



Newsletter ~ December 2025

The Windmill Primary Federation



email: office@westwalton.norfolk.sch.uk **Telephone:** 01945 583620

Website: <https://www.windmillfederation.org.uk/west-walton-primary-school/>



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the Christmas holidays, it's a real pleasure to reflect on what has been a wonderful autumn term. The children are responding well to the new routines and expectations, and they have been enjoying their learning across the whole curriculum. It is fantastic to see the children taking pride in the presentation of their work within their books, and to hear them talk about the exciting events and celebrations which have taken place in school this term.

Lots of opportunities and experiences have been packed in again over the last seven weeks. A group of Year 4 children participated in the West Norfolk Academies Trust (WNAT) Remembrance concert at Springwood High School. A number of our Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in the inspiring MITI Instrumental Workshop at Marshland High School in November. We also had some of our Year 5 children attended WNAT's Christmas carol concert at St Nicholas' Chapel in King's Lynn earlier this month.

Our annual book fair was a success, selling books to the value of £660! Thank you for agreeing to buy from your child's wish-list. As a result of this, we received £264 in commission to spend on new books for our library. Reading is the key to accessing the curricula at both primary and secondary school levels, and it is always fantastic to see such enthusiasm from the children when the fair's bookcases are opened up!

We have had a visit from the dental charity, DentaId, who delivered their fun and engaging BrightBites oral health education workshops to all of the classes. The children had a great experience, learning all about toothbrushing, healthy foods and the functions and names of the different teeth types.

This week, we have had our first poetry recital, which proved to be a fabulous afternoon's entertainment. Not only did the classes learn a piece of poetry by heart, but they performed it to an audience. This type of oracy builds confidence in our young learners and helps them to express feelings and improve their communication skills; it also helps children to develop cultural appreciation of literature.

The children enjoyed a fabulous Christmas lunch on Christmas Jumper Day. We will round off the term by welcoming you into school to support your child/children in a Christmas craft activity.

Thank you to our dedicated PTA who have arranged events including the Christmas Hair Day and the mini Christmas Market. They very kindly helped out with the book fair and with setting up the church for the carol service. Their fundraising has enabled contributions towards educational school trips and fun opportunities such as the visiting pantomime; it has also led to the purchase of ten brand new tablets to support our children's learning. We are extremely grateful to the PTA, and we are sure they would welcome any new members who are able to give some of their time to support the events they run for the children.

Please continue to support your child with their reading and homework. Establish a regular routine with them using platforms like Times Tables Rock Stars and SATs Companion and promote good attendance.

On a personal note, I very much enjoyed meeting some of you during our Parents' Evenings in November and many thanks to those of you who completed our questionnaire at this evening. Thank you so much for taking the time to share your thoughts; your feedback is truly valued. 100% of parents responded that their child was happy at school. 97% of parents responded that their child felt safe in school. 90% parents stated our school makes sure pupils are well behaved. 95% of parents stated that they would recommend the school to another parent. Key development areas related to further improving communication and developing clubs and after school activities for pupils.



Newsletter ~ December 2025

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As a result of your feedback, we will be introducing a new platform called Class Dojo to help keep you better informed about what your children are learning in school. It works in a similar way to Seesaw, but we feel it is more efficient and user-friendly. Teachers will regularly share photos and updates from the classroom, giving you a window into your child's school day.

Your child will soon bring home an invitation with a unique code and simple instructions on how to log in. While we will be using many of the platform's features, the messaging facility will not be enabled. If you need to contact your child's teacher urgently, please continue to email or phone the school office and they will respond as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to increasing the range of clubs and activities available to pupils next term, giving even more opportunities for children to explore new interests and have fun at school.

Finally, we would like to thank all parents that responded to the catering survey. This has proved very helpful. The key reasons for some parents and their children not choosing to eat the school lunches related to variety, quality and portion sizes. We met with Lunchtime Co, the company that manages our school dinners on behalf of the school, to feedback from your survey. As a consequence, we are delighted to announce that there will be a new menu launched at the start of the next term. The new menu will be on our website by the end of Friday of this week, giving our parents and children plenty of time to review and sign-up to the school dinners. We believe the menu choices to be more child friendly and will be undoubtedly become firm favourites with the children. We will also have a free 'Menu Tasting Event' at the end of the school day on Tuesday 13th January 2026. We'd love you to join us - come along, have a taste and discover what's new on the menu!

In order to assist parents, from January, you will be able to pre-order and pay for your child's meal up to 9am on the same day you wish your child to have their meal. We believe this will better support busy family households.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break.

Kindest regards

Craig Jansen & Caraline Lock
Exec Headteacher & Head of School



Newsletter ~ December 2025

The Windmill Primary Federation



EYFS



In English, we have been re-telling the story of The Three Little Pigs, and in maths, we have continued exploring different ways of making numbers to five. We created rain pictures in art and have had a whole week of learning about Diwali, the Hindu 'festival of lights,' which we really enjoyed! In science, we have learnt about night and day, and have experimented with torches and different fabrics to see which would let light through and which wouldn't: then we were able to decide which fabrics would be best for us to make our teddy bear curtains from. We have been learning about the Nativity story, and in assembly, we have been practising songs for our carol service. We enjoyed the Rapunzel pantomime and we have had a visit from the BrightBites team, who taught us how to look after our teeth. We are also very excited to welcome Miss Morgan as our new teacher.

Class 1

This half term in English, we have been learning about recounts and writing about the school trip we had to Holkham Hall. In maths, we have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes, and looking at ways to complete addition and subtraction calculations with numbers up to 10. In science we have been experimenting with materials and investigating their uses based on their properties, such as being waterproof or absorbent. In design and technology, we have been exploring different fruits and healthy drinks: we have taste-tested smoothies, practised our chopping and juicing skills and also designed our own smoothie packaging. Here we are enjoying the delicious drinks we created!



Class 2



In English we have been looking at newspaper reports and have just written our own report about being brave, and in maths, we have been learning about money, recognising coins and notes. Our geography topic has had us learning about the continents and investigating hot and cold places in the world, looking at their proximity to the Equator. We studied Canada and Brazil and then had to decide whether we would like to live close or far away from the Equator. In science we have been exploring the properties of materials and carried out experiments to investigate the differing degrees of bending, stretching and twisting. We have been learning about algorithms in our computing lessons: we have looked at how these are created and have been constructing our own to make mazes. We also enjoyed our Rudolph Run (walk!) around the village.

Class 3

In English, we have been reading *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Michael Morpurgo, which has helped us to write an information text about the town of Hamelin, in Germany. In maths, we have been learning how to add and subtract numbers with up to three digits, and have also been learning our 3x, 4x and 8x tables. Our science lessons have involved investigations to explore the effects of forces and magnetism, and computing has seen us learn about the pros and cons of digital versus paper databases. In design and technology, we have been peeling, chopping and tasting seasonal foods to design a seasonal food tart. In geography, we have researched Ernest Shackleton's failed expedition and have learnt many interesting facts about Antarctica.





Newsletter ~ December 2025

The Windmill Primary Federation



Class 4



In English, we have been reading *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and have been writing our own 'lost and found' stories. In maths, we have been practising our times tables and have learnt how to calculate additions and subtractions using the exchange method, as well as developing our understanding of area as a mathematical concept. Science has focused on states of matter: we have investigated solids, liquids and gases, and have even looked after a 'pet' ice cube - until it melted! In geography, we have been discussing fair trade and have followed the journey of a cocoa bean and researched the 'food miles' of our meals; in PSHCE, we have learnt about happiness and relaxation techniques. We waltzed our way around the hall in PE, using the box-step technique, and put on a small performance, and used role play and dance to mimic children's jobs during the Victorian era. Our highlight this term has been our trip to Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse to learn about the festivities that took place during a Victorian Christmas.

Class 5

In English, we have been reading *The Journey* by Frenci Sann and have been using this text to inspire ourselves to write our own 'journey'. In maths, we have been furthering our knowledge of fractions, and understanding how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators.

In science, we have been learning how to separate mixtures, and in design and technology, we have thought creatively, and designed and constructed our own bridges out of wooden lollypop sticks.

In PE lessons, we have been listening to South African music and creating our own dance sequences; we also went on our annual Rudolph Run around the village to raise funds for Tapping House Hospice.



Class 6

In English, we have completed our hot-write, creating a biography of a prominent suffragette, and in maths, we have continued to build on our success by exploring fractions and how to add, subtract, multiply and divide them. In science, we have developed our knowledge of the animal kingdom and used classification keys to deepen our learning. In design and technology, we worked extremely hard to create our own playgrounds using a variety of structures – it took dedication and patience, and we are all very proud of our finished prototypes! We have really enjoyed our music unit of study this half-term, learning songs from World War 2: we have learnt 'White Cliffs of Dover' and have been able to sing the melody and create a counter melody. In PE, we learnt how to waltz and also enjoyed our charity Rudolph Run.





Newsletter ~ December 2025

The Windmill Primary Federation

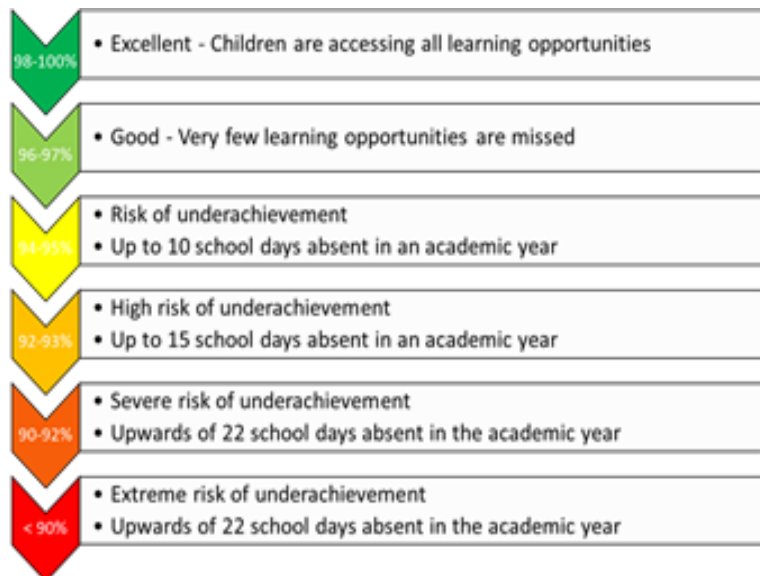


The Importance of Good Attendance

The Government strives for every pupil to achieve 97% attendance. Every day away from school is a day away from learning and this can have an impact on a child's education and future accomplishments.

We want every child to enjoy school and achieve their potential in education and life beyond. We are always here to talk through any issues and help find solutions. Parents are always a phone call away if a child is too ill to continue their day, please encourage them to try to give the day a go, children often feel much better once they are in class.

The Government has issued attendance guidance and targets to all schools. You may receive regular texts informing you of the number of days that your child has been absent in a term/year. The Government hopes that this personal approach will keep you informed and make parents more aware of how the odd day adds up.



Coming up soon (dates to be confirmed):
'Wear What You Love' day
Valentines disco (both February)

Diary Dates

Tea and Talk Event – Thursday 22nd January
9am to 11:30am

WNAT Year 5 Primary Literacy Event – 1:30
to 2:15 at the Corn Exchange Theatre (more
information to follow)

More Dates to follow.