

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although January has brought with it plenty of wet weather and grey days, it has certainly not dampened spirits in school. This half term has been filled with many happy, positive moments and lots of *sunshine from within*—from smiling faces and enthusiastic learning to wonderful achievements across the school.

### Bronze Mental Health Award – Congratulations!

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that the school has achieved the Bronze Mental Health Award. Over the past 18 months, Mr Rodgers has led this important work with dedication, carefully implementing key initiatives and gathering the evidence required to demonstrate that we meet the award criteria. Thanks to his hard work, commitment and unwavering focus on promoting positive mental health across the school, we are proud to have successfully secured this recognition.



### REACH values logo



We are very proud to share our new logo for the school’s REACH values, a design inspired by the wonderful artwork created by some of our talented pupils. Special recognition to Freddie S (Y1) and Amelia (Y5) who’s designs are incorporated into this wonderful logo, along with previous pupils’ - Estelle and Saran. After exploring a range of creative ideas, both the Governing Board and our School Council took part in a vote to select the final designs—making this a truly collaborative project that reflects our whole school community. Well done and thank you to everyone involved for helping to shape a logo that celebrates who we are and what we stand for.

### Willington Friends Fundraising



Thanks to your incredible fundraising efforts and the wonderful support of the Friends of Willington group, we are delighted to share that we have been able to purchase another set of class iPads for our children. Thank you so much for your generosity—these devices will make a significant difference and will enhance teaching and learning across the school.

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## Attendance Matters

We are delighted to share that our whole-school attendance currently stands at an impressive 96.6%. This reflects your ongoing commitment to ensuring that your children are in school, on time, every day. Excellent attendance has a direct impact on learning, confidence and wellbeing, and we are incredibly grateful for the partnership we share with you in supporting this.

***“ I've found the Maths work on algebra really enjoyable even though it's quite challenging!” –  
Lottie Year 6***

## Year of Reading

This year, we are proudly embracing the 'Year of Reading', placing reading at the heart of everything we do as we continue to strive to be the very best that we can be. Reading opens doors to imagination, vocabulary, knowledge and understanding, and we are committed to ensuring that every child becomes a confident and enthusiastic reader.

To support this, we continue to work closely with the English Hub, ensuring that our phonics and English teaching is not only fully aligned with best practice but consistently strong across all year groups. This collaboration supports our staff in delivering high-quality lessons that meet the needs of all learners.

As part of our Year of Reading, we are really looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day** on Thursday 5th March.

To help make the day special, we would like children to:

- Bring a copy of their favourite book, and
- Bring a small prop that represents their chosen story (this could be an object, a soft toy, a hat, or something they have made). Here are some examples:
  - *Goldilocks* – a spoon or teddy
  - *The Gruffalo* – a toy mouse or paper Gruffalo mask
  - *Harry Potter* – a wand or glasses
  - *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* – a toy caterpillar or fruit
  - *Superhero stories* – a logo drawing or small figure
  - *Fairy tales* – a crown, slipper, or wand

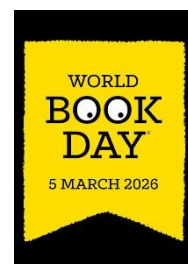
## Everyday Object Props

- A soft toy (e.g. a bear, dog, dragon or dinosaur from the story)

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- A toy vehicle (bus, train, tractor, car, spaceship)
- A key, spoon, wand or hat linked to the story
- A ball, crown, cape or scarf

This is a fun and inclusive way for children to share books they love, talk about stories with their friends and celebrate reading without the pressure of full costumes.

We will also be hosting a Book Fair in school around World Book Day.

This will give families the opportunity to:

- Use your World Book Day book voucher, and
- Purchase a range of lovely, high-quality books for children of all ages.

More details about the Book Fair, including dates and times, will be shared closer to the event. We hope as many families as possible will be able to join us in celebrating the joy of reading.

### **Bring Back Bedtime Stories**

As part of our reading focus, Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils thoroughly enjoyed wearing their pyjamas to school as part of our *Bring Back Bedtime Stories* campaign. This initiative celebrates the importance of sharing stories at home and helps to reinforce the joy of reading together. It was wonderful to see the children so excited and engaged.

### **Continuing to Improve Teaching and Learning**

One of our key priorities within this year's School Improvement Plan is the continual refinement of Quality First Teaching. We are committed to supporting our teachers to reflect, develop and grow their practice for the benefit of every child.

As part of this, staff are engaging in high-quality professional development on the INSET day on Friday, delivered by the experienced CPD provider Isabella Wallace. The current focus is on *Talk Less Teaching*—an approach that encourages pupils to think deeply, ask questions, engage in discussion and develop strong oracy skills within the classroom. This approach promotes curiosity, independence and purposeful talk, and we are excited to begin implementing new strategies over the coming term.

*“I'm finding our current topic in Science quite fascinating learning about the different systems; like digestive and circulatory systems” Head Girl, Zunayra*

### **How do I know if my child is making progress?**

Communicating with you about your child's progress is extremely important to us. Autumn term reports have now been shared with all parents and carers, and our Parents' Evening consultations

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will be taking place in March. Please look out for the upcoming information on how to book your appointment. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress at any point, do not hesitate to get in touch. We are all here to ensure that your children achieve the very best that they can.

## Personal Development

This half term, our Personal Development focus has included Children’s Mental Health Week, during which all pupils took part in activities linked to the theme “Where I Belong.” Children enjoyed exploring what helps them feel safe, valued and connected, both in school and beyond.

We have also seen fantastic participation in a wide range of sporting opportunities. Many children have taken part in after-school clubs such as dodgeball and football, and during PE lessons pupils have been learning lots of new and exciting dance moves in their dance sessions.

***“ I really enjoyed the football tournament this term; even though we got knocked out, I think we did amazing” Head Boy Hugo -Year 6***

In addition, a number of children have attended our Wellbeing Art Club and Mind Fit club, which run after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays. These clubs have provided valuable opportunities for children to relax, express themselves and support their emotional wellbeing.

A huge thank you to the staff who have organised and led these activities, helping to ensure that our children’s wellbeing and personal development remain a priority.

## Healthy School Reminder

As a healthy school, from after half term we will be allowing fruit only as a playtime snack. Children in Key Stage 1 do not need to bring a snack, as free fruit is provided in school. If children in Key Stage 2 choose to bring a snack, this must be fruit only. Thank you for supporting healthy choices.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Wishing you all a lovely half term and hopefully some ‘dry’ days and outdoor time!

Kind regards,

**Mrs Spencer Lovesey**

Headteacher

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**Diary Dates**

Date	Event
Friday 13th February	INSET day – School closed to pupils Last Day of half term
Monday 23rd February	Spring Term – back to school Learning Logs due in
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 Trip – Derby Museum
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Choir club starts with Mrs Power after school 3.30pm
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Parents KS2 SATS meeting 3.30pm School Book Fair afterschool until Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – Bring a prop to represent one of your favourite books
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Assessment Week
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parent Consultations
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Trip- Derby Museum Year 5 Parent Lunch
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last Day of term – Easter Break
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Back to School Learning Logs due in
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Olympic Athlete Visit to school
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Class and Leavers Photos
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 4 Camping Experience
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 Statutory Assessments
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Arts Week
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 2 Trip to Peak Wildlife Park Year 1 Parent Lunch
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET Day – School closed to pupils Half term break
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Back to school
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Assessment Week
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Friends of Willington Summer Fayre
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	RS Coaching Assault Course Day
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Friends of Willington Discos
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last day of term

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