



Well done to this weeks winner!
– Cornwall with 285 points

Running total for the term:

Devon 1137	Dorset 1201	Somerset 1164	Cornwall 1129
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Keep up the great work everyone!

Parent Consultations

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the recent parents evenings. Please contact the class teacher if you were unable to come and would still like to discuss your child's progress.

Goodbye and good luck ...

...to the following staff who are ending their time working at Willand School this week; Mrs Gunn and Miss Lindsell. We thank them both for all their hard work and support over the last few years.

Thank you to the PTFA

For the Year 6 Hoodies, the children look very smart in them.



Parent Governor Vacancy

This is a reminder that there is a vacancy for a parent governor on our school's governing body, the details of which were sent by email to parents earlier this week. Nominations must be returned by Friday, 27th February.

Year R Little Listeners Storytime

Thank you so much to all of the parents who attended our Little Listeners Storytime on Monday; we were thrilled with how many of you came and it was so lovely to see the children getting cosy and enjoying stories with you.

We appreciate that not all parents were able to attend but have endeavoured to provide a variety of dates and times for our parental engagement sessions this year in the hope that this will enable as many of you as possible to join us for at least one of the sessions. As a reminder, please find the dates and times of our sessions for the remainder of the school year below:

- Tues, 24th March, 9:15am-10am (Maths Magicians)
- Wed, 20th May, 2:45pm-3:15pm
- Fri, 3rd July, 9:15am-10am

Vision screening for 4-5 Year Olds

Later today, parents of children in Reception will receive an email regarding the above.

Please only complete and return the form if you DO NOT want your child to have their vision screened in school.

Attendance

As part of Devon County Council's drive to improve school attendance, we will be sharing our attendance statistics with you for the week ending Friday, 6th February 2026

Year Group	%Attendance	Year Group	%Attendance
Reception	96.21	3	97.84
1	95.93	4	95.90
2	93.17	5	95.16
		6	95.16

The Current National figure for comparison is 94.83%

Swimming Gala Success

Congratulations to the 18 children who represented our school at the Culm Valley Swimming Gala this morning. It was so lovely to see the children cheering each other on and supporting one another. The children swam brilliantly and we were thrilled to come 1st place out of 11 schools. Thank you to Mr Silk, Mrs Hector, Miss Whitrow and Miss Shapcott who accompanied the team and to Mrs Burman and Mrs Goff who helped the event run so smoothly.



PE Timetable for this Term

Please see below the PE timetable starting from **Monday, 23rd February.**

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception			X		X
Y1G	X		X		
Y1HP	X			X	
Year 2		X		X	
Y3P			X		Swimming
Y3WL	X			X	
Y4H	X	X			
Y4MC		X			X
Year 5				X	X
Year 6			X		X

Thank you for your continued support
Naomi Tottle
Headteacher

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Online Safety – 'Wake Up Wednesday'



Attached at the end of this newsletter are the latest top tips from the National College. This week's theme is ...

'International Safer Internet Day'

Yesterday, 10th February, was International Safer Internet Day. Our assemblies and computing lessons this week across the school have been linked to the theme of safer use of AI. Today's Wake Up Wednesday gives parents and carers some further information on this theme. Why not ask your child what they have learned about it in school this week.

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

Understanding the World



Last week, as part of their learning in Understanding the World, Reception children enjoyed a time capsule home from the past. They were surprised to discover their modern clothes and technology had disappeared and the home corner was full of clothes, artefacts and objects from the 1970s. The children did a really good job in looking after the artefacts and I think you'll agree that they looked fabulous!



Sickness

We would like to remind parents, children should not return to school for 48hrs after an episode of diarrhoea and vomiting. Also, we would like to make you aware that we have recently had several cases of chickenpox in school during the last couple of weeks.

Please see NHS recommendations below:

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Stopped cough



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfoc>

WILLAND SCHOOL PTFA
EASTER DISCO!

Friday 27th March

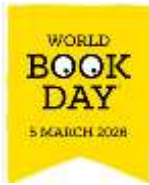
Hop on down for an egg-cellent evening!

Reception / KS1: 4:30pm - 5:30pm
Lower KS2: 5:45pm - 6:45pm
Upper KS2: 6:15pm - 7:15pm

Tickets available soon

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



**Story Boxes –
A World Book Day Competition**

Looking for an inspiring crafty project for half-term? "Story Box" ideas for World Book Day involve creating a miniature

diorama of a favourite book's scene inside a box using various craft materials. This creative project helps children engage with a book's setting, characters, and story in a hands-on way. Choose a favourite book and get making! There will be prizes awarded and we plan to mount an exhibition to show off the children's creations. Here are some ideas to help inspire you all.

Harry Potter - Recreate a magical scene like the Great Hall, a potions class, or Hagrid's hut. Include elements like a miniature wand, a Golden Snitch (painted ball), or house banners.



The Chronicles of Narnia - Construct the snowy, lamp-lit forest scene where Lucy first meets Mr. Tumnus. Use cotton balls for snow, small artificial trees, and animal figurines.

The Little Mermaid - Dive into Ariel's underwater kingdom with blue fabric or painted paper for the ocean and real or crafted shells and sea glass.

Charlotte's Web - Build a miniature barn or fairground scene with toy animals to represent the characters. You could use yarn to create a small spider web inside.



The Secret Garden - Create a lush, green garden using fake moss, small plastic flowers, or painted paper cut-outs. Add a tiny watering can or

gardening tools to match the theme.

Treasure Island - Include a small map, a compass, and a miniature treasure chest filled with gold-painted pebbles or coins to recreate a classic adventure.



The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Show the journey of the



caterpillar through various foods it eats before turning into a butterfly. Use pipe cleaners for the caterpillar and small models of fruit.

Please ensure that the story boxes are in school before Thursday 5th March.

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Anne Parsons, a children's author, will be visiting our school on Thursday, 5th March. Anne will be sharing the story of Archie, Go! with our classes and will be offering the chance of buying a signed copy of her book with a dedication.

In this book, Archie and Louise catch a thief who has stolen books from Louise's grandparents'

bookshop. Subsequently, they find out about the roles Airedale Terriers have played in the past, being police dogs, and messenger dogs in the First World War. They make new friends with Maggie and her guide dog Ivy. Such experiences make Archie question his role in life as a family pet and a jumping champion.

Meanwhile, Archie is training hard for his competitions. Rory, Louise's brother, becomes involved with team agility classes, but just when preparations are going well, disaster strikes, and another training centre must be found urgently. The new location is already known to Archie and holds bad memories for him. Archie realises that he must overcome his fears and move on if he wishes to achieve his dream.

The opposition becomes more challenging as the national finals get nearer. When the competition day arrives, old rivals meet up, and a new team appears. Can his team beat them? Then Archie goes head-to-head with the new team leader in the individual jumping competition.

Life is never easy. All Archie can do is try his best and hope that will be good enough. Surely, fame is just a jump away!

Price - £5.00 (normal RRP £7.99).

**Willand School Lunch Menu for week commencing
Monday, 23rd February**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pork meatballs <i>Vegan balls</i>	Chicken Nuggets <i>Quorn Dippers</i>	Gammon and pineapple <i>Cheese & Broccoli bake</i>	Sausages <i>Quorn sausages</i>	Salmon Fingers <i>Vegetarian Pizza</i>
Spaghetti Green beans Crisps Salad Bar	Pasta/ waffles Sweetcorn Tomato sauce Salad Bar	Roast/Mashed Potatoes Fresh Carrots Gravy Salad Bar	Pasta or mash Baked beans/peas Salad Bar	Chips or Pasta Seasonal vegetables Tomato Sauce Salad Bar
Arctic Roll Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Chocolate cracknel Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Orange Jelly and mandarins Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Selection of cake 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				

Kids Holiday Heroes

Wrap around care at Willand School

We are open from 8-9am and from 3.30-5.30pm Mon-Thurs and 3.30-5pm Friday. The service will be available for all children from Year 2 to Year 6.

The cost of wrap around care will be £5.80 per hour.

During our breakfast club from 8am to 9am we provide your child with a healthy breakfast. A healthy snack and drink will be available during the after-school club.

For Bookings or any further questions, please email bookings@kidsholidayheroes.co.uk

DATES to remember...

	Half Term
Fri 27th February	Class 2R Assembly
Thurs 5 th March	World Book Day
Fri 6th March	Class 2T Assembly
Fri 13th March	Class 3WL Assembly
Fri 27th March	Class 4MC Assembly (Easter)
Thurs 2 nd April	Non-pupil Day
Friday 3 rd April	Start of Easter Holiday
Monday 20 th April	Start of Summer Term

EVENTS

Please see the noticeboard outside the school office for the following events

Celebrate Pancake Day

Monday 16th February 9.30-11am

No charge but donations are welcome

Bible story and songs

Decorate pancakes
Family friendly activities

Children should be accompanied by an adult



Please note that we are unable to check on the validity of the companies or the people running the schemes, and if those working with children have the correct police checks.

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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.


10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED


AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

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