

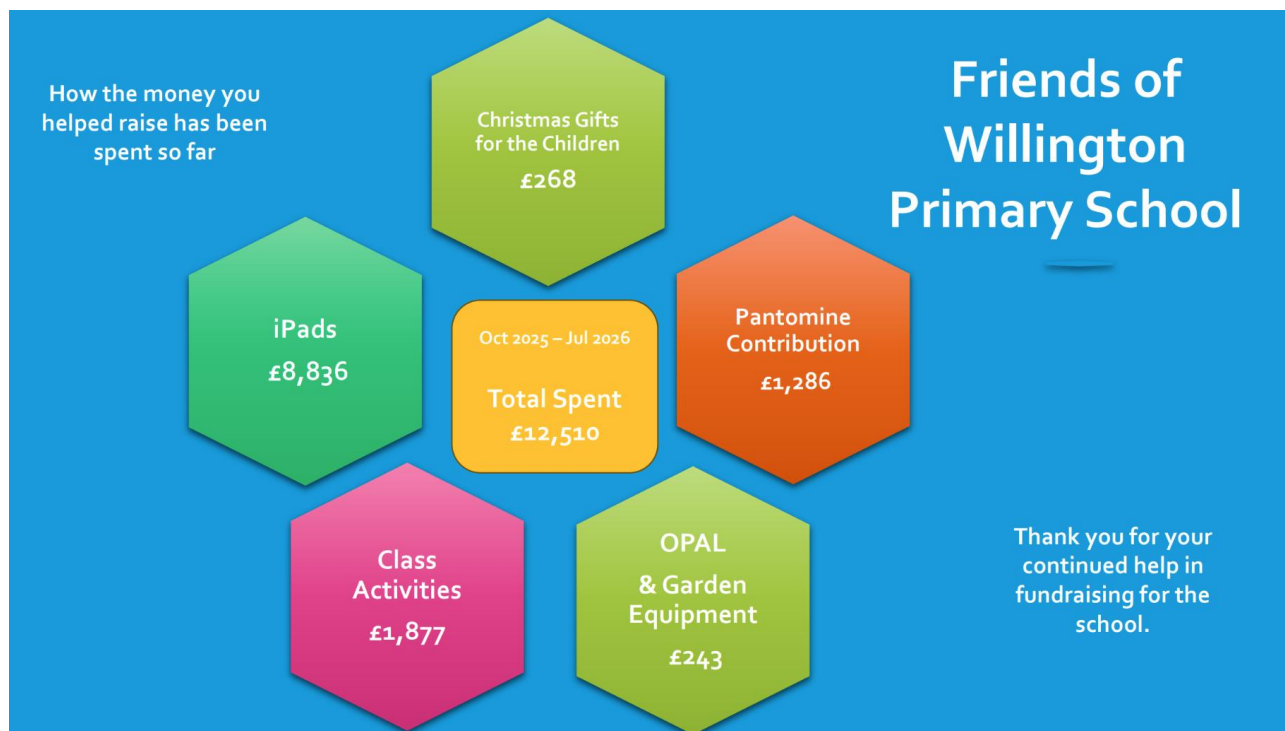
Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parent and Carers,

As we reach the end of another successful school year at WPS, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Being part of a school community requires a partnership between home and school, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do for your children and for Willington Primary School. Whether it is ensuring children arrive at school on time every day, supporting them through learning log work and reading, celebrating their achievements, attending school fairs and events, or remembering to organise payments for trips and residential visits, all of these things take time and commitment. Despite the excitement of recent sporting events and the challenges of the heatwaves in recent weeks, our children have continued to thrive thanks to your support. Thank you for all that you continue to do.

Friends of Willington

A huge thank you to our amazing Friends of Willington team. Your dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to fundraising continue to make a significant difference to the opportunities available to our children. Please take a look at the accompanying poster which outlines how your contributions have been spent across the school this year. We are incredibly grateful to the Friends committee and to every family who has supported events throughout the year. The Fun Run at the start of the academic year was a particular success and set the tone for another fantastic year of fundraising.



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Enrichment at Willington Primary School

One of the strengths of Willington Primary School is the wide range of enrichment opportunities that we provide for our children. These experiences help to bring learning to life, inspire curiosity and create lasting memories. Over the course of the year, pupils have enjoyed visits and workshops from Olympic athletes, Severn Trent Water representatives, local artists and members of the local church. Children have taken part in Bushcraft activity days, Greek history workshops, Arts Week, and have had the opportunity to meet representatives from the Houses of Parliament and our local MP. We would also like to thank families for supporting the many educational visits organised by staff, including residential experiences, camping trips, music events and a variety of curriculum-linked visits. These opportunities help to consolidate and extend learning far beyond the classroom.

Farewell to Year 6

Our Year 6 pupils have given us many reasons to be proud this year. Their recent end of year production was a fantastic celebration of their talents, confidence and character, showcasing just how far they have come. Throughout Key Stage 2, this cohort has worked hard, made strong progress and grown into a wonderful group of young people. They are now ready for the next exciting chapter of their education and we know they will continue to achieve great things.

We hope they thoroughly enjoy their leavers' party this evening and their final assembly tomorrow. On behalf of us all Willington Primary School, we wish them every success and happiness as they move on to secondary school.

Farewell and Thank You

This week we also say farewell to Mr Rodgers and Mrs Gadsby. We have been fortunate to have both of them as part of the Willington team and would like to thank them for their years of service, dedication and commitment to our school community. Their contributions have touched the lives of many children and families over the years, and we wish them both every happiness and success in the next chapter of their lives.

Uniform Reminders for September

As we head into the summer break and begin preparing for September, please take a moment to review the uniform guidance document that has been shared with families. In addition to this, we have updated the uniform policy with updated requirements regarding girls' PE cycling shorts. Where cycling shorts are worn, these should be knee-length and in line with the school's uniform expectations. Thank you for your support in helping maintain a smart and consistent appearance across the school.

School Games Gold Award

We are delighted to announce that Willington Primary School has once again achieved the **School Games Gold Award**. This recognition reflects our commitment to providing high-quality sporting opportunities for all pupils. A special thank you goes to Miss Shepherd for her tireless work in organising sporting activities and competitions throughout the year, ensuring children have access to a wide variety of experiences.

I would also like to thank the staff members and volunteers who have given up their time to transport, supervise and support pupils at sporting events. This award is a real team achievement.

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Safeguarding and Online Safety

As we move into the summer holidays, we encourage everyone to continue looking after one another and prioritising wellbeing. If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child over the summer break, please contact Derbyshire Starting Point and Referral Service on: 01629 533190.

The safeguarding@willington.derbyshire.sch.uk email address will also be monitored periodically over the break.

Please see the 'Online Safety' guide and the 'Encouraging Reading' guide for families. As routines become more relaxed over the summer and children often spend more time online, we encourage parents and carers to take a few moments to read through the guidance and discuss safe online behaviours with their children.

It is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 Top Tips for Helping Children STAY SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

Over the summer our children will, of course, have significantly more spare time now they are out of school. For many youngsters, it may be that a considerable amount of this extra freedom is spent online, using social media apps, video games, streaming services and other digital tech to have fun. For that reason, it's even more important for trusted adults to focus on online safety during the summer break – ensuring that our children are not only aware of the most common threats but also know what to do if they encounter something in the digital world that upsets or disturbs them.

- 1 ENGAGE WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES**
It might not always be convenient, but try to make time to show interest in what your child is doing online. Ideally, get involved – by joining in with video gaming and discussing the apps they're using. It will make your child more likely to come to you with any future online worries or concerns.
- 2 FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING**
Teach your child to question what they see in the digital world. As fake news increasingly uses AI to create believable audio, video and images, it will become even more important in future years to question the content that we see – and to know how to confirm it as true.
- 3 BE A DIGITAL ROLE MODEL**
Take opportunities to demonstrate your empathy and understanding of others online, giving your child a positive template to follow. Watching you being a good digital citizen will help your child to learn an appropriate level of respect for the feelings, thoughts and privacy of other internet users.
- 4 EMPHASISE THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT**
Among the internet's oceans of content, of course, are things which can be upsetting and concerning for young ones. There's always a chance that your child could stumble across inappropriate material, so it's wise to discuss in advance what they should do if this happens. Underline that they can always come to you if something online has worried them.
- 5 FIND A BALANCE**
Communicating and competing online is fun, but shouldn't replace in-person socialising, exercise or being outdoors. Work with your child to find a healthy balance between their online and offline activities. Take into account what they're actually doing online: researching something or cooperating in a game, for example, is more valuable than simply browsing TikTok.
- 6 STAY AWARE**
Keep an eye on your child's online activity and regularly check in with what they're doing. If you have serious concerns, you could discreetly view their browser history. The extent of monitoring should correspond to your child's age and maturity; younger children are likely to need closer observation.
- 7 TAKE (PARENTAL) CONTROL**
It's wise to capitalise on the parental controls offered by most internet service providers and the devices and software that children use. These controls allow you to manage the kind of content your child is able to access, and they can usually be adjusted to reflect your child's specific age.
- 8 TEACH BASIC SECURITY**
It's important that children learn to keep their personal data safe, and understand how strong passwords can help with that. Explain the basics of digital security (showing them examples, if possible) and when they're a little older you could move on to more advanced methods like multi-factor authentication.
- 9 KEEP DEVICES UPDATED**
Ensuring any devices that your child uses to go online have the most up-to-date firmware and software installed is hugely beneficial. Many people put off downloading these regular updates, but very often they contain vital software patches which help to keep your devices and data secure.
- 10 REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN**
Obviously, the digital world isn't without its dangers – but, when navigated safely, it remains an exciting, engaging and educational place. Be mindful of all the many risks, of course, but don't let them discourage you from supporting your child to explore and enjoy themselves in the online space.

Meet Our Expert
A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Twitter: @natonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety TikTok: @national_online_safety

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

- 1 VALUE ALL READING**
 When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.
- 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION**
 Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.
- 3 GIFT A BOOK**
 One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.
- 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS**
 Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.
- 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**
 Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.
- 6 TALK BOOKS**
 There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.
- 7 RECOMMENDATIONS**
 As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.
- 8 GO DIGITAL**
 With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, transcripts, and track their reading goals with resources like Polyline and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.
- 9 RECONNECT**
 There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All in' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.
- 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
 Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert
 Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](#) [/www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

Wishing You a Wonderful Summer

As another memorable year comes to a close, I would like to thank our pupils, staff and governors for their continued support. We hope you all enjoy a happy, safe and restful summer holiday, filled with opportunities to relax, spend time with loved ones and make special memories together. See you all in September for another exciting year at WPS!

Best wishes,
Mrs Spencer Lovesey and the WPS team

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Diary Dates 2026-27

*Additional events in the school calendar will be sent out in the first 2 weeks of the new term

Date	Event
4 th September	INSET Day
7 th September	Pupils return to school
10 th September	Bushkiddz Y3 All day
11 th September	Flu Immunisations
16 th September	Meet the Teacher—EYFS and KS1 3.45pm KS2 4.15pm
15 th September	International Day of Democracy—School Council Nominations— in Class Y6/Y5/Y4 Visit to Houses of Parliament - London
5 th October	INSET Day
	October—Black History Month
9 th October	World Mental Health Day – wear yellow
19 th October	Willington Friends – Pumpkin Fest Event
21 st October – Friday 23 rd	Y6 Residential
23 rd October	Last day of term – End of term ‘Treat’ sale – Willington Friends
Half Term Break	
2 nd November	Back to school
10 th and 11 th November	Parent Consultations
12 th November	Y1 Road Safety Workshop
16 th November	Anti Bullying Week
26 th November	Bushkiddz Y5 all day
4 th December	Willington Friends- Christmas Fair
8 th December	Whole School Trip to the Pantomime
18 th December	Last day of term
Christmas Break	

INSET DAYS 2026/27– School closed to pupilsFriday 4th September 2026Monday 5th October 2026Friday 28th May 2027Friday 23rd July 2027Monday 26th July 2027

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