

Pupils as Leaders

On Friday during our Willand Wonder assembly, we announced the pupils who would be fulfilling a variety of pupil leadership opportunities across the school. The School Council, Eco Council and KiVa Ambassadors were all voted for by the children in their classes. This provides a valuable opportunity for the children to experience **democracy in action**, one of the fundamental British Values that we teach in school. Pupils listened to candidates' ideas, considered the qualities they believed would make an effective leader and cast their vote accordingly. Through this process, children learn the importance of having a voice, making informed choices and respecting the views and decisions of others. We look forward to celebrating our new pupil leaders and hope they wear their badges with pride.

We have also invited a number of pupils in KS2 to become Reading Ambassadors and support our younger children on their journey to becoming fluent readers and developing a love of reading.



In addition to this, we also announced our House Captains and Vice House Captains. All of these pupils come from Year 6 and had to write a letter to Miss Tottle explaining why they felt they should be considered for the role. Miss Tottle then had the very difficult job of deciding who should be successful for the role. Congratulations to **Lucas and Stanley for Devon**, **Catelin and Arthur for Dorset**, **Eva and Zoe for Somerset** and **Minnie and Jamie for Cornwall**. These pupils will be encouraging their house to gain as many points as possible each week so that they are in with the chance of picking the house reward at the end of each half-term and being the ultimate house winner at the end of the year.



Congratulations to this weeks winner – Dorset

Running total for the term:

Devon	Dorset	Somerset	Cornwall
315	533	437	403

Keep up the great work everyone!

Reading at home

Reading at home is one of the **most important things you can do to support your child's learning**. Just a few minutes of reading each day helps to build vocabulary, confidence, comprehension and a love of books — supporting children across all areas of their learning. And remember, **reading to your child is just as powerful**. Sharing stories together, talking about the pictures and characters and enjoying books as a family has huge benefits, whatever your child's age or reading ability. Please also help us to **look after our school reading books**. They are precious resources and, with school budgets tight, we really appreciate books being kept safe and returned.



Click on the link to watch a short video that explains the many benefits of reading at home and why it matters so much. <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JHNWegWk/BgaOspDp>

Thank you for helping us to nurture a lifelong love of reading.

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

Year Group	%Attendance	Year Group	%Attendance
Reception	97.50	3	95.54
1	95.65	4	95.47
2	97.82	5	95.71
		6	95.81

The Current National figure for comparison is 94.84%

Nasal Flu Vaccination – Thursday, 19th November

You will have received an email last week regarding the visit by the immunisation team on Thursday, 19th November.

We would like to remind parents that this is an opt-in programme and you should sign up using the following link: [Flu Vaccination Consent Form](#)

*Thank you for your
continued support
Naomi Tottle
Headteacher*

Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 Website: www.willand.devon.sch.uk Email: office@willand.devon.sch.uk
governors@willand.devon.sch.uk lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk absence@willand.devon.sch.uk
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Online Safety –

'Wake Up Wednesday'

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

'Toxic Gaming'

Gaming should be a way for children to have safe fun with their friends. But anonymity and a lack of consequences can mean that corners of online multiplayer gaming are riddled with toxicity that makes them unpleasant at best, and damaging to children at worst.

A 2019 study found 74% of players had experienced harassment in online games, and such behaviour has become increasingly normalised..

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



SEND Information

The Decider Life Skills programme for all Year 5

Many thanks to those parents who have already submitted consent for their Year 5 child(ren) to take part in the whole class Decider Life Skills programme. If you have overlooked this, please click on the following link: [The Decider Life Skills – Fill in form](#)

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate the school office and ask for an MHST Decider Life skills leaflet.



Please keep an eye out ...

... we will shortly be advertising on Devon Jobs for a **SEND TA/MTA** in the infant years

HOMWORK



Homework Expectations

KS1 Homework and Home School Book

- Children should bring their home-school book (the yellow book with reading record on the front) and reading book into school everyday as they may read with an

adult/reading ambassador 1:1 at any time.

- Phonics books will be changed on a Monday unless you are informed otherwise.

- Children in Y2 who are accessing whole class reading will have their books changed whenever they are finished and will have set days when their group is reading with an adult, hence needing their reading book in school everyday.

- Children are expected to read every night and in Y2, practise the given spelling rule. From January, children in Y1 will also have spellings to learn. - From the second half of the spring term, Y2 will have access to Times Tables Rockstars. Further information will be sent out regarding this.

- Numbots is optional for all children

Key Stage 2 Homework

In Key Stage 2, it is expected that children read every night; practise their times tables across the week in LKS2 and complete Maths.co.uk homework in UKS2 and discuss their spelling rule for that week at home. This is documented in their home school books. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Year 3 Visit to Farmwise Devon

The children are very much looking forward to their trip to Farmwise Devon Event on the 6th October. We would like to thank those parents who have already shown their support but if you have overlooked this, please make a voluntary contribution of £8.93 payment online at www.schoolgateway.com or via the school office where we can accept a cash payment.

Class 4MC Swimming

Thank you to all parents who have already made a voluntary contribution towards this ongoing activity. If you have overlooked this, contributions can still be accepted online at www.schoolgateway.com or cash / cheque payments can be made via the school office. The total cost is £22.62 for all sessions (£3.77 per session). Cheques to be made payable to Devon County Council. Please help us to provide this activity by continuing to support the school.



Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 Website: www.willand.devon.sch.uk Email: office@willand.devon.sch.uk
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Safeguarding - From time to time the school may need to make referrals to Children and Young People's Services

Willand Sports News ...

On Tuesday 22nd September, the Hi Five's Netball and Basketball teams played in a tournament against other local primary schools at Uffculme School.



The Hi Five's netball team played 4 games – they won 3 and only lost 1!

The team never gave up and worked hard to put into practice all of the skills that they'd learnt at netball club last year. Every single player gave 100% and Mrs Bosworth couldn't be prouder of them. Well done Team Willand!

The basketballers also showed exactly what it means to be a team by working hard for each other, communicating well and encouraging each other throughout. Mr Silk and Mrs Bellamy really enjoyed watching the Willand Wizard's slick passing moves and deadly shooting accuracy as the team won every single game they played!



Several children from both teams were representing our school for the very first time in sport, and they were superb. Well done!

Could You Spare Some Time to Help Our School Community?

We are always grateful for the support of our wonderful parent and local community volunteers. If you have a little time to spare, we would love to hear from you.

Volunteers can make a real difference, helping children by listening to them read or by supporting staff on school trips and educational visits.

Whether you can help regularly or just occasionally, your time and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated and help enrich our pupils' experiences.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the school office for more information and details about the application process. We would be delighted to welcome you to our team of volunteers.



👻 HALLOWEEN DISCO TICKETS NOW ON SALE 👻

Please use this link to purchase your tickets: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/ptfa-halloween-disco>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - You will be required to input the below information before being able to purchase a ticket

- Emergency Contact Number
- Child's Name
- Child's Class

You will receive email confirmation of your purchase. On the night a register of all tickets purchased will be checked upon entry, therefore we regret to inform you that this event is advanced purchase only.

* Cash payments will be accepted via the school office alongside the required information

What will be at the disco:

- A DJ playing a variety of music and class song requests
- Quiet Room with various activities (Included in ticket price)
- Unlimited Squash (Included in ticket price)
- Tuck Shop - Children can purchase a snack on the night (List of items on sale will be released soon, our aim is to keep cost to a minimum at around 50p per item)

We are also looking for parent Volunteers to help at the Disco, if you are able to be there to support us please email us at willandschoolptfa@gmail.com.

Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 **Website:** www.willand.devon.sch.uk **Email:** office@willand.devon.sch.uk
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Willand School Lunch Menu for week commencing Monday, 28th September

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Oven baked Pork meatballs <i>GF/DF</i>	Homemade lasagne <i>GF</i>	Gammon and pineapple <i>GF/DF</i>	Oven baked Sausages <i>GF/DF</i>	Oven baked Salmon Fingers <i>GF/DF</i>
Oven baked Vegan balls in homemade tomato sauce <i>DF</i>	Veg pasta bake <i>GF/DF</i>	Homemade Cheese & Broccoli bake	Quorn sausages <i>DF</i>	Vegetarian Pizza <i>GF/DF</i>
Spaghetti Green beans Crisps Salad Bar	Garlic bread Mixed veg 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	Apple 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

[Autumn 2026 Menu](#)
[Allergen List](#)

DATES	To remember...
Thursday 1 st October	Cullompton CC Open Evening for Yr5/6 parents – 4pm-7pm
Tuesday 6 th October	Yr 3 Farmwise Visit
Thursday 8 th October	Uffculme School Open Evening for Yr5/6 parents – 6pm-8pm
Friday 9 th October	Family & Individual Photos
Tuesday 13 th October	Year 4 Orienteering
Thursday 15 th October	Parent Consultations
Friday 16 th October	Class 2R Assembly
Tuesday 20 th October	Parent Consultations
Friday 23 rd October	Non-Pupil Day
Mon 26 th – Fri 30 th October	Half Term

For full calendar of events, please click below:
[Calendar of Events 2026-27](#)
[Term Dates 2026-27](#)

KIDS HOLIDAY HEROES
Run by teachers

We provide WRAPAROUND CARE at your school

Our term time Breakfast and After School Clubs include breakfast or a snack alongside a variety of engaging activities including arts & crafts, board games, card games, sports, outside breaks, puzzles, and much more.

Run by experienced teachers!
Check dates and times online:
www.kidsholidayheroes.co.uk

BOOK ONLINE

FOLLOW US Email us: bookings@kidsholidayheroes.co.uk

[kidsholidayheroes](#) [Kids Holiday Heroes](#)

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

PRIMARY SPORTS & EDUCATION
PLAY • LEARN • BELONG

OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP

More than just a camp!

SCAN TO BOOK!

PLAY LEARN MAKE FRIENDS

A FUN AND ACTIVE HOLIDAY CAMP FOR CHILDREN, LED BY EXPERIENCED AND QUALIFIED COACHES!

BE ACTIVE THIS HALF TERM!

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 5-12!

FOOTBALL • DODGEBALL • NERF GUN BATTLES • LASER TAG • ARTS & CRAFTS
DANCE • GAMES • TALENT SHOWS • WATER ACTIVITIES • NINJA WARRIOR
CRICKET • TENNIS • HOCKEY • GLOW • AND MUCH MORE!

DATES: Wednesday 28th October 2026
Thursday 29th October 2026

TIMES: 8:30am – 3:30pm

LOCATION: Updownman Village Hall, Updownman, Tiverton, EX16 7PD

COST: £24 per day

BE ACTIVE MAKE NEW FRIENDS BUILD CONFIDENCE LEARN NEW SKILLS HAPPIER HOLIDAYS

SAFE, INCLUSIVE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

BOOK ONLINE: <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2026/10/28/updownman-village-hall-october-half-term-holiday-camps-2026>

Any questions?
07415293798 | james@primary-sports.co.uk | www.primary-sports.co.uk | Follow us! [f](#) [i](#) [in](#)

PRIMARY SPORTS & EDUCATION - INSPIRING A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER GENERATION

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 Email: office@willand.devon.sch.uk
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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOXIC GAMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Gaming should be a way for children to have safe fun with their friends. But anonymity and a lack of consequences can mean that corners of online multiplayer gaming are riddled with toxicity that makes them unpleasant at best, and damaging to children at worst.

A 2019 study found 74% of players had experienced harassment in online games, and such behaviour has become increasingly normalised.

GAMING WITHOUT THE FUN

Toxic gaming takes many forms. In live, multiplayer games, players can be targeted by strangers bullying them over voice and text, or deliberately sabotaging their game. It can also be present in spaces outside of the game such as Discord and Reddit, with players gatekeeping their community and making it deliberately unwelcoming to newcomers. In extreme circumstances, it can lead to physical threats, stalking and doxing.

WIDESPREAD TOXICITY

The Anti-Defamation League's 2019 study numbers are stark. At that point, 74% of players had experienced some form of abuse, with 68% receiving physical threats, stalking or sustained harassment. Nearly a third of players surveyed found themselves doxed while playing online, which means private or personal information was shared against their will in an attempt to intimidate or silence.

BIGOTED TRASH TALK

Such toxic tactics are especially prevalent against girls, LGBTQ+ players and players from minority ethnic backgrounds. In all, 53% of respondents reported being targeted based on their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Another survey revealed that 88% of openly LGBTQ+ players have been harassed by their communities, while over half of women report using a non-gendered or male username while playing to avoid harassment.

EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES

Extremist groups have been known to target gaming communities and streaming platforms as a way of spreading propaganda and recruiting young players to their cause. Even in 2019, the ADL's research found that 33% of players had been exposed to white supremacist ideology, with a further 8% exposed to positive views about Islamic State. Disinformation is also a problem, with 13% hearing conspiracy theories about 9/11 and 9% exposed to Holocaust denial.

A SAFE SPACE MADE UNSAFE

This toxic environment can lead to the same feelings of fear, isolation and depression that offline bullying can. Children exposed to toxic gaming can become withdrawn, anxious or irritable. They can struggle with sleep and find it difficult to focus on schoolwork and other pursuits, even after the game has been switched off and they're no longer playing.

COPYING HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

At the other end of the spectrum, children can mimic the toxic behaviour and language they've seen online in offline settings. If bullying or bigoted chat is normalised as a legitimate part of online gaming, children may end up emulating it offline with classmates, seeing it as harmless banter. This could make other children's lives miserable or leave them feeling isolated at school.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PLAY WITH FRIENDS

While some games rely on playing with strangers to make up the numbers, there are plenty of titles that can be played on a private server with vetted, trusted friends, sidestepping the toxic elements of the wider gaming community. If a child encounters toxic behaviour in others while playing longer games, encourage them to block and report the players responsible.

USE THE GAME'S TOOLS

Many online games provide ways to limit interaction with strangers, either through the global settings on PlayStation or Xbox, or within the game itself. Look at the options, and make it so children can only communicate with their friends. If you can't see this level of control, you can consider disabling chat completely and, where age-appropriate, using a suitable separate service for communication with friends.

TALK TO CHILDREN

Most importantly, if children are gaming online or want to start, talk to them about the risks and how to deal with toxic behaviour. Explain the kinds of behaviour they may encounter, encourage them to report and block, and let them know they can talk to you about any concerns. Where appropriate, you may even want to play alongside them to get a feel for the community yourself.

FIND THE RIGHT COMMUNITY

If your child is at an age where social media is permitted, friendly communities exist. There are online groups for LGBTQ+ players, players from minority backgrounds and girls, where they can chat and find people to play with in more welcoming environments. Not everyone is who they claim to be online, so be sure to discuss the risks of online friendships, and maintain an open dialogue with children to ensure their ongoing safety.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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