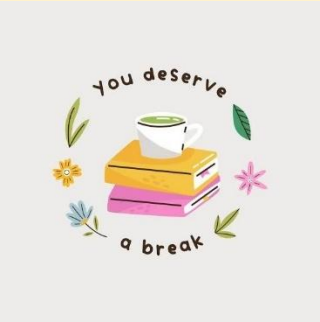
The Willingham Scoop – Friday 23rd October 2026

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Headteacher's Corner

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to share their views on our draft Self-Regulation and Behaviour Management Policy. We received 18 responses, with 7 expressing strong support and 11 raising thoughtful questions and concerns. The most frequently highlighted themes were consistency of implementation, communication with parents when concerns escalate, the use of lost playtime as a consequence, and ensuring that children who consistently make positive choices are recognised and celebrated.

We greatly value this feedback and will consider all comments carefully as we work with the Curriculum Committee of Governors to finalise the policy before we share the final version with the community.

In July 2026, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) published new guidance on inclusive teaching, highlighting that calm and predictable classroom environments are particularly important for supporting engagement, learning and a sense of safety for all pupils, including those with additional needs. The guidance identifies several key features of effective practice, including clear routines and expectations,

explicit teaching and modelling of behaviour, consistent responses from adults, recognising and praising positive behaviour, and helping children understand why routines and rules are important.

These principles underpin the development of our behaviour policy. We have high expectations for all children because we believe that children feel safest and are best able to learn when expectations are clear, routines are consistent, and boundaries are understood. We also want to ensure that positive choices, in line with our school values of hard work, intergrity and kindness, are recognised and celebrated. As part of this, we are introducing WPS Postcards, which will be used to celebrate children who consistently demonstrate our school values and contribute positively to our school community.



At the same time, we recognise that some children may need additional support to develop self-regulation skills and meet behavioural expectations. Our approach is therefore not simply about sanctions or consequences; it is about providing children with opportunities to reflect, learn from mistakes and receive the support they need to be successful. We believe that a consistent, inclusive and relational approach benefits all children and helps create a school environment where everyone feels they belong.

Thank you again for engaging with this important piece of work and helping us shape a policy that supports all members of our school community.

For now, wishing you all a great half term and looking forward to seeing you all on Monday 2nd November 2026, when our new Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Ayello-Wright, will also join the school.

Best wishes,

Miss M Paalanen

In the Diary

School Calendar:

October

Fri 23 - Professional Training Day - School & Preschool closed - No Breakfast Club or After School Club

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

Sat 31 - WSA Halloween Bingo [10-12pm, New Hall]

Secondary School Place 2027 Application Deadline

November

Mon 02 - Start of Autumn Term 2 - School & Preschool reopen

New Lunchtime Menu Starts

Thu 05 - Sept 2027 Reception School Tour with Mr Emmess & Mrs Hay [11am]

Wed 11 - Remembrance Day - 2 mins silence

Thu 12 - Sept 2027 Reception School Tour with Mr Emmess & Mrs Hay [1.30pm]

Children in Need - Celebrating With Spots!**

Fri 13 - Individual School Photos [Arrive via the School Office from 8.20am for siblings photos before the school day]

Mon 16 - Year 6 & Reception Weights & Measures Checks

Odd Socks Day for Anti Bullying Week

Mon 23 - Whole school Nasal Flu Vaccine

Fri 27 - WSA Winter Wonderland [5-7.30pm, Primary School]

December

Tue 08 - 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]

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 - No Breakfast Club or After School Club

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

Keeping You in the Loop



School Performances:

We are delighted to be preparing for our first school performance of the academic year!

To make purchasing tickets as easy and convenient as possible, we will continue to use our online ticketing service, helping us move towards a cashless system. Parents and carers will receive an email with a booking link when tickets go on sale for each performance.

To ensure every child has the opportunity to be represented by at least one family member, tickets will initially be available exclusively to their families for the first two weeks. After this period, any remaining tickets will be released for general sale for a further two weeks. We encourage all families to book their tickets online and look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming school performances!



Supporting Remembrance:

Poppies will be available to purchase from the school office from Monday 2nd November. We invite families to show their support for Remembrance and help honour those who have served and sacrificed.

PE Kits Reminder:

As we return for the new half term, we would like to remind parents and carers that, from Monday 2nd November, **children Years 1-6** should arrive at school wearing their PE kits on days when they have PE.

The expected PE kit consists of:

- House T-shirt
- Dark-coloured bottoms or shorts
- Trainers

To promote a sense of unity and togetherness, we encourage parents to avoid branded clothing as part of their child's PE kit. Wearing the same style of kit helps children feel part of a team and supports a positive sense of belonging when working collaboratively and participating in PE lessons and activities.

Xmas4school Artwork:

Please return Christmas card designs to the school office is Thursday 5th November. Any card designs received after this date will miss the deadline to be posted to the Christmas card company.

Winter Clothing Reminder:

As the weather gets colder, please ensure that children come to school with appropriate winter clothing so they can stay warm and comfortable during outdoor break and lunchtime play.

We encourage children to bring a warm, waterproof coat each day, along with any additional winter accessories they may need, such as hats, gloves and scarves.

We aim to ensure that children can continue to enjoy outdoor play safely and comfortably throughout the colder months. Please make sure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name to help prevent belongings from becoming lost.

Toys, Trading Cards, Fidget Items:

We would like to remind parents and carers that children should not bring toys, trading cards or fidget items into school.

We have noticed an increasing number of pupils bringing these items out of their school bags and onto the playground. We understand that some of these items can provide comfort and reassurance for children; however, we ask for your support in keeping personal toys, trading cards and fidgets at home.

The school provides a range of activities, games and resources to support children during the school day, including opportunities to help them regulate their emotions and feel settled in the school environment.

The Willingham Scoop – Friday 23rd October 2026

Children In Need Day:

**We will be celebrating Children in Need on Thursday 12th November, as our school photographs are taking place on Friday 13th November.

To join in the fun, children are invited to wear spots alongside their usual school uniform! There are lots of ways to get involved, including:

- Adding spots to their uniform
- Wearing spotty socks
- Spotty gloves or legwarmers
- Spotty face paint
- Spotty hair accessories



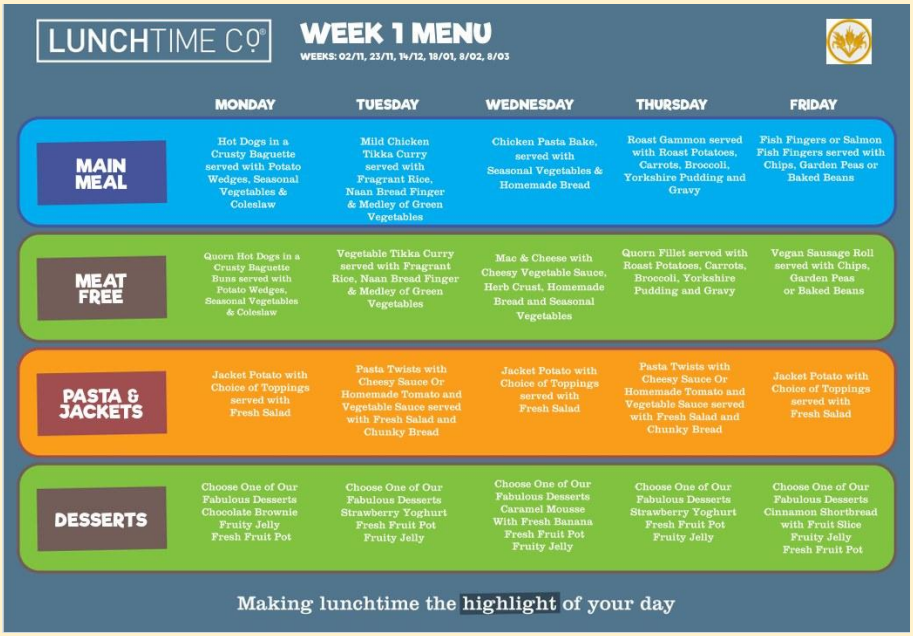
Get creative and see how many spots you can wear! We look forward to seeing everyone's spotty outfits as we come together to support this wonderful cause.

Change of Menu:

Please note that our Kitchen team's menu will be renewed upon our return to school on Monday 2nd November. Please visit the school website to view the 3-week rolling menus for both Lunch and After School Club.

Aut 2 Lunch Menu

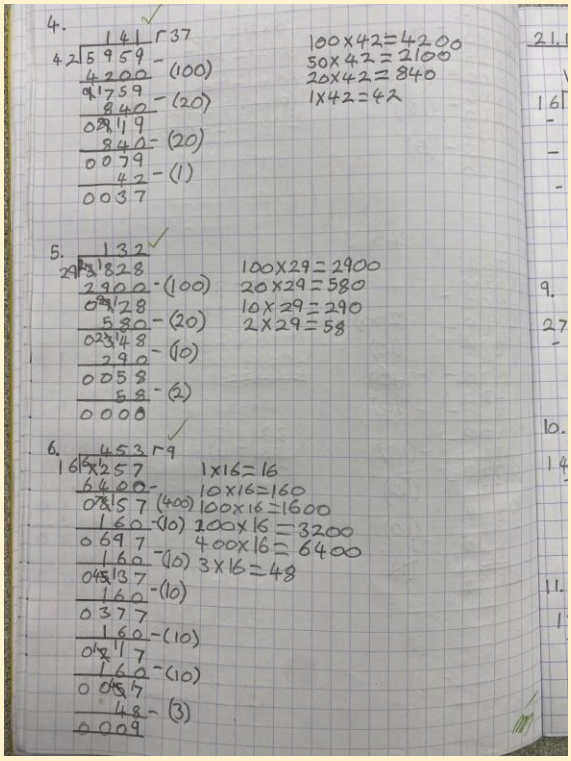
Aut 2 ASC Menu

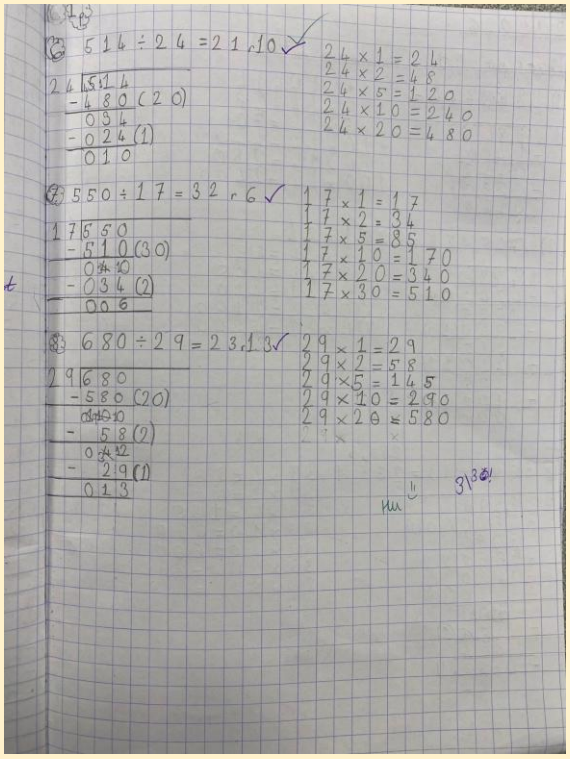


A Fantastic Start to the Term

6HM/NM have made a great start to Year 6, settling into their new class and meeting new staff members. We are delighted to have Miss Holden (TA) and Miss Girling (Student Teacher) in our class and the children have welcomed them warmly. This half-term, pupils have written journey tales about long-lost treasure, mountain mishaps and space adventures; worked together in PE to complete some fun team-building challenges ('coat hanger' being a favourite challenge); and really showed their mettle while succeeding in long division - we are all so proud of them!

We've ended this half-term with a Shakespeare workshop and an assembly delivered by Cambridge United on 'inclusion': two lovely treats to round off Autumn 1!





People Who Help Us



On Monday 12th October, we were lucky enough to have a special visitor to Reception classes. Police Community Support Officer John came to speak to the children, about his job and his role in the community. The children heard all about what John does and how he helps people every day. Reception loved asking their own questions about John's job and seeing his police car.



School Council: 'An interview with…'

At our most recent school council meeting we decided it would be good to find out (and share with you) a little about some of our school staff. So, this is the first of our 'An interview with…' series and we start with one of our newest members of staff, Ms Ahmed our new Interventions Teacher.



Have you always been a teacher? If not what did you do before?
I used to work in a University doing administration before training as a teacher and setting up my own educational platform business which I run alongside working at Willingham.

Why did you choose to teach and what is your favourite part of the job?
I wanted children to enjoy school, I love to see them enjoying Maths and writing stories.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I spend time with my son and running my business, but I also love reading.

What was your favourite subject in school?
English was my favourite.

Who is in your family, does it include any pets?
I live with my son in a village outside Cambridge. At the moment we don't have any pets but we used to have a supersoft white rabbit who looked like a snowflake. I also used to love the tiny tortoise who lived in my old classroom but unfortunately, he couldn't move to our new house as there are too may cats in the area.

What is your favourite children's book?
My favourite is a book called 'The Book With No Pictures', because you can use your imagination and be creative.

What is your favourite game?
I enjoy playing Ludo with my son.

What is your favourite food?
Definitely sweet and sour chicken and egg fried rice (cue rumble of tummies!)

Which famous person, dead or alive, would you like to meet and why?
I would really like to meet Christiano Ronaldo, not only is he a fantastic footballer but I really admire his work ethic, he is so hard working and disciplined starting exercise at 5am. I also think he is a great role model, he is very generous, helping people and charities around the World.

Can you tell us a joke?!
Knock Knock
Who's there?
Nobell
Nobell who?
I've got no bell that's why you had to knock!!!!

Thank you for your time Ms Ahmed, we loved hearing a bit more about you, these are the highlights of our interview, I think we could have chatted with you all afternoon especially if we could have had a game of Ludo and some Chinese food at the same time!

New School Council Elections – Year 2 to Year 6

We are excited to announce that our School Council elections will take place when we return from the half-term break!

Pupils in Years 2–6 who would like to be considered for a place on the School Council are encouraged to use the half-term break to prepare and complete their manifestos.

This is a fantastic opportunity for children to share their ideas, represent their classmates and help make a positive difference to our school community.

We look forward to seeing their manifestos and hearing the ideas they would like to bring to the School Council!

Wimpole Cross Country

Well done to all Pupils that took part & represented Willingham Primary School at the Wimpole Cross Country Event - You Smashed it!! 👏 We are incredibly proud of your efforts, determination and positive attitudes. It was fantastic to see you challenging yourselves, supporting one another and representing the school so brilliantly.



We would like to share some of the lovely feedback from the pupils who attended the Wimpole Cross Country event this week.

What did the children enjoy about the event?

"I enjoyed running with my friends"

"The leaders were very motivating."

"It was nice being at Wimpole Hall"

"Everyone being together running"

How did taking part make the children feel?

"Achy & tired"

"Happy that I did it"

"It was fun"

What skills/qualities has the event helped the children develop?

"I learnt not the run too fast at the start"

"It helped me know the best pace to run a long race"

What would the children say would have made the event more enjoyable?

"Some would have liked a shorter race"

"A course without rabbit holes/lumps that trip you up"

"Less stinging nettles"

WSA: Supporting our School

WSA Newsletter

October 2026



Colour Run Thank You

What a fantastic day we had at our WSA Colour Run on 26th September!

The sun was shining, the colours were flying, and it was wonderful to see everyone having so much fun!
A massive thank you to all our **amazing sponsors for supporting the event** and helping us make it such a memorable day for everyone. Your generosity and support mean so much to our school community!

We'd also like to say a **big THANK YOU to all the WPS staff** who came along to support our event. It was lovely to have you there, sharing the fun and helping make the day so special!
Thank you to everyone who played a part in making our Colour Run such a colourful, joyful success. We couldn't do it without you!











Save the Dates

October
Friday 16th - Halloween Movie Night

Saturday 31st - Halloween Bingo

November
Friday 27th - Winter Wonderland Christmas Fair

December
Tuesday 08th - Christmas Pub Quiz

Friday 11th - Christmas Movie Night

Money We Raised - YAY!

Colour Run Total **£750**
- Gunge the Teacher **£214**
- Pre-loved Clothing Donations **£143.90**

Your School Lottery **£54.80**

Easy Fundrasing App **£43.73** for Sept

Shop. raise. support WSA — it's that easy!

As we head towards Black Friday and Christmas, we're asking for your support to help raise much-needed funds for our WSA!

The good news? It won't cost you a penny extra!

Simply download the easyfundraising app, select WSA as your cause, and shop with your favourite retailers as usual. The retailers will donate to our school every time you shop, helping us raise funds for the children and our school community.

Thanks to your support, we've already raised over £2,000!

Help needed..

Can you spare an hour or so?

We would appreciate your help with:
- Movie Nights
- Pre-loved Uniform Sales
- Performance Refreshments
- Christmas Fair

Whether you have a fundraising idea, a useful connection, or simply an idea you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you.

Email:
willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com

Facebook:
Willingham School Association

Join is at the next meeting

Location: The Bank Micropub
Date: Wed 18th Nov 2026
Time: 7.30pm

🎄 Christmas Bauble Design Competition

Get creative this Christmas! We will be hosting a Design Your Own Christmas Bauble Competition, giving children the chance to create their very own festive design.

✨ How to enter:

- £1 donation for each child taking part.
- Bauble templates will be available from the school office from Monday 2nd November 2026.
- Let your imagination run wild and create your own Christmas bauble design.
- Hand in your completed design to the school office by Saturday 21st November 2026.

🎁 The prize:

There will be one winner from each year group, receiving a Christmas treat!!

We can't wait to see the children's wonderful, festive creations! Thank you for supporting the WSA and helping to make Christmas at school extra special.

Willingham School Association: willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com

Co Chairs: Fleur Tarpey & Sarah Morgan

Facebook: Willingham School Association

Book an Events, please visit our Sum Up Shop: https://willingham-school-association.sumupstore.com/

House Points Update



The competition is heating up! Our pupils earning house points through their hard work, positive attitudes, teamwork and kindness.

Current House Standings

🥇 1st Place: TURING — 3342 points

🥈 2nd Place: BRONTE — 3268 points

🥉 3rd Place: HARGREAVES — 3180 points

4th Place: SANGER — 2897 points

Congratulations to TURING for taking the lead! Well done to all our pupils for contributing to their house through their efforts and achievements. Keep up the fantastic work — every point counts.

WPS Book Fair

We're delighted to invite you to our upcoming School Book Fair, hosted in the school library!

📅 Dates: 18th, 19th, 23rd and 24th November

🕒 Time: 3:15–4:15 pm

📍 Location: School Library

Come along to the Book Fair! Browse the books, discover new favourites and find your next great read. We'd love for families to join us and help nurture a lifelong love of reading.

Reading opens up a world of imagination, adventure and discovery for all ages. Whether you love magical tales, exciting adventures or learning something new, there's a story waiting for everyone!

Save the dates, bring your curiosity, and pop into the school library after school! We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the joy of discovering the next story together.



Building Progress: Interior Progress

Since the roof was completed, work has focused on the interior of the school building. Significant progress has been made, with windows installed, a dedicated front entrance in place, and the walls plastered and painted.

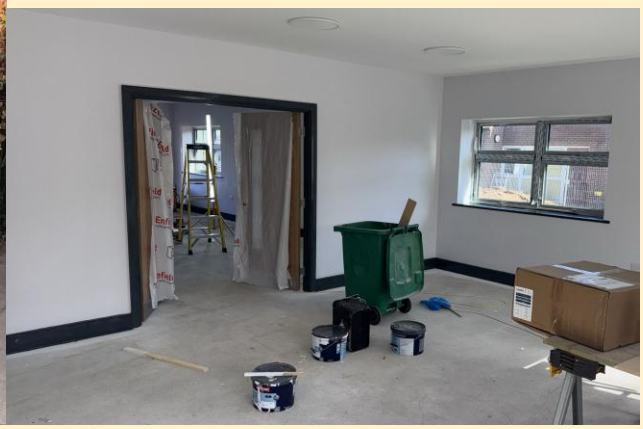
Work has also commenced on the kitchen and toilet facilities, bringing the project another step closer to completion.

The school building is now taking shape as a distinct, secure space, with its own fenced-off area, providing a clearly defined environment for the school.









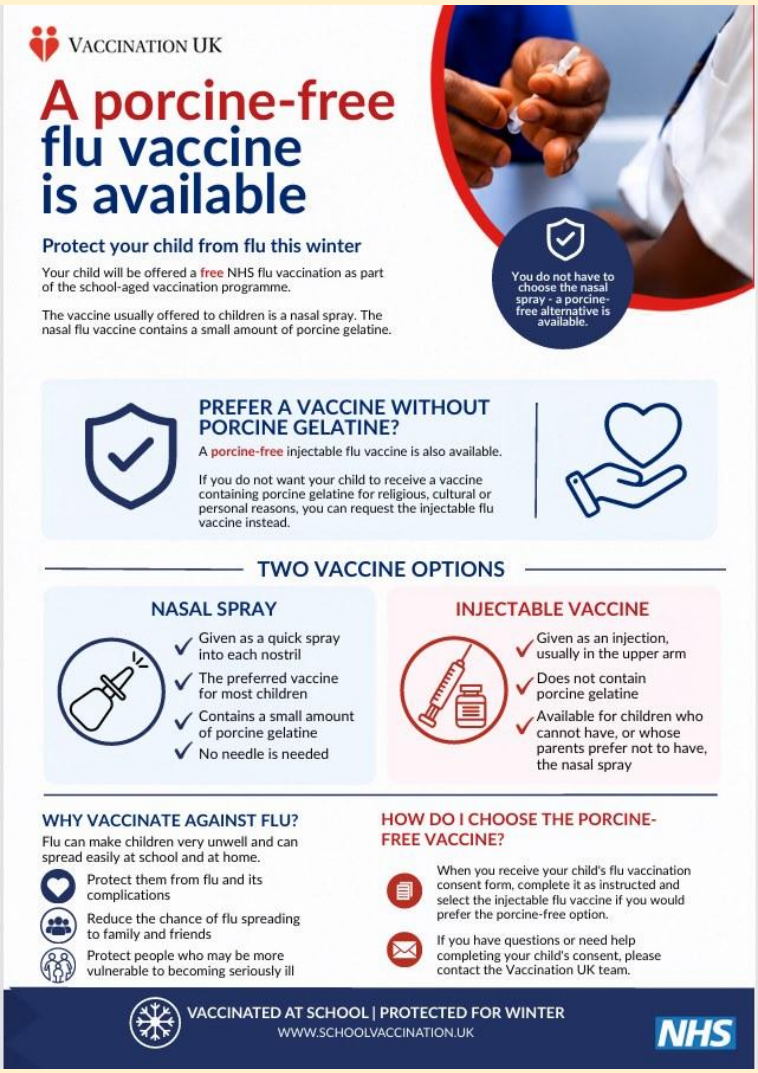
Free NHS Flu Vaccination at School

This autumn, children at our school will be offered the free NHS flu vaccination through Vaccination UK.

Vaccinated at school, protected for winter – an easy and convenient way for your child to receive their free NHS flu vaccine during the school day.

The flu vaccine helps protect your child and reduce the spread of flu to family members and friends. Please complete the online consent form when you receive it. Even if you choose not to vaccinate your child, we ask that you complete the form so your decision can be recorded.

For more information about the flu vaccine, see www.schoolvaccination.uk



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.