



The Willingham Scoop

Welcome to our School Newsletter

Friday 03 July 2026

Issue 16

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Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your support during last week's heatwave. We want every child to be in school every day, so closing the school would always be an absolute last resort. Thankfully, we didn't have to take that precaution. While the warm weather continues, we would really appreciate your ongoing support by ensuring children come to school with water bottles, sun hats and sunscreen applied before the school day.

We now have the final two weeks of the school year ahead of us, and they will be full of exciting transition activities. One of the highlights is our Jump Up Morning, when children will spend time in their new classroom with their teacher for next year. The children already know who their new teacher will be and will be told which classroom they will be in, so please drop them off at their new classroom on the morning of the transition.

Over the past few weeks, we have also held two important whole-school assemblies. The first focused on water safety, and you'll find some useful resources below to help continue those conversations at home.

On Monday this week, we welcomed a visit from our local library to launch this year's Summer Reading Challenge – *Read to the Beat*. Registration opens from Saturday 4 July, and we encourage every child to take part in this fantastic national initiative. It's a wonderful way to keep reading over the summer holidays while having fun and earning rewards.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we look forward to a busy and enjoyable end to the school year.

Best wishes,

Miss Paalanen



2026 Summer Reading Challenge

READ to the BEAT

Explore music and sound this summer through amazing books and activities.

Complete this year's challenge and receive your very own 'Read to the Beat' medal and certificate!

Sign up for free at your local library from Saturday 4th July

Find out more here

Collect your special 'Read to the Beat' stickers from Sat 18th July

Cambridgeshire Libraries | IFS READING AGENCY | Summer Reading Challenge | Cambridgeshire County Council

The poster features a vibrant illustration of two children, a boy and a girl, standing on a stack of colorful books. The boy is playing a drum, and the girl is playing a guitar. Musical notes are floating around them. A QR code with the text 'SCAN ME' is located in the upper right corner, with an arrow pointing to it. A pink circular badge on the left side of the illustration contains the text 'Collect your special 'Read to the Beat' stickers from Sat 18th July'. At the bottom, there are logos for Cambridgeshire Libraries, IFS Reading Agency, Summer Reading Challenge, and Cambridgeshire County Council.

Key Dates & School Notices

School Calendar:

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

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WSA Preloved Uniform and Friday Ice Cream Sales *[From 3pm outside the school office & top of Thodays Close]*

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

Mon 06 Jul: Playground Proms Music assembly *[1.15-2.15pm , New Hall]*

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

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

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

Thu 09 Jul: Years 5 & 6 Performance of 'Scheherazade -Tales of the Arabian Nights' *[6pm 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 *[4.30-6.30pm]*

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

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

Bushcraft 2027 Online Parent Information meeting *[4.30-5.30pm]*

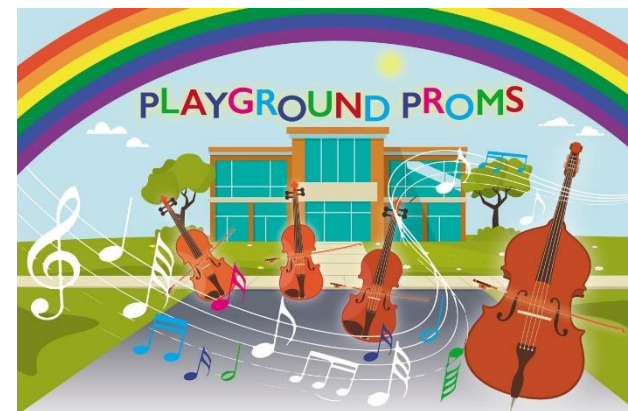
WSA Quiz Night (18s Only) *[Doors open 7pm, Quiz starts 7.30pm, The Bank Micro Pub in Willingham]*

Wed 15 Jul: Swavesey Village College Induction Days for Year 6 Day 1

Shakespeare Workshop for Year 5

Thu 16 Jul: Swavesey Village College Induction Days for Year 6 Day 2

Fri 17 Jul: Year 6 Leavers' Assembly inc Y6 Parents *[9.30am, New Hall]*



**THE
FEN
GALLOP**
FAMILY RUNNING FESTIVAL

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]

Mon 27 Jul - Fri 07 Aug: Summer 2026 Tech Camp at WPS [9am-4.30pm, for ages 5-11]

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>

New Academic Year 2026/27

Tue 01 - Wed 02 Sept: Professional Development Days [School and Pre-school Closed]

Thu 03 Sept: School and Pre-school Reopen - *Reception Group A attending with Group B remaining home*

Fri 04 Sept: *Reception Group B attending with Group A remaining home*

Mon 07 Sept: School and Pre-school open to ALL pupils



LEAVERS LUNCH

Friday 17th July

BBQ Chicken Pinwheels
or
Margherita Pinwheels

Served with Potato Wedges, Peas & Sweetcorn

Followed by
Chocolate Brownie
Jelly
Fruit Pots

LUNCHTIME CO!

School Notices:

Year 6 Leavers Party:

Please ensure that all **Behaviour Agreement/Consent Forms** are completed and returned to the school office by **Monday 6th July** for all pupils attending the party.

As the party will finish after **5:00 pm**, **all pupils must be collected by a responsible adult. No pupil will be permitted to walk home alone**, even if they would normally do so after school.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep all pupils safe.

'Scheherazade -Tales of the Arabian Nights' Performance:

Thank you to all that have supported our Year 5 & 6 classes with our upcoming performance. If you haven't already, please refer to your emails for the link to purchase your tickets. Currently there are;

- **24 available** for Wednesday Performance
- **30 available** for Thursday Performance

If you have any issues placing your ticket orders, please contact Georgia Warburton directly on gwarburton@willingham.cambs.sch.uk



Making a Splash in Swimming! 🏊

This half term, our children have thoroughly enjoyed their swimming lessons and have shown fantastic enthusiasm, determination, and confidence in the water. From learning essential water safety skills to developing new swimming techniques, every session has been filled with smiles, encouragement, and personal achievements.



Miss Parkinson Year 1/2:

"I like swimming because it was really hard for me to get the sinkies off the floor but now I can."

"My favourite thing about swimming is at the end when we get a blue ball and two yellow hoops. One hoop goes on each side and then you have to try and score in the other team's hoop"

"My favourite thing about swimming is when you go on your back."

"My favourite thing about swimming is that you get to do front crawl"

Mrs Keeble & Mrs Hazlehurst Year 3:

"it was really fun"

"it was a great activity to do in the summer when it was so hot"

"it was fun on Fridays when we had free time"

"I liked that we could do it for 2 weeks and it was really good in the heated pool"

"I liked it when we learned new skills"

"It was really nice to see everyone so happy"

Miss Pepper Year 4:

"I think I have improved with my swimming. I like swimming a lot."

"Really enjoyed swimming. Especially 'diving' down towards the pool floor to retrieve the sink sticks. I think I have improved my floating."

"It's cool that we can go swimming at school and our pool has a great temperature."

"It was fun. I learnt to float. I enjoyed the swimming lessons and activities."

Miss Mitchell Year 6:

"The water is very cooling on a hot day!"

"We learn about self-rescue and how to prevent drowning."

"I enjoyed wearing clothes in the pool when we learned about how to survive if unexpectedly falling in the water."

"We learned how to float on our backs if we were in a dangerous situation."

"We know to be very sensible around the pool."

"Overall, we had lots of fun in our last year!"

"Excellent fun: I was urging to get into the pool when I was on the side!"

A huge well done to all of our swimmers for their fantastic effort this half term. We look forward to seeing them continue to build their confidence, skills, and enjoyment of swimming in the future. Thank you to our families for supporting the children as they continue their swimming journey!

WSA: Supporting Our School Together

We still have a limited number of spaces available in our after-school swimming sessions.

If you would like your child to take part, please book their place as soon as possible using the link below:

 <https://willingham-school-association.sumupstore.com/>





WSA Newsletter

Making it happen - June 2026



Thank you! Here's what we raised

Sports Day Refreshments
Raised £460



Not Just Father's Day
Raised £148

After School Swimming
Raised £525



Friday Ice cream Sales
Raised £500

Total Amount Raised- £1633

Thank you to everyone who attended,
volunteered, shared and supported



Where's the money gone?

- ✓ Honeypot Leavers Gift & Face Painting - £415
- ✓ Year 6 Leavers contribution - £300
- ✓ EYFS Wicken Fen Trip - £780

Total invested back into school- £1495



Upcoming Events

Ongoing-

After School Swimming - 3.25- 4.25pm
Sessions available until 16th July

3rd July-

Pre-loved Uniform Sale
Ice Cream Sale

5th July-

Fen Gallop - 9-11.30am
Mini Sprint - 2.30pm
Village Fete - 11.30am-4pm

7th-9th July-

Pre-show refreshments for Years 5 & 6
Performance - doors open 5.50pm

14th July-

Quiz Night @ the Bank Micro-Pub -
doors open 7pm
Use QR code to book now



Save The Date

26th September-
Colour Run
[more info to follow]

Get Involved - However Small

Ways to support:

- volunteer at one event
- help set up or tidy
- donate raffle prizes
- share event ideas



Even ONE hour makes a difference

Contact Us

Questions, ideas or interested in volunteering?

Email: willinghamsschoolassociation@gmail.com



Follow us on Facebook

Be Water Safe



As the summer holidays fast approach, we were pleased to welcome a visitor to school this half term to deliver an important water safety assembly to all pupils. The assembly helped children understand how to stay safe around rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs, the beach, and swimming pools. They learned about the risks associated with open water, how to make safe choices, and what to do if they or someone else gets into difficulty.

We encourage all families to continue these important conversations at home before and during the summer break. You can find excellent advice to support your child by visiting Be Water Smart:

<https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire-services-to-schools/cambridgeshire-physical-education/be-water-smart>

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our children safe and informed this summer.

The Summer Reset – Supporting Parents of Neurodivergent Children

The summer holidays can be particularly challenging for neurodivergent families, with changing routines, sensory overwhelm and bigger emotions often leaving everyone feeling exhausted.

Local ADHD parenting expert Lauren O'Carroll (featured on Channel 5's *Does My Child Have ADHD?* and founder of Positively Parenting) is running two practical sessions to help parents approach the holidays with more confidence, calmer strategies and a plan that works for their family.

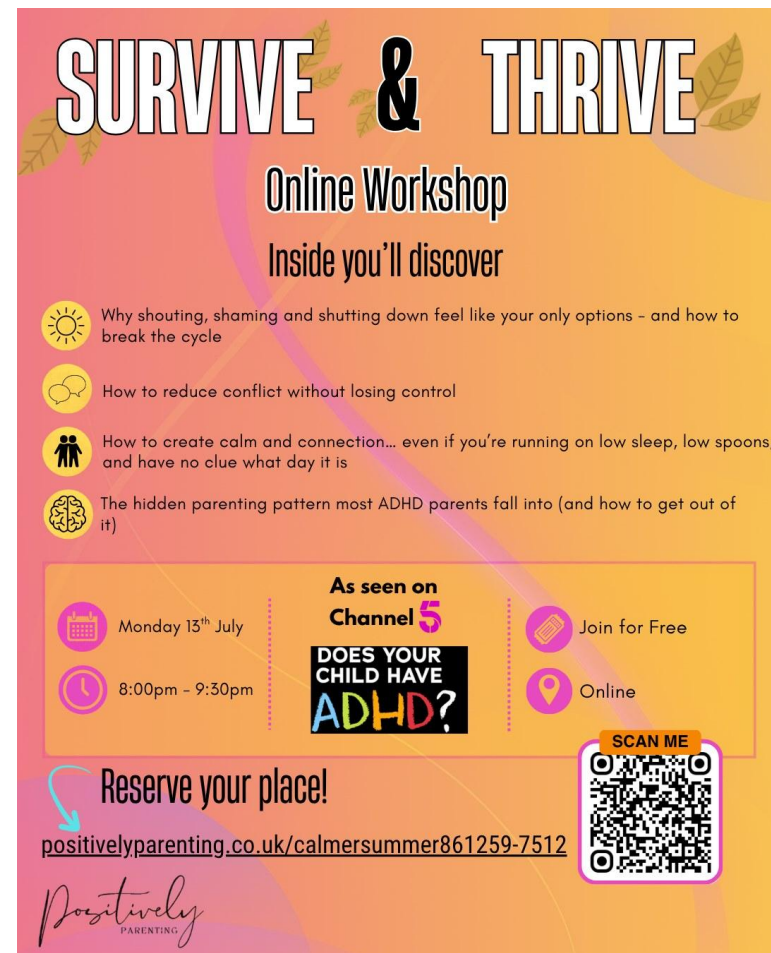
 **Free Online Masterclass:** Monday 13th July

 **Live Workshop (Histon):** Tuesday 14th July - More information on their website: [Positively Parenting](https://positivelyparenting.co.uk)

Find out more and book here:

[Summer Reset - Histon](#)

[Summer Reset online](#)



SURVIVE & THRIVE

Online Workshop

Inside you'll discover

-  Why shouting, shaming and shutting down feel like your only options – and how to break the cycle
-  How to reduce conflict without losing control
-  How to create calm and connection... even if you're running on low sleep, low spoons, and have no clue what day it is
-  The hidden parenting pattern most ADHD parents fall into (and how to get out of it)

As seen on Channel 5

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ADHD?

 Monday 13th July

 8:00pm – 9:30pm

 Join for Free

 Online

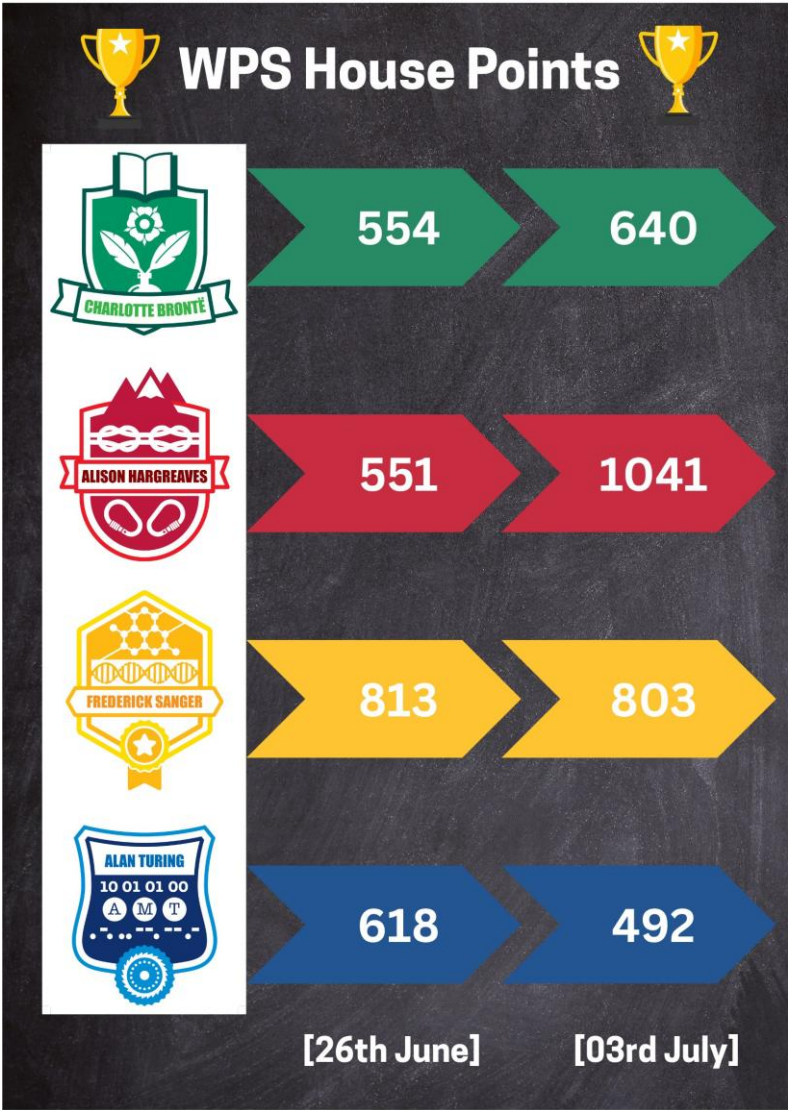
Reserve your place!

positivelyparenting.co.uk/calmersummer861259-7512



Positively
PARENTING

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



Borras Construction Update

We're pleased to share that the roof installation has now been successfully completed, with the gable brickwork also finished. Our team is currently installing the soffits and fascias, with the roofing contractors scheduled to commence work a week on Monday.

The project continues to progress well and remains on programme. We look forward to sharing further updates as work continues.



Summer Camps 2026

Summer Camp 2026



Willingham Primary School, CB24 5LE
27th July - 7th August | 9am - 4pm | Ages 5 - 11

Robotics Minecraft Science Shows & More!

TALENT
Dance & Gymnastics Academy
SUMMER HOLIDAY
DANCE & GYMNASSTICS CAMPS

Dance Camp
MONDAY 20TH JULY
OFFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
EYFS-YR6
8.30AM- 3.30PM
£29.00PP

Gym Camp
TUESDAY 21ST JULY
OFFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
EYFS-YR6
8.30AM- 3.30PM
£29.00PP

TO BOOK PLEASE VISIT
WWW.TALENTDANCEACADEMY.CO.UK

U6
TASTER
SESSIONS
FOR 26/27 SEASON!



SATURDAY 11TH JULY

SATURDAY 18TH JULY

10AM

WILLINGHAM RECREATION GROUND, CB24 5LP

Contact Us

Willingham Primary School - Headteacher Mona Paalanen

office@willingham.cambs.sch.uk | 01954 283030

Honeypot Pre-school - Manager Kate Van Dort

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 who will be able to offer support and advice.