



Newsletter



Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World

Friday 18th September
Term 1 Week 3



(PC) = Parents & Carers are invited

SCHOOL DATES For your Calendar

MONDAY 21ST
SEPTEMBER Year 6 Dover Castle
trip – Thunberg &
Wolff Classes

TUESDAY 22ND
SEPTEMBER Year 6 height and
weight check

FRIDAY 25TH
SEPTEMBER Year 6 Dover Castle
trip – Obama &
Parks Classes

FRIDAY 25TH
SEPTEMBER Macmillan Coffee
Morning (PC)

MONDAY 28TH
SEPTEMBER After school clubs
start

W/C MONDAY
28TH SEPTEMBER Community Giving
Week

TUESDAY 6TH
OCTOBER Year 4 trip to
Howletts

TUESDAY 6TH
OCTOBER Fletcher Class
Harvest Festival
(PC)

WEDNESDAY
7TH OCTOBER Dahl Class Harvest
Festival (PC)

THURSDAY 8TH
OCTOBER Morpurgo Class
Harvest Festival
(PC)

FRIDAY 9TH
OCTOBER Potter Class
Harvest Festival
(PC)

FRIDAY 9TH
OCTOBER Individual School
Photographs

An events calendar for Terms 1 & 2 will
be available soon on the school
websites.

Message from Mr. Head!

It has been another really positive week across both schools, and it has been lovely to see the children continuing to settle into their new classes, routines and learning. I have been particularly delighted with our **attendance this week, which has been over 96% across both schools**. Attendance so far this academic year has been really strong, especially for this time of year, so a huge thank you to all of our families for your continued support in getting children into school every day and on time. It really does make a difference. There are also lots of exciting things coming up over the next couple of weeks, with some fantastic opportunities for our school community to come together and support others.

Macmillan Coffee Event

We are delighted to invite you to our Macmillan Bake Sale on Friday 25th September at 3pm, outside the Junior School office. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, enjoy some delicious treats and raise money for a very worthwhile cause. Our staff are already preparing to showcase their baking talents, but we would love some additional contributions from our families! If you are a keen baker and would like to donate a cake, please bring your donation to either school office on Friday. For homemade items, please include a list of ingredients so that we can support those with dietary requirements. Please remember that we are a nut-free school. Not a baker? No problem at all! Shop-bought cakes are just as welcome and very much appreciated.

Our Junior School Council are looking forward to welcoming you and hopefully raising lots of money for Macmillan.

Community Giving Week

We are also excited to launch our Community Giving Week on Monday 28th September. Throughout the week, we will be encouraging our children to think about how even small actions can make a positive difference within our local community and beyond. As part of the week, we will be supporting:

Harvest Festival Donations

We will once again be collecting non-perishable food items to support local families in need. We will share more information about what can be donated shortly.

Cry in the Dark Christmas Shoebox Appeal

We will also be supporting Cry in the Dark, a charity supporting children and families in Romania. An email was sent to families this week with further information about their Christmas Shoebox Appeal and how you can get involved.

Big Clothes Day Fundraising

We were delighted to take part in Big Clothes Day for the first time, today. This is a fundraising event organised by the charity Children with Cancer UK, where children are encouraged to come to school in oversized clothes to raise awareness and funds for child-specific cancer treatments.

The totals as of around 1pm today were £218.80 raised by the Infant School and £372.01 raised by the Junior School, for a total of £590.81 raised for Children with Cancer UK. How amazing is that?! Thank you so much to all our families for your amazing generosity. Adults and children alike have had a great time looking silly and wearing funny clothes for the day.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Have a lovely weekend.
Tom Head

LEADERSHIP

ASPIRATION

DETERMINATION

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT



Juniors Website: willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk
Juniors Email: office@willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk

Juniors Telephone: 01233 620405



Infants Website: willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk
Infants Email: office@willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk

Infants Telephone: 01233 624165

Attendance Update

Attendance remains one of our key priorities, as every day in school really does matter. Establishing strong attendance habits at the beginning of the academic year helps children settle quickly, build positive relationships and make the most of every learning opportunity. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that children attend school regularly and arrive on time. By working together, we can give every child the very best opportunity to succeed, and I am delighted that we have made such a positive start to the year.



THIS WEEK:

JUNIORS: 96.7%

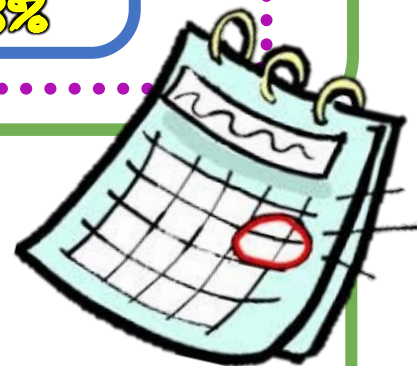
INFANTS: 96%



THIS YEAR:

JUNIORS: 97%

INFANTS: 95.8%



Term Dates for 2026 / 2027

Autumn Term 1 (T1):

Start: Wednesday 2nd September

End: Friday 23rd October

Half Term: 26th October – 30th October

Autumn Term 2 (T2):

Start: Monday 2nd November

End: Friday 18th December

Christmas Holiday: 21st December – 1st January

Spring Term 1 (T3):

Start: Monday 4th January

End: Friday 12th February

Half Term: 15th February – 19th February

Spring Term 2 (T4):

Start: Monday 22nd February

End: Thursday 25th March

Easter Holiday: 26th March – 9th April

Summer Term 1 (T5):

Start: Monday 12th April

End: Friday 28th May

Half Term: 31st May – 4th June

Summer Term 2 (T6):

Start: Monday 7th June

End: Wednesday 21st July

Staff Development Days for 2026/2027

Tuesday 1st September Friday 23rd October Friday 18th December Friday 28th May Wednesday 21st July

Staff Development Days for 2027/2028

We know some families like to plan well ahead, so we will add the staff development days for the next school year here when they are finalised at a later date.



Notices

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Fidget Toys & Sensory Items

We have noticed that more children are bringing fidget toys and sensory items into school. While these are often brought in with good intentions, we have found that they can sometimes become a distraction and draw attention away from learning, rather than supporting it.

To help maintain a calm and focused learning environment, we ask that children do not bring these items into school. If they are brought in, children will be asked to return them to their bags for the school day and not bring them back the next day. We recognise that some children benefit from sensory support. If your child has a diagnosis, is awaiting assessment, or you feel a sensory aid would help them engage more successfully in class, please speak with Mr Luckhurst or Mrs Hyson. We would be very happy to discuss this with you. Where appropriate, the school can provide suitable sensory resources that support your child's learning while ensuring they do not impact on the learning of others.

Junior School Library Books

Unfortunately, around 100 library books had not been returned by the end of the last school year, and over 90 are still outstanding. Please ensure that any library books that were borrowed last year are returned as soon as possible if you still have them.

New school gates

As you know, new electronic gates were installed at the Highfield Road entrance to the school around Easter, and the Church Road gates had this added over the summer holiday. We would like to remind families of the following important information:

- The Highfield Road gate will remain closed to all vehicular access/egress between the existing signposted times of 8.25am-9am and 2.45pm-3.30pm without exception aside from emergency services.
- The pedestrian access at both ends of the site will still be kept open as usual during the normal school drop off and pick up times – there will be no need to use the intercom to request access.
- Outside of these times, you will need to use the intercom to gain access to the school site, whether you are driving in or walking. Select the button for the school you are visiting to speak to their reception team and have the gate opened for you.
- We do not permit vehicular access for drop off or pick up times (including late or early) except where it has been agreed for children with mobility-related injuries or disabilities.
- To exit onto Church Road, simply press the green button on the pedestal near the gate to unlock it and pull the gate open.
- To exit onto Highfield Road with a vehicle during normal hours, simply approach the gate and it will begin to open automatically, towards your vehicle. We plan to add a painted marking and/or sign to make the trigger area clear for drivers. Your front wheels being past the speed bump should mean your car is close enough without needing to reverse to clear the gates.
- The pedestrian gates do not open automatically – only the locking and unlocking is remotely-controlled.

Please be careful when pulling and pushing these gates as they are heavy and the locking system protrudes from the gates.

LEADERSHIP



ASPIRATION

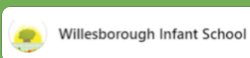
Juniors Website: willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk
Juniors Email: office@willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk

DETERMINATION

Juniors Telephone: 01233 620405

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT



Infants Website: willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk
Infants Email: office@willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk

Infants Telephone: 01233 624165



OPEN SESSIONS

WILLESBOROUGH INFANT SCHOOL

Monday 9th November 9-10am

Tuesday 10th November 9-10am

Wednesday 11th November 9-10am

Thursday 12th November 9-10am

Thursday 19th November 6-7pm

Come and see what Willesborough can offer your child starting EYFS in 2027!

Call 01233 624165 to book your place.

Wonder - Inspire - Shine

Leadership, Aspiration, Determination, Responsibility, Respect.

Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World



Willesborough Schools - Food & Nutrition Guide

Healthy Meals & Snacks



4 Main Food Groups



Varied Menus



Water Accessible

Strictly NO NUTS or Sesame

STRICTLY NO NUTS OR SESAME



Healthy Packed Lunches

Include these:

- ✓ Starchy Carb
- ✓ Protein Source
- ✓ Dairy Item
- ✓ Portion of Fruit & Veg

NO these:

- ✗ Fizzy Drinks
- ✗ Sweets & Chocolate
- ✗ Crisps
- ✗ Nut Spreads (e.g., Peanut Butter, Nutella)

Allergies & Safety



14 Allergens Tracked

(e.g., egg, fish, soy)



Safety Lanyards



Individual Healthcare Plans

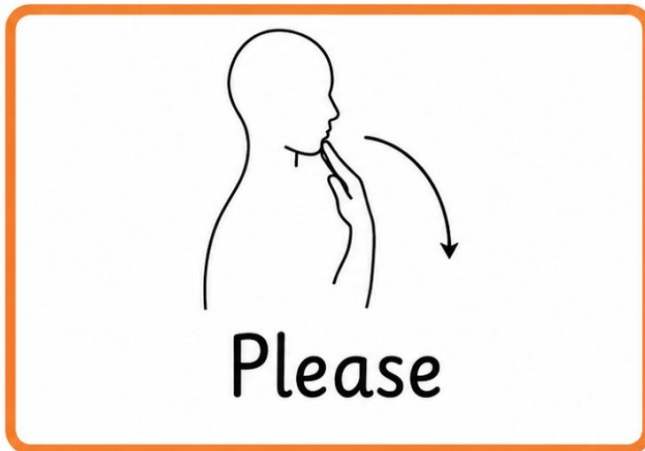
Sign of the Week

(Makaton)

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Remember your Ps and Qs!



Can you practice them together at home?

[Click here to watch a short video showing this week's signs.](#)

[You can also find interesting information about Makaton on our website by clicking here.](#)

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a way of supporting communication using signs and symbols alongside speech.

Using signs can help make spoken language clearer and give children another way to express themselves while they are developing their communication skills.

Using Makaton does not stop children from talking. In fact, using signs alongside speech can help support communication and speech development.

Makaton can be used by everyone, not just children who have communication difficulties.

Using Makaton can help us to:

- Communicate with one another
- Express feelings and emotions
 - Support spoken language
- Make communication easier to understand
 - Build connections with others
 - Help everyone feel included

PTFA AGM: Come Along and Have Your Say



The PTFA Annual General Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 29th September** at **6pm** in the **Infant School**, and we would love to see as many parents and carers there as possible.

The AGM is an important opportunity to look back on everything the PTFA has achieved over the past year, celebrate the support of our school community, and discuss plans for the year ahead. It is also where the new PTFA committee will be voted in, so it is a great chance to find out more about how the PTFA is run and how you can get involved.

This year, thanks to the generosity and hard work of families, staff and volunteers, the PTFA has raised an incredible **£18,451!!** At the AGM, you will be able to hear more about this fantastic total and see how the funds will be used to benefit children across the school.

Whether you are a regular volunteer, interested in helping occasionally, or simply want to understand more about the work of the PTFA, please do come along. Your support, ideas and attendance really do make a difference.

Could You Join the PTFA Committee?

The AGM is also when we vote in the PTFA committee for the year ahead. These roles are vital in helping the PTFA run smoothly, but you don't need any previous experience—just enthusiasm, a little time, and a willingness to support the school community.

- **Chair or Co-Chairs:** helps lead the PTFA, chairs meetings, supports the committee and works with the school to plan fundraising activities.
- **Vice Chair:** supports the Chair on all activities, helps lead activities where needed, steps in for Chair when unavailable
- **Treasurer:** looks after the PTFA finances, keeps records of money raised and spent, and helps report on how funds are being used.
- **Secretary:** helps organise meetings, takes notes, shares updates and keeps the committee's plans on track.
- **Committee members:** bring ideas, help plan events, support fundraising activities and volunteer where they can.

Being part of the PTFA is a rewarding way to meet other families, get involved in school life and help make a real difference for the children. Whether you can take on a named role or simply offer support when time allows, every contribution is valued. If you have ever thought about getting involved, this is the perfect opportunity to find out more and consider putting yourself forward.

For more information, please contact Liz Cornell at willesboroughschoolspta@outlook.com.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE WILLESBOROUGH SCHOOLS

PTFA AGM MEETING

SEPTEMBER, 29TH

6:00 PM in the INFANTS SCHOOL

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

OUR SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR - MONEY
RAISED - INDICATION OF FUTURE EVENTS -
COMMITTEE MEMBER ELECTIONS

Help us make your child's time in school AMAZING!!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Parents, teachers, staff, grandparents & community members
come join the fun and stay informed!

FREE WINE & SOFT DRINKS!

Questions? Contact us WillesboroughSchoolsPTA@outlook.com



WOW Badges

Wonder - Inspire - Shine
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Willesborough Outstanding Work (WOW) badges are awarded in recognition of an excellent piece of work in any area of learning. The work is framed and displayed in 'The Hub' at the Junior School and in the corridor at the Infant School.

Here is a list of this week's worthy winners!



WEEKLY

WOW

AWARDS

Year R Badgers	No infant awards this week	Year 3 Fletcher	William
Year R Rabbits		Year 3 Potter	Atheena
Year R Owls		Year 4 Monet	Aleyah
Year R Robins		Year 4 Doodle	Bella
Year 1 Lions		Year 4 Kahlo	Sam
Year 1 Giraffes		Year 4 Turner	Connor
Year 1 Elephants		Year 5 Franklin	Kalisi
Year 1 Pandas		Year 5 Hepburn	Omar
Year 2 Turtles		Year 5 Turing	Quinn
Year 2 Penguins		Year 5 Earhart	William
Year 2 Leopards		Year 6 Thunberg	Aurora
Year 2 Tigers		Year 6 Wolff	Primrose
Year 3 Morpurgo	William	Year 6 Obama	Oscar
Year 3 Dahl	Carmella	Year 6 Parks	Muskan

Great job everyone!
Keep up the AMAZING work!

Value Awards

Our core value awards are awarded in recognition of excellent behaviour, especially in relation to one of the school's core values. Well done to this week's students who have shown the following values...



Year 3 Morpurgo	Andriya	RESPECT
Year 3 Dahl	Elliah	DETERMINATION
Year 3 Fletcher	Ada-Mae	RESPECT
Year 3 Potter	Serah	RESPECT
Year 4 Monet	Brody	LEADERSHIP
Year 4 Doodle	Manuka	RESPECT
Year 4 Kahlo	Abigail O	RESPECT
Year 4 Turner	Isaac	RESPONSIBILITY
Year 5 Franklin	Evelyn	RESPECT
Year 5 Hepburn	Ethan	LEADERSHIP
Year 5 Turing	Phoebe	LEADERSHIP
Year 5 Earhart	Betsy-Rose	RESPECT
Year 6 Thunberg	Kaiden	DETERMINATION
Year 6 Wolff	Sam	ASPIRATION
Year 6 Obama	Shea	RESPECT
Year 6 Parks	Payge	RESPECT



Shine Awards

The 'Shine' award is presented to children who have shown an exceptional commitment to behaviour throughout the week. They may have been excellent listeners who have supported their peers; they may have shown empathy towards their peers or may have shown a great commitment to behaviour for learning. It could be a multitude of reasons! The children receive a special 'You Shine' badge which they wear with pride.



Year R Badgers	No infant awards this week
Year R Rabbits	
Year R Owls	
Year R Robins	
Year 1 Lions	
Year 1 Giraffes	
Year 1 Elephants	
Year 1 Pandas	
Year 2 Turtles	
Year 2 Penguins	
Year 2 Leopards	
Year 2 Tigers	



Book Battles

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Reading Challenge!



At Willesborough Junior School, we have the exciting reading challenge! Children are required to read their library books **4 x 20 mins each week**. Each 'read' needs to be signed into their reading record book. This 'four or more' challenge allows the children to compete weekly in the 'Book Battle' against the other classes in their year group, and this is celebrated each week in our celebration assembly.



Find out below which class have had the most children read four or more times this week!

**YR 3
BATTLE**
This week's
winners are
POTTER

MORPURGO



VS

DAHL



VS

FLETCHER



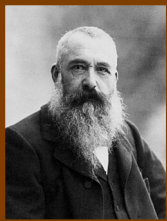
VS

POTTER



**YR 4
BATTLE**
This week's
winners are
KAHLO

MONET



VS

DOODLE



VS

KAHLO



VS

TURNER



**YR 5
BATTLE**
This week's
winners are
HEPBURN

FRANKLIN



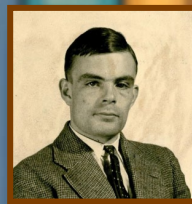
VS

HEPBURN



VS

TURING



VS

EARHART



**YR 6
BATTLE**
This week's
winners are
WOLFF

THUNBERG



VS

WOLFF



VS

OBAMA



VS

PARKS





Support Us

Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World



[Click here to buy tickets for our school lottery!](#)

For every ticket you play, 40% goes directly to our schools.

There are smaller cash prizes, or you could win the £25,000 cash jackpot!

Congratulations to Mx B from Folkestone who won £17.75 in the last draw!

The more people enter, the higher the guaranteed win is!



octopus energy

If you're thinking of changing energy suppliers to Octopus Energy, you can get £50 for yourself and £50 for the schools if you use our referral link:

<https://thewillesboroughschools.octopus.energy>

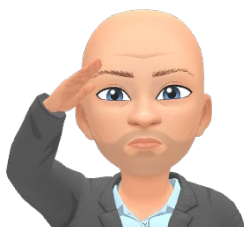
Please note that this is not a recommendation or endorsement, it is just a way to support the schools.



Don't forget, you can donate unwanted clothes, shoes, textiles, bed linen, soft toys, scarves and more at our clothing banks!

This helps to raise money for the schools, too!

THANK YOU



LEADERSHIP



Willesborough Junior School

ASPIRATION

Juniors Website: willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk
Juniors Email: office@willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk

DETERMINATION

Juniors Telephone: 01233 620405

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT



Willesborough Infant School

Infants Website: willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk
Infants Email: office@willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk

Infants Telephone: 01233 624165



BOOK DONATIONS WELCOME

Our school has signed up with national charity the Children's Book Project to receive donations of good quality, gently used books from local families. These will be used across the school. Books can be dropped at reception.

Spread the word and look for us on their map!
childrensbookproject.co.uk/donate-books/

Registered charity 1183092

Children's
Book
Project



Stepping Up

5-11 Years

Join us for a fun, confidence-building course for children aged 5-11. Over six sessions, they will explore emotions, build friendships, and learn practical skills through creative activities, games, and discussions in a safe, friendly environment.

The Willow Family Hub



DAY: Thursday



Time: 3.45pm - 5.15pm



Address: Halstow Way, Ashford, Kent TN23 4EY

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk/ 03000 418800

Booking required – contact your Family Hub.



Visit your local Family Hub today



[Kent.gov.uk/familyhub](https://kent.gov.uk/familyhub)



KentFamilyHub





Time to shine Junior's

A group for SEND children and young people aged 7-11 years to socialise and learn new skills in a safe, relaxed environment. This group is for children and young People who may find it difficult to access mainstream groups and would like some support to build their confidence.

The group numbers are lower to meet the needs of everyone attending and to create a calmer environment.

Waterside Family Hub



DAY: Monday



Time: 4.00pm - 5.15pm



Address: Turner Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0PQ

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Booking required – link in the description.

You do not need to have a diagnosis to attend this session



Visit your local Family Hub today



[Kent.gov.uk/familyhub](https://kent.gov.uk/familyhub)



[KentFamilyHub](https://www.facebook.com/KentFamilyHub)





The 1st Ashford Boys' Brigade and girls' association are inviting you to try something new and meet other children and young people.

The group provides opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun, and caring environment. There are opportunities to develop skills, build confidence, make friends, work towards awards, make a difference in the local community and of course have fun.

The Brigades **meet at Ashford Baptist Church, St Johns Lane, Ashford TN23 1PS**, the groups meet every Thursday, the ages and times are:

Anchors 4 – 8 yrs old: 6:15 – 7:30pm

Juniors 8 – 11 yrs old: 6:15 – 7:30pm

Company 11- 14 yrs old: 7:30 – 9:15pm

Seniors 14 – 18 yrs old: 7:30 – 9:15pm

We are back for the new academic year this Thursday 19th September. Any Thursday is open to new members. So, we hope to see you this Thursday or sometime soon. Please spread the word

Find out more about The Boy's Brigade at www.boys-brigade.org.uk



FREE Wilder Wellbeing for adults at RSPB Dungeness, TN29 9PN.

Enjoy gentle walks, tap into your senses and learn relaxation techniques to experience the benefits of nature in a small group setting.

WILDER WELLBEING: For Parents and Carers of SEND children and young people

Every Thursday 24th September to 29th October, 11 am–1pm

WILDER WELLBEING: For adults healing from grief.

Every Thursday 24th September to 29th October, 2–4pm

**To find out more visit kwtg.uk/wellbeing or email
wilderwellbeing@kentwildlife.org.uk**

We ask that you commit to attending as many of the six sessions as possible. Speak to us if you need support with funding transport, we may be able to assist



**Football
Fun
Factory**

FOOTBALL, **FUN** & DEVELOPMENT IN ASHFORD



**BUILD SKILLS
MAKE FRIENDS
BE ACTIVE**



**IMPROVE
FOOTBALL SKILLS**



**BOOST
CONFIDENCE**



**MAKE
FRIENDS**



**STAY
ACTIVE**

📍 **LOCATIONS & TIMES** 📍



MONDAY EVENINGS



**ASHFORD
HOCKEY CLUB**



17:00 - 18:00



TUESDAY EVENINGS



**HIGHWORTH
SCHOOL**



17:30 - 18:30



FRIDAY EVENINGS



**WYE VILLAGE
MUGA**



17:00 - 18:00



**AGES
5 - 12 YEARS**
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:
HEAD COACH RICHARD MILLS
07919 274090



SCAN
TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE



richardmills@thefootballfunfactory.co.uk





PLAY
LEARN
GROW



Tots Football Fun

Football Fun with Inflatables

SMALL
PLAYERS
BIG
DREAMS



📍 Norton Knatchbull Grammar School



Every Sunday Morning • 9am



Ages 18 Months - 5 Years



All Abilities Welcome

3 FREE TRIAL SESSIONS

