The Willingham Scoop – Friday 6th October 2026

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Headteacher's Corner

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a school, we are committed to supporting our children to develop healthy habits, that will benefit them both now and in the future. The food children eat during the school day can have a real impact on their energy, concentration, mood and ability to learn.

We are therefore going to place a greater focus on healthy snacks brought into school. Over the coming weeks and months, we will talk to children about the importance of healthy snacks, which will be followed by staff beginning to monitor the snacks children bring from home and, where appropriate, gently guiding children and families towards healthier choices.

We are not looking to criticise or judge individual choices. Instead, we want to work in partnership with our families and the wider school community to help children understand what makes a healthy, balanced snack and why it matters.

We would encourage families to choose snacks such as fresh or dried fruit, vegetables, cheese and wholegrain options, and to avoid snacks that are high in sugar, salt or saturated fat, such as sweets, chocolate, cakes and crisps**.** We are not yet putting a ban on unhealthy snacks, but might have to consider this in the future.

This approach reflects the direction of the updated Department for Education School Food Standards, which place an increased emphasis on healthier food choices. Although the updated standards will not apply until 2027, we feel it is important to start developing these positive habits now.

Please remember that all children in YR, Y1 and Y2 get a healthy snack provided by school. We often have fresh fruit available for children in all year groups, who need it during the day.

If you have any questions about this, please do reach out.

Best wishes,

Miss M Paalanen

In the Diary..



October

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]*
Tue 13 - Year 2 Village History Walk
CVC Open Morning [9-10.40am, please let the school office know if your child is attending]
Thu 15 - Sept 2027 Reception School Tour with Mr Emmess & Mrs Hay *[11am]*
Fri 16 - WSA Halloween Movie Night *[Arrive at 5.50pm, Film starts at 6pm]*
CVC Open Morning [9-10.40am, please let the school office know if your child is attending]
Thu 22 - Last day of Autumn Half Term 1
Sept 2027 Reception School Tour with Mr Emmess & Mrs Hay *[1.30pm]*
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 - Start of Autumn Term 2 - *School & Preschool reopen*
Thu 05 - Sept 2027 Reception School Tour with Mr Emmess & Mrs Hay *[11am]*
Thu 12 - Sept 2027 Reception School Tour with Mr Emmess & Mrs Hay *[1.30pm]*
Fri 13 - Individual School Photos
Mon 16 - Year 6 & Reception Weights & Measures Checks
Mon 23 - Whole school Nasal Flu Vaccine
Fri 27 - WSA Winter Wonderland

December

Tue 08 - WSA Christmas Quiz *[The Bank Micropub, 7pm, 18+ Only]*
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 - Last day of Autumn Term
Mon 21 Dec - Fri 1 Jan *- Christmas Break - School & Preschool closed*

Behind the Staffroom Door



Ever wondered what your teachers and other members of staff get up to, when they're not busy keeping the school running? Well, now's your chance to find out!

The School Council is excited to introduce a new regular feature where we'll be putting members of our school staff in the spotlight. We'll be asking them a mix of fun, interesting and perhaps slightly unexpected questions, giving everyone the chance to get to know the people who make our school such a special place.

Each edition, we'll meet someone new — so keep an eye out for our next interview!

WSA Colour Run Thank you!

We want to thank everyone that attended the WSA Colour Run on Saturday 26th September! This was our first fundraising event of the school year and we couldn't have asked for better weather for it too!

We also want to thank the brilliant staff that took part during the day;

- **Mrs Binney, Mr Emmess & Mrs McKie** for raising £214 in 'Gunge the Teacher'
- **Mrs Price & Miss Mitchell** for the colourful creations on the face painting stall

Please look out for our October Newsletter where we can confirm our final fundraising total!





Willingham School Association: willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com

Co Chairs: Fleur Tarpey & Sarah Morgan

Facebook: Willingham School Association

Next meeting: Wednesday 7th October at 11.30am - School Meeting Room

Active School Travel Survey

Please take part in this survey by 14th October 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 is 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 **14th October 2026**. To take part, please use the following link
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 / your child travels 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 or call 0808 168 1356 for more information.

Parent Guides: Supporting Children Online





We're sharing two helpful guides from National College to support parents and carers in navigating the online world with their children.

📱 What's Real Online? — practical guidance to help understand the concern around AI-generated audio/images or videos, online content that can convincingly imitate a person's voice or likeness and help to question what children are experiencing online.

🤖 **Character.AI** — information for parents about Character.AI, including how it works and the potential considerations for children and young people using AI chatbots.

Please take a few minutes to explore these resources and use them as a starting point for conversations at home about safe, positive and responsible use of technology.

Worth Knowing..

October Half Term Camps

Please see our **'Community'** page on the school website for information on signing up for local Holiday camps for the half term



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 (and phone number 3.30-6pm 01954 283033)

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.