

**Welcome back** and welcome to any new families, it is great to welcome you to our school. It has been lovely to see how well the children have returned and settled into their new year groups.

Welcome to new teachers; Miss Taylor, Miss Whitfield, Mrs Collier and Mr Haddon. They are all very thankful of the warm welcome they have received and your patience as they learn the many names and faces of the school and it's community.

### **My Child at School (MCAS) Bromcom – School Lunch Payments**

Year 3, 4, 5, 6 parents will have received this afternoon an email regarding changing a password for MCAS online lunch payment system. Unfortunately, due to a system crash the original welcome email failed to send; everyone has since been sent a 're-set password' email. To follow this up you will have also received another email with Bromcom guidance on how to set-up the app.

*Please note any cash payments received since 4<sup>th</sup> September are not yet showing on your accounts.*

### **Well Done!**

Three of our Year 6 pupils represented Devon in a water polo match at the weekend. Please see their match report below:

On Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September, Seth, Lucas and Elodie played for Devon County under 11 water polo team. They played at Milfield swimming pool against Somerset. They had a strong start, Devon winning 2-0 at the first half but Somerset caught up.

In the last quarter, things were tied and ended up going into penalties! Devon scored the 1<sup>st</sup> penalty, Somerset's penalty was saved by the goalkeeper, Lucas. Somerset scored their second penalty, no one scored after that. They still ended in a draw 14-14.

**The MVP** was Lucas for his amazing act in goal!

***Willand School are very proud of them***

### **Invitation to Parents of children in Year R (Reception)**

Throughout the year we will run a series of meetings for parents to learn how we are teaching your children to read and how you can help at home.

Our first meeting will be on **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September @ 2:45pm in the school hall**. This session will focus on how we will teach your child their first 16 sounds. If you are able to attend, please sign in at the school office, where you will be directed to the hall.

Please do not worry if you cannot attend any of these meetings in person, as all presentations and information will be recorded and uploaded to the Tapestry online Learning platform.

### **Respect and Kindness**

As you know, we are incredibly proud of the strong, supportive relationships we have with the vast majority of our families. We value the trust you place in us and always aim to work in partnership with you to support your child's education, wellbeing, and development.

While we understand that issues can arise and emotions can run high when it comes to our children, it is essential that all conversations including ones sent as emails – even those involving concerns or complaints – are conducted calmly, respectfully, and constructively.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that our staff deserve to be treated with courtesy and professionalism at all times. Just as we expect our staff to model respectful behaviour, we also expect the same from all members of our school community. We are all human and know that we don't always get things right.

We are very grateful for the positive and collaborative relationships we share with the vast majority of our families. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us maintain a safe, respectful environment for everyone in our school.

### **Rewards and Recognition**

This year one of our aims is to enhance the recognition and rewarding of pupils who always try their best and continually uphold the school values. In consultation with the school council we have developed a house point system, further utilising the teams we have for sports day. From next week we will be putting on the Willand Word the weekly House point winning team.

We will also be holding celebration assemblies, each week a child from every class will be awarded a certificate for exemplification of school values.

*Thank you for your  
continued support  
Naomi Tottle  
Headteacher*

## Autism and Us' Parent Programme (Summer Term 2024)

Sent on behalf of the Communication and Interaction Team: [Support from the Communication and Interaction Team - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

**"Support for parents/carers resident within the DCC (Devon County Council) footprint of primary or secondary aged children (5-16) who are either on the neurodiversity assessment waiting list or who have received a diagnosis of autism."**

Our 'Autism & Us' programme and associated themed/topic based workshops have now been adopted as a Devon County Council Core offer, which means the long term sustainable and consistent delivery has been secured for families.

They will be delivered each term of the academic year, by members of the SEND Communication & Interaction Team at Devon County Council.

We continue to offer access for parents and carers of CYP (Children & Young People) who are currently on the neurodiversity assessment pathway, in addition to families of CYP who have received an autism diagnosis.

Attending the 'Autism & Us' parent programme gives you opportunity to develop your understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to managing and supporting your child's presenting needs, whilst also connecting with other parents/carers.

Full programme details and application process below:

### Autism & Us programmes:

4 weekly 'live online' sessions (approx. 2hrs each) related to the following topic/themes:

weekly 'live online' sessions (approx. 2hrs each) related to the following topic/themes:

Autumn Term 2025		
No.	Topic	Programme
1	Autism overview	Tuesday 23 September – 10am – 12noon
2	Sensory	Tuesday 30 October – 10am – 12noon
3	Communication	Tuesday 7 October – 10am – 12noon
4	Understanding and supporting behaviour	Tuesday 15 October – 10am – 12pm

Apply direct by email to: [educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk](mailto:educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk) to secure a place on either of the above programmes, or express your interest for forthcoming programmes.

We will confirm your booking request and provide you with a direct link to the event. They will be delivered online 'live' via the Microsoft TEAMS platform.

### Online Safety –



#### 'Wake Up Wednesday'

Attached are the latest top tips from the National College. This week's theme is ...

#### 'Online Slang'

*Ever found yourself baffled by terms like 'rizz' or 'skibidi'?*

*You're not alone! Online slang evolves at lightning speed – and while some expressions are light-hearted fun, others could signal bullying, exclusion and emotional distress.*

*This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide unpacks the most common slang terms and explores the risks they can sometimes conceal. It's designed to help parents and educators start meaningful conversations and better support young people in their digital spaces.*

As always, if you have any questions relating to online safety, please contact Mrs Maynard (Online safety Lead)

### PTFA Playground Development Update

Due to delays with the installation company the new equipment for the school playground will be installed in October half term

### Reminders

Please name your child's clothes as it is incredibly difficult for staff to match children to unnamed uniform.

Also, with the weather being so unpredictable, please can children bring a coat to school with them each day.

### P.E Information

Just a reminder that children are required to wear their P.E kit to school on the days they have P.E or sports club.

#### Their uniform is:

- P.E shirt with school logo or a plain white t-shirt.
- Black shorts.
- Black plimsolls.
- White or black socks.
- Additional sweatshirt and black leggings or tracksuit for winter.
- Trainers for Key stage 2 outside P.E.
- For safety reasons,
- All long hair must be tied back.
- Children who have their ears pierced should only wear plain studs and these must be covered for P.E. Please do this before your child comes to school or supply them with micropore tape for them to cover them themselves.
- All watches, including Fitbits and other sports watches must be removed for P.E lessons.
- **Children who need glasses for P.E must have a strap to secure them in place.**

### Staffing Vacancies

Over the summer break you may have seen some staffing vacancies advertised, we are still looking for a caretaker and Clerk to governors. If you would like to find out more about either of these roles, please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Howard or Miss Tottle.

Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 Website: [www.willand.devon.sch.uk](http://www.willand.devon.sch.uk) Email: [office@willand.devon.sch.uk](mailto:office@willand.devon.sch.uk)  
[governors@willand.devon.sch.uk](mailto:governors@willand.devon.sch.uk) [lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk](mailto:lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk) [absence@willand.devon.sch.uk](mailto:absence@willand.devon.sch.uk)

Online Payments: <https://login.schoolgateway.com>

PTFA: [willandschoolptfa@gmail.com](mailto:willandschoolptfa@gmail.com)

## Healthy Snacks at Breaktime

Please encourage your child to bring a healthy snack to school for break time. Below is a list of examples:

- Fruit
- Dried fruit (eg raisins)
- Vegetables (eg carrot sticks)
- Rice cakes
- Yogurt pouch/tube

There will of course be many other examples of healthy snacks not listed here that you may provide your child with and so this should serve as a general guide. The school staff will use their discretion at break-time but will certainly be asking pupils to save crisps, chocolate bars, biscuits and cakes etc for lunchtime!

We would like to remind families, that children in Reception and KS1 have free fruit provided each day for them at breaktime.

We hope this provides some clarification for everyone. Thank you for working with us to ensure all our children receive a healthy start to life.

**Please remember we are a NUT FREE school** as we have children with potentially fatal allergies.



## Diary to remember...

Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Year R Phonics Parents Meeting
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Tiverton High School Open Evening for Yr 5 parents – 5pm-7pm
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Cullompton CC Open Evening for Yr5/6 parents – 4pm-7pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Uffculme School Open Eve for Yr5/6 parents – 6pm-8pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Yr 3 Farmwise Visit
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultations
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Yr 6 Dawlish Warren Visit
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Schoolastic Book Fayre
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Family & Individual Photos
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultations
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Harvest Festival
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Non-Pupil Day
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half Term

For full calendar of events, please click below –

<https://willand.devon.sch.uk/Calendarofevents.pdf>

## Willand School Lunch Menu for week commencing Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pepperoni pizza	Italian Bolognese	Roast Turkey with sage and onion stuffing	Sausage Rolls	Fish Fingers
Cheese pizza	Quorn chicken noodles	Cheese & onion pasty	Cauliflower Cheese	Vegetarian Fingers
Potato Wedges/ Pasta Sweetcorn Salad Bar	Spaghetti Garlic bread Green beans Crisps Salad Bar	Roast/Mashed Potatoes Fresh Carrots Gravy Salad Bar	Pasta/mash Baked Beans/ Peas Salad Bar	Chips / Pasta Seasonal vegetables Tomato sauce Salad Bar
Meringue nests, peaches and cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Chocolate cake and chocolate sauce Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Cheese and crackers or Smoothie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Fruit Cocktail and Ice-cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Homemade Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt
PASTA POTS with Italian tomato sauce or cheese JACKET POTATO with cheese, beans or tuna WRAPSWITH FILLINGS: Ham, Chicken or Cheese				



# THS

TIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Work Hard. Be Kind. Belong.

## YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

### 17TH SEPTEMBER 2025

### 5-7 PM








We warmly invite families and Year 6 students to our Open Evening.

This is a great opportunity to meet students, staff and visit departments to find out about our exciting curriculum and extracurricular offerings.

There will be introductory talks at 5pm and 6pm with Nicky Lewis, Headteacher.

**Contact us:** Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 Website: [www.willand.devon.sch.uk](http://www.willand.devon.sch.uk) Email: [office@willand.devon.sch.uk](mailto:office@willand.devon.sch.uk)  
[governors@willand.devon.sch.uk](mailto:governors@willand.devon.sch.uk) [lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk](mailto:lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk) [absence@willand.devon.sch.uk](mailto:absence@willand.devon.sch.uk)  
**Online Payments:** <https://login.schoolgateway.com> **PTFA:** [willandschoolptfa@gmail.com](mailto:willandschoolptfa@gmail.com)

**Safeguarding - From time to time the school may need to make referrals to Children and Young People's**



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE SLANG

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Slang moves fast – and for many young people, it's not just how they talk, but how they share their identity and feelings. Learning key terms helps adults connect and show understanding, even if the lingo seems baffling at first.

### GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

Words like 'vibe' or 'slaps' can be misunderstood by adults, leading to awkward moments or a breakdown in trust. These phrases often carry subtle social meanings among young people.

### RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Slang changes quickly. A term like 'bop' might sound innocent one week and be repurposed the next. This makes it easy for adults to fall behind and for children to misstep.

### SHIELDING BULLYING OR EXCLUSION

Inside jokes and trending terms like 'simp' or 'NPC' can be used to mock or exclude others. What looks like harmless fun might actually reinforce social divisions or bullying.

### PERFORMING FOR THE ALGORITHM

Slang often reflects what's popular on platforms like TikTok. Young users might exaggerate or act out for likes, creating online personas that don't match their real selves.

### CONTENT MODERATION WITH CODED SPEECH

To avoid content filters, young people sometimes use slang or emojis to talk about serious topics – for example, saying 'unlve' instead of other death-related terms. This makes harmful content harder to spot.

### LONG-TERM DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

A slang-filled post might seem funny now but could resurface years later during job checks or university applications – possibly out of context, but still damaging.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### KEEP UP, DON'T CATCH UP

Follow youth culture pages or ask your child about new slang. Staying informed shows that you're engaged and open to understanding their world.

### FOCUS ON CONNECTION OVER CONTROL

Being someone your child can talk to is more valuable than using strict filters or monitoring apps. Openness builds trust.

### ASK, DON'T INTERROGATE

Use open questions to invite conversation. You're not quizzing them – just trying to learn more about their online lives.

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL MEDIA LITERACY

Talk about where slang comes from, how it spreads, and how it can impact others. This helps young people use language more thoughtfully.

### ONLINE SLANG CHEAT SHEET -

The following slang terms are common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list and both meaning and prevalence can change swiftly.

#### COMMON SLANG:

- Sigma** – Independent, self-reliant (often male) mindset; proud outsider status. Often celebrated in motivational memes.
- Skibidi** – Nonsense word from the viral 'Skibidi Toilet' meme; expresses chaos or fun. Usually harmless but pervasive.
- Chat** – The collective audience or group of viewers (e.g. on a livestream). Used when addressing followers directly.
- Lock in** – To focus, commit or get serious (e.g. before gaming or sports). Positive encouragement to concentrate.
- Cooking** – Doing something exceptionally well or gaining momentum. Opposite of 'cooked'.
- Rizz** – Charisma or flirting ability (short for charisma). Can praise social confidence.
- Aura or aura farming** – One's perceived 'energy' or vibe; 'farming' means manufacturing clout.

#### POTENTIALLY CONCERNING SLANG

- Rap** – An adult content creator (e.g. OnlyFans), indicates exposure to 18+ material.
- Byat or gyatt** – Sexualised exclamation about someone's backside. Objectifies appearance.
- Tralala tralala / bombardino crocodile / tung tung tung saher** – Spammy references to AI-generated creatures with 'Italian-sounding' names. Can clog chats, derail discussion, and harass others.
- Slazing** – Overpraising or obsessively defending a streamer or celebrity.
- Crash out** – To lose control, give up or have a meltdown; sometimes hints at self-harm.
- Cooked** – Ruined, exhausted or in serious trouble; sometimes mental health-related.
- Unlve** – Euphemism for death or suicide; used to avoid content filters.
- NPC** – Used to suggest someone is lacking independent thoughts or is repetitive and predictable.

### Meet Our Expert

Keith Bruni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emoji.pedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Queen's School of Business and Technology.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College