teaching practice has for many years been rooted in the principles of cognitive science. A key element of this is retrieval practice. Retrieval practice involves giving pupils regular opportunities to recall and revisit prior learning. The purpose is not to test them, but to strengthen their memory, helping them retain key knowledge over time so they can make stronger connections in their future learning.

This week, Mrs Walker and I started gathering pupil voice linked to retrieval practice as part of our monitoring. It was fantastic to hear pupils speak confidently about how these activities help them remember what they learned in previous units of work. They were able to recall knowledge and vocabulary they had been taught and later retrieved. Their reflections showed a real understanding of why we use retrieval practice and how it supports their learning. For teachers, retrieval practice offers another opportunity to assess and identify any gaps in pupils' knowledge that may need addressing as we move through the curriculum.

We are incredibly proud of the way our pupils engage with these strategies and of the dedication shown by staff in embedding them across the school. Together, they are helping to build strong, confident learners who are well prepared for the next steps in their education.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes, Miss Paalanen



## Key Dates & Notices

### School Calendar:

**Fri 28th Nov** - Newsletter

WSA Christmas Event [5-7.30pm] **After School Club held in Honeypot Building**

**Mon 1st Dec**- Book fair in Library [3.15-4.15pm]

**Tue 2nd Dec**- Year 2 Trip to the Polar Museum [Group 1 **2BP** & Group 2 **2EB/SB**]

Book fair in Library [3.15-4.15pm]

**Fri 5th Dec**- Year 1 Trip to the Polar Museum [Group 3 **1JE** & Group 4 **1SaP**]

WSA Pre-loved Uniform Sale [3-3.30pm]

**Tue 9th Dec** - Reception 'The BIG Little Nativity' Performance [from 9.30am]

**Wed 10th Dec**- Reception 'The BIG Little Nativity' Performance [from 2.30pm]

**Fri 12th Dec** - WSA Christmas Movie Night [doors open 5.50pm, films start 6pm]

**Tue 16th Dec**- Carol Service at St Mary's and All Saint Church [Reception - Year 2 from 9.30am | Years 3-6 from 10.50am]

**Fri 19th Dec**- Last day of Autumn Term - **No After School Club**

Christmas Jumper Day & Traditional Christmas Lunch - *see note below*

End of Term Reports

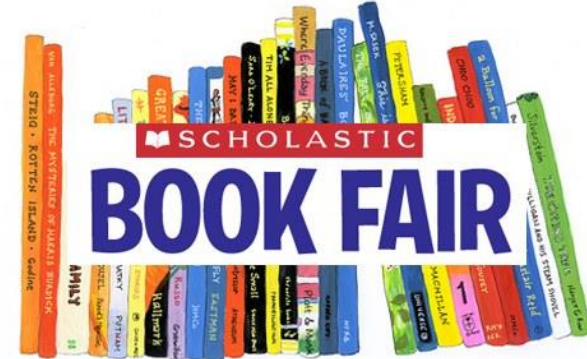
Newsletter

**Mon 22nd Dec 2025 - Fri 2nd Jan 2026 - Christmas Break [School and Pre-school Closed]**

**Mon 5th Jan - Professional Training Day [School and Pre-school Closed to pupils]**

**Tue 6th Jan - School and Pre-school open for Spring Term - Breakfast and After School Clubs resume**

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



## LUNCHTIME CO. WEEK 1 MENU

WEEKS: 03/11, 24/11, 15/12, 19/01, 09/02, 09/03

HOT MARKET RESTAURANT

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Paprika Marinated Chicken served with Savoury Vegetable Rice	Pork Sausage in a Crusty Bun served with Jacket Wedges, Crispy Salad Sticks & a Selection of Sauces	Beef Bolognese with Pasta served with Seasonal Vegetables	Roast Chicken served with Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, Carrots, Cauliflower and Gravy	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers served with Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans & Ketchup
MEAT FREE	Cheese & Tomato Bori served with Savoury Vegetable Rice	Quorn Sausage in a Crusty Bun served with Jacket Wedges, Crispy Salad Sticks & a Selection of Sauces	Vegetable Bolognese with Pasta served with Seasonal Vegetables	Cheese & Potato Pie served with Yorkshire Pudding, Carrots, Cauliflower and Gravy	Vegetable Nuggets served with Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans & Ketchup
PASTA & JACKETS	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad	Pasta Twists with Tomato or Cheese Sauce served with Fresh Salad and Chunky Bread	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad	Pasta Twists with Tomato or Cheese Sauce served with Fresh Salad and Chunky Bread	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad
DESSERTS	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Apple & Winter Berry Crumble Fruity Jelly Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Jam & Coconut Sponge Fruit Yoghurt & Coulis Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Oat & Raisin Cookie Fruity Jelly Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Caramel Mousse with Bananas Fruit Yoghurt & Coulis Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Vanilla Icecream & Fruit Sauce Fruity Jelly Fresh Fruit Pot

Making lunchtime the highlight of your day







pudseythanks.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk

### EYFS 'The BIG Little Nativity':

A gentle reminder for parents of Reception children that tickets for the performance on **Tuesday 9th December** are still available. Please use the link shared in your emails to place your order.

### Roast Dinner Thursday:

Please note that The Lunchtime Company will be serving the **Friday meal options from Week 1 of the school menu** on Thursday 18th December, due to the Traditional Christmas Dinner being served on Friday 19th December.

### Children In Need:

Thank you for all donations made on Friday 14th November, for participating with wearing odd socks to school for the day. We are pleased to share that together, we raised a total of **£323.45!**

### Winter Weather – Outdoor Clothing and Labelling:

As we move into the winter months, please ensure your child brings appropriate clothing to wear outside during break and lunchtime each day. Please also make sure that **all** uniform items, PE kit, coats, and any other clothing are clearly **named**. We currently have a large amount of unnamed lost property. Named items can be returned to your child quickly, but **unnamed**, unclaimed items may need to be placed in the second-hand uniform sale.

## Dave and his amazing Wonderdome Planetarium!



This Wednesday, Years 1 and 2 and Years 5 and 6 had a very special visitor in school: **Dave and his amazing Wonderdome planetarium!**

In the morning, Years 5 and 6 were treated to a fascinating journey through the Solar System, travelling out into galaxies far, far away. Pupils explored the relative sizes of the planets, discovered just how ginormous the Sun truly is, and learned why Pluto is classified as a dwarf planet. This visit complemented their science learning perfectly, building on their previous unit on *Earth and Space*.

At the end of the session, the pupils had the opportunity to ask questions, and we were incredibly impressed by the depth of their knowledge—a brilliant example of active participation and engaging with learning beyond the classroom.

In the afternoon, Years 1 and 2 visited the planetarium as part of their pre-learning for a history unit on *The Space Race*. Some fun introductory activities helped pupils get used to the dome environment before they were shown the planets and examples of space flight. They “flew” to the Moon and even explored different habitats and animals across Earth—an exciting way to link their prior knowledge to new experiences and to nurture their sense of wonder.

**A huge thank you to the WSA for funding this experience**—we are sure the children will be talking about it for days to come!

## Year 4 Rock Stars!

On 27th November, Year 4 visited the Sedgwick Museum to consolidate and extend their knowledge of all things rocks. We observed mesmerising minerals - the building blocks of rocks - as well as rocks from outer space and the top of Mt. Everest!

All of the children represented Willingham brilliantly and returned with more knowledge and appreciation for the humble - or not so humble - rock.!



## House Points Update from Our House Captains

Every week, we publish the house points in the school newsletter. The job of counting the merits falls to our dedicated House Captains, who explained their role as follows:

**“Every Thursday lunchtime we go from class to class, counting the merits for our house and recording them in our House Captain books. When we walk round, we're always proud of the merits our house has earned. Mrs Price's class always has loads! Every Friday, we announce the results in assembly and love seeing the reactions of the children—especially the younger ones!”**

When a house wins first place, the Captains use the following announcement:

**“Congratulations, [house]! With [total number] merits, we came 1st. We are so proud of your efforts this week. Remember, effort always leads to success. Keep up the hard work, and well done to all the other houses. Have a great weekend – Go [house]!”**

The Captains also shared what merits mean to them:

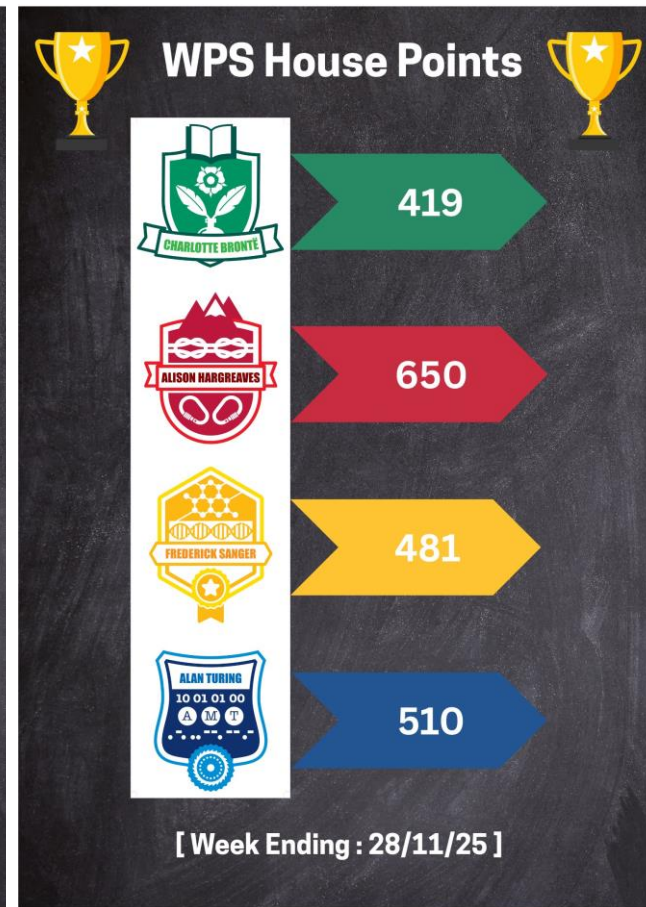
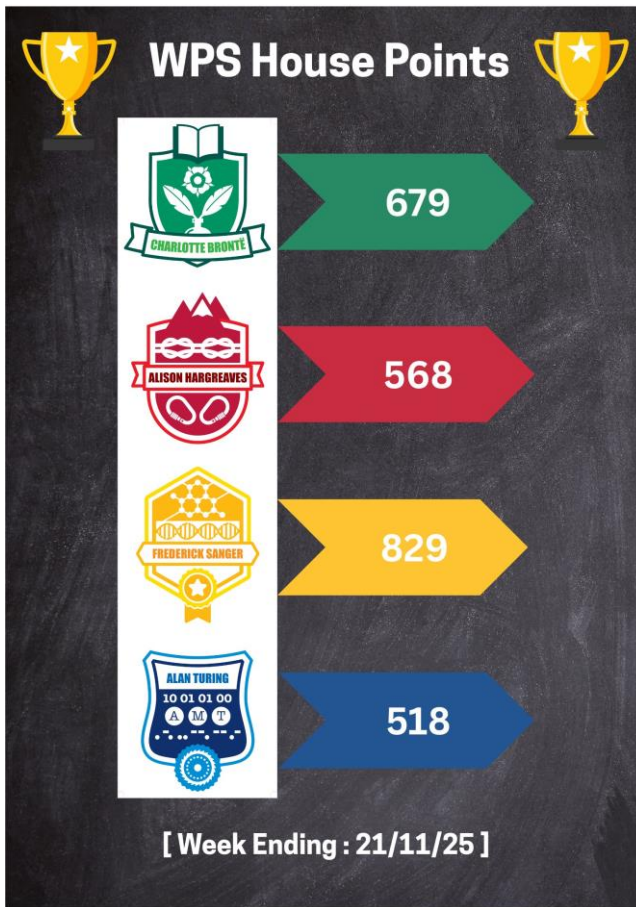
**“Merits make people feel happy.”**

**“Merits make us want to do the work – it encourages us.”**

**“It's rewarding, that sense of pride when we get a merit.”**

In the words of the House Captains: **“Every merit counts!”**





## H.E.R.O Bears

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

Key Stage One

½ EB/SB	½ SaP
91%	90.69%

[ H.E.R.O. Bear Champions - week ending : 21/11/25 ]

Key Stage TWO

2ChP	5MW/LC
96.67%	95.86%



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

Key Stage One

RSoB	RMB/CP
98.41%	94.84%

[ H.E.R.O. Bear Champions - week ending : 28/11/25 ]

Key Stage TWO

3KK/SH	6HM/NMu
96%	95.19%



## Talking Christmas with BBC Cambridgeshire Breakfast

Wednesday 3rd Dec at 06:25 and 08:25 - The Christmas Countdown interviews with them for The Dotty Mcleod Breakfast Show on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire.

Please feel free to share this with families so they can listen in and enjoy the festive fun!

### Ways to listen:

- 95.7FM / 96FM
- DAB Digital Radio
- on your smart speaker, just say "Play BBC Radio Cambridgeshire"
- on the BBC Sounds app

Thanks again for such a warm welcome at Willingham Primary School, it was a joy to visit, and I hope you all enjoy hearing the finished piece on air.

Festive thanks!

Josh, Dotty and the rest of the team

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire

The logo for BBC Radio Cambridgeshire is displayed on a solid purple rectangular background. The text "BBC RADIO" is in a white, sans-serif font, with each letter of "BBC" contained within its own white square. Below this, the word "Cambridgeshire" is written in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font.

**B B C** RADIO  
**Cambridgeshire**

# Online Safety - Slang

At The National College, our mission/aim is to guide, engage and equip parents, teens and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE SLANG

Slang moves fast – and for many young people, it's not just how they talk, but how they share their identity and feelings. Learning key terms helps adults connect and show understanding, even if the lingo seems baffling at first.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION**  
Words like "rizz" or "slaps" can be misunderstood by adults, leading to awkward moments or a breakdown in trust. These phrases often carry subtle social meanings among young people.

**RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS**  
Slang changes quickly & even the best might sound confused one week and be misquipped the next. This makes it easy for adults to not believe and for children to mishear.

**SHIELDING BULLYING OR EXCLUSION**  
Hidden jokes and trending terms like "rizz" or "NPC" can be used to mock or exclude others. Adults who lack the terms might unintentionally reinforce social divisions or bullying.

**PERFORMING FOR THE ALGORITHM**  
Slang often reflects what's popular on platforms like TikTok. Young users might exaggerate or act out for likes, creating online personas that don't match their real selves.

**CONTENT MODERATION WITH CODED SPEECH**  
To avoid content filters, young people sometimes use slang or emojis to talk about serious topics – for example, saying "swear" instead of another deity's name. This makes harmful content harder to spot.

**LONG-TERM DIGITAL FOOTPRINT**  
A slang "drip" post might seem funny now but could resurface years later during job checks or university applications – possibly out of context, but still damaging.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

**KEEP UP, DON'T CATCH UP**  
Follow youth culture pages or ask your child about new slang. Staying informed shows them you're engaged and open to understanding their world.

**FOCUS ON CONNECTION OVER CONTROL**  
Being someone your child can talk to is more valuable than using strict limits or monitoring apps. Openness builds trust.

**ASK, DON'T INTERROGATE**  
Use open questions to invite conversation, you're not quizzing them – just trying to learn more about their online lives.

**ENCOURAGE CRITICAL MEDIA LITERACY**  
Talk about where slang comes from, how it spreads, and how it can impact others. This helps young people use language more thoughtfully.

**ONLINE SLANG CHEAT SHEET** – The following slang terms are common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list and both meaning and prevalence can change easily.

**COMMON SLANG:**

- Rizz** - Independent, self-reliant (often male) mindset; proud outsider status.
- Clout** - Obsession with motivational messages.
- Skibidi** - Nonsense word from the viral "Skibidi Toilet" meme; expresses chaos or fun.
- Slaps** - Compliments but aggressive.
- Clap** - The collective audience or group of viewers (e.g. on a livestream). Used when addressing followers directly.
- Leak in** - To leak, reveal or get serious (e.g. before gaming or sports). Positive encouragement to concentrate.
- Coasting** - Doing something exceptionally well or gaining momentum. Opposite of "wasted".
- Rizz** - Charisma or flirting ability (short for charisma). Can imply social confidence.
- Aura or aura farming** - One's perceived "energy" or vibe; "farming" means manufacturing about.

**POTENTIALLY CONCERNING SLANG**

- Reg** - An adult content creator (e.g. OnlyFans). Indicates exposure to 18+ material.
- Spill or spill** - Reckless exclamation about someone's backside. Objectifies appearance.
- Trendline meme** - Humorous but possibly "tongue-tongue" - referring to AI-generated creations with "tongue-tongue" names. Can bring chaos, denial, dismissal, and harass others.
- Stealing** - Oversteering or obscuring something (streamer or celebrity).
- Crash out** - To lose control, give up or have a meltdown; sometimes hints at self-harm.
- Cooked** - Ruffled, intoxicated or in serious trouble; sometimes mental health-related.
- Swear** - Euphemism for death or suicide; used to avoid content filters.
- NPC** - Used to suggest someone is lacking independent thoughts or is repetitive and predictable.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Keith Brink is a globally renowned email expert and the Editor in Chief of [emppedia.org](https://www.emppedia.org), the world's number one email resource. He has an MEd in Business Psychology from Liverpool College and an MBA from Queen's School of Business and Technology.

**Wake Up Wednesday**  
The National College

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## Contact Us

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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.

