



**Congratulations to this weeks winner – Dorset with 300 points**

Running total for the term:

<b>Devon</b> 473	<b>Dorset</b> 531	<b>Somerset</b> 453	<b>Cornwall</b> 456
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Keep up the great work everyone!

#### Class Assembly

**6G** are holding their class assembly on **Friday at 2:45pm**. All parents of these children are welcome to come and watch. Entrance to the hall will be via the Foundation Stage doors.

#### Parent/Governor Election

Please look out for the email sent to parents yesterday afternoon regarding the vacant parent/governor post and election details.

#### Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will be taking place on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**. You will receive a separate email early next week with the details of how to book.

#### Parking in the Local Community

We have been made aware that there are some parking concerns in and around Somerlea. Please can we ask that parents are mindful of their parking and ensure they do not block other people's driveways or restrict access to larger vehicles particularly delivery vans/lorries and emergency services.

#### Teaching Assistant Vacancies

We are looking to recruit a number of Teaching Assistants - vacancies on Devon Jobs website  
<https://www.devonjobs.gov.uk/>

#### Attendance

As part of Devon County Council's drive to improve school attendance, we are sharing our attendance statistics with you for the week ending Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Year Group	%Attendance	Year Group	%Attendance
Reception	95.00	3	99.20
1	95.37	4	93.77
2	91.19	5	96.13
		6	94.53

The Current National figure for comparison is 95.4%

*Thank you for your continued support*  
*Naomi Tottle*  
*Headteacher*

#### Online Safety – 'Wake Up Wednesday'

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

#### 'AI Toys'

*Many of the newest toys now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This weeks guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.*

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

**SEND Information**  
**Message from Parent Talk**  
**@ Action 4 Children**



January is often a time that inspires us to set fresh goals and think about how we can look after our physical, emotional, and financial wellbeing.

It's also a good time to help children build positive habits that will support them throughout the year. Whether you're hoping to boost family health, improve sleep routines, find fun activities at home, or feel more confident talking about money, there is support available to help you get started this year.

For 1:1 support, you can speak to one of our parent coaches on [our web chat and WhatsApp service](#).

[The Parent Talk team](#)

**Willand School Lunch Menu for week commencing Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pork meatballs	Chicken Nuggets	Gammon and pineapple	Sausages	Salmon Fingers
Vegan balls	Quorn Dippers	Cheese & Broccoli bake	Quorn sausages	Vegetarian Pizza
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				

**PTFA NEWS**



Shop with over 8,000 retailers via #easyfundraising this year and earn a free donation for us at the same time.

All the big names like eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, Etsy, Tesco and Just Eat are ready to donate. It won't cost you anything extra!

Please sign up today and we could win a £500 donation:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/wsptfa/6YDNSF/c2s/mQ7ahH9a/CE947/facebook/427.00>

★ **Our New Facebook Page Update** ★

For unknown reasons Facebook/Meta removed the previous page without any notification despite this being the current PTFA page.

This is the new page

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1EBAvzkVoV/?mibextid=wwXlfr> we hope we can continue to share exciting news and events from the PTFA in support of all children at Willand School.

**Diary** **ES** *to remember...*

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Class 6G Assembly – 2:45pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
For full calendar of events, please click below – <a href="https://willand.devon.sch.uk/Calendarofevents.pdf">https://willand.devon.sch.uk/Calendarofevents.pdf</a>	

**Kids Holiday Heroes are back at Willand School for February!**

We have a range of sport and craft activities suitable for all children.

**Who:** Holiday Club for children aged between 5 to 12. £30 per day.

**When** 8:30am-4:00pm Monday 16th to Friday 20th February

**What:** We offer an exciting outdoor programme that blends sports and arts & crafts, delivering fun, inclusive activities that supports learning and encourages creativity, teamwork, and confidence..

📍 Bookings – [www.kidsholidayheroes.co.uk](http://www.kidsholidayheroes.co.uk)

**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 Services**

**EVENTS**

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

**HOLIDAY CLUBS**

**FREE PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUBS**

more fun, more friendships, more smiles  
**DURING THE FEBRUARY HALF-TERM!**

Book today  
premier-education.com

**Premier Education**

Excellent  
Trustpilot

**CULLOMPTON AND TIVERTON HOLIDAY CLUBS**

- ★ St John's Catholic Primary School, Tiverton, EX16 5LA
- ★ Willowbank Primary School, Cullompton, EX15 1EZ
- ★ Wilcombe Primary School, Tiverton, EX16 4AL
- ★ Running 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup> February
- ★ Multi Activity clubs available
- ★ 9am - 1pm
- ★ **FIRST DAY FREE, SECOND DAY HALF PRICE - AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE!**  
(Message us on Facebook @ Premier Education Devon to book)
- ★ £16.49 per child, per day
- ★ Available to children aged 4 - 11
- ★ Book at [www.premier-education.com/holiday-clubs](http://www.premier-education.com/holiday-clubs)
- ★ Contact [dcrysel@premier-education.com](mailto:dcrysel@premier-education.com) for queries

Our Holiday Clubs keep children active, safe, and entertained throughout the school holidays.

Join us this February as we offer a wide range of fun activities, including sports, performing arts, and games, all at great value. There's something for every child to enjoy this half-term!

please bring  
Plenty of water  
Suitable clothing  
Loads of energy!

Book now for lots of fun!

**CLUBS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!**

**TREAT YOUR FRIENDS TO 20% OFF...AND GET 20% OFF TOO!**

Message us to book @ Premier Education Devon

Excellent Trustpilot

**PRIMARY SPORTS & EDUCATION**

**UPLOWMAN ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMP**

SCAN TO BOOK!

5-12 YEARS OLD

HERF GUN BATTLES, FOOTBALL, LASER TAG, ARTS & CRAFTS, DODGEDBALL, GLOW IN THE DARK SPORTS, TALENT SHOWS, SILENT DISCO, CRICKET & MUCH MORE!!

PRICES:  
STANDARD DAY - £24

TIMES:  
STANDARD- 8:30AM - 3:30PM

**2025/26 Dates:**  
TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

**UPLOWMAN VILLAGE HALL**  
UPLOWMAN  
TIVERTON  
EX16 7DN

BOOKING LINK - <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2026/02/17/uplowman-village-hall-holiday-comps-february-half-term-2026>

More information: [james@primary-sports.co.uk](mailto:james@primary-sports.co.uk) / 07415293798

**WORLD WAR TWO DAY**  
Saturday 31st January 2026

- Military vehicles
- Rationing
- Code breaking
- Object handling
- ... and more!

Adults: £9.50, child: £3  
Museum members: £4.75, child: £2

**TIVERTON MUSEUM**  
of Mid Devon Life

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00  
[www.tivertonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.tivertonmuseum.org.uk)  
Beck's Square, Tiverton EX16 6PJ  
01884 256295  
Registered Charity 119195

FOLLOW US:  
@TivertonMuseum

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.

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 Services**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

### TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

### WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

### ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

### PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

### MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

### PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

### SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

### MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

### RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

### BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

### Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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