



Newsletter ~ May 2026

The Windmill Primary Federation



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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy half-term, we would like to congratulate all of our Year 6 pupils for completing their SATs. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, determination and resilience they have shown throughout the year and during the tests themselves.

Across the school, the children have continued to enjoy a wide range of learning opportunities across the curriculum this half-term. From exciting Science investigations to Art, Music, Sports and Computing, it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, curiosity and confidence growing in the classroom each day.

Classes have also been deepening their learning through visits which have linked to the curriculum: Year 1 visited the Sandringham Estate and Year 6 participated in the 'Crucial Crew' experience, where they learnt about safety in a range of real-life situations. They have also spent today at the Imperial War Museum Duxford. Next half-term, Years 2, 3 and 5 will all be going on class trips, so they have lots to look forward to!

This half-term has also seen the early rounds of our first ever Spelling Bee competition in school! Just yesterday, the three KS2 'Class Spelling Champions' from round one competed against each other in a very nerve-wracking round two school final, in front of all of the KS2 children and staff! Huge congratulations to all of the children who participated in this round: it was a tense final, and everyone was very impressed that the children had learnt so many difficult spellings. We wish our three 'School Spelling Champions' – Lani, Penny and Zak - the very best of luck for when they represent West Walton at the West Norfolk Academies Trust final at Heacham Junior School after half-term.

We once again hosted the Scholastic Book Fair, and sold books to the total of £590, which was fabulous. It was lovely to see the children so excited about new books! As a result of your purchases, the school was given £233 to spend on books for our library. We are also delighted that violin lessons are proving extremely popular with our KS2 children, and it's wonderful that we still have some Y5 and 6 musicians learning to play the clarinet and the flute: they will all be participating in the next MITI workshop and performance in July.

The PTA have been very busy and, earlier this month, put on a highly successful Family Fun Day. Lots of you came to support it, and an extremely enjoyable day was had by all who visited. As a result, the Reception Class has just been gifted some amazing new equipment for the children's outdoor learning area, including a barbecue grill (a wooden one!) for those hot summer days which we hope will come soon! The PTA ladies have also agreed to cover the cost of having an author come to visit all of the classes next month.

We are also looking forward to a number of exciting events taking place after the break, including the WNAT Photographic Competition Final, the Soroptimists International Public Speaking Competition at the College of West Anglia, the Vocal Celebration Evening at Springwood and the Dance Festival at Springwood. A trio of our top mathematicians will also attend WNAT's Primary Maths Challenge.

Thank you for your continued support this half-term. We wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on 1st June.

Kind regards,

Craig Jansen & Caraline Lock
Executive Headteacher & Head of School



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EYFS

In Reception this half term we have been learning about 'Growing and Changing!'. We have loved learning about the life cycles of frogs and butterflies and creating our own life cycles. We even explored what 'metamorphosis' means! We have enjoyed planting and growing our own flowers and vegetables in our outdoor area and even planted sunflowers seeds with Mr Jansen to celebrate Earth day. In English, we have loved learning 'The Enormous Turnip' and had great fun changing the animals and vegetables in the story. We also copied the main characters and made our own soup inspired by the story. In maths, we have explored patterns with numbers, looking at doubles and odd/ even as well as beginning to explore length, weight and capacity. In RE, we have learnt different moral stories from religions and cultures across the world and have explored the lessons they have tried to teach us.



Year 1



Year 1 have had a very busy and exciting half term! The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Sandringham House and its beautiful gardens, as well as a special visit from a local police officer.

In maths, we have been learning about fractions, including finding halves and quarters, before moving on to position and direction and then place value to 100. In science, the children have loved learning about plants, including how they reproduce, the different parts of a plant and their functions, and which parts of plants we can eat. Geography has also been a fascinating topic this half term. The children have explored the seven continents and learnt about the physical and human features found in different parts of the world.

Year 2

Class 2 have had a wonderful start to the Summer Term. The children are growing both physically and academically, and at this point in the year, I can really see them all blossoming and becoming KS2-ready! In English, we finished our instruction texts about how to take care of a puppy, and we are now enjoying writing information texts and learning fascinating facts about our favourite animals. In maths, we have been learning to tell the time, and the children now know exactly when it's time for break and lunch without needing to ask!

We have really enjoyed learning about electricity in science from understanding how to stay safe around it to creating and experimenting with our own circuits, including the use of insulators and conductors. In Geography, we have been exploring Northern Europe, learning all about the countries of Scandinavia, their animals, culture, and famous sights. We especially loved the idea of spending a night in Sweden's Ice Hotel under the Northern Lights!





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Year 3



In English, we have been focusing on writing an explanation text, using the book, *Dear Greenpeace* by Simon James, as our inspiration. Maths has seen us developing our learning on fractions, adding and subtracting money, and working out change. In science, we investigated the topic of light, learning about refraction, reflection and how shadows are formed. We also found out how our eyes work. Our history lessons took us back in time to learn about The Wars of the Roses. We had a special visit from King Edward IV and King Henry VII! We explored the mystery of King Richard III and his nephews and discovered how Henry Tudor became king and brought the wars to an end. Our focus in geography has been Japan. We have learnt that it is made up of many islands and studied its climate, natural disasters, economy and fascinating culture. In PE, we have been learning how to play rounders safely and have been developing our teamwork skills.

Year 4

In English, we have been learning about persuasive writing skills and have just completed our hot-write; in maths, our focus has been on decimals and we now understand tenths and hundredths.

Our foundation lessons have been so very creative! During our DT lessons we have looked at different types of sewing and tapestry: we saw the intricate detail of *This is Icarus* by Kate Farrer and the beautiful designs of Queen Elizabeth's gown for her coronation in 1953 which included symbols of Britain and the Commonwealth embroidered into it. From this, we practised cross stitch and running stitch, and considered some designs for famous people, creating a crown for James I. We then completed the final project of our own motif/symbol and tapestry piece.

Our music lessons have taught us all some new skills. Using YuStudio, we created sounds and effects for an underwater video by matching the sounds perfectly, layering them and then paying close attention to the video transitions.



Year 5



In Year 5 this term, we have been exploring the Industrial Revolution and learning about the significant changes that happened in Britain during that time. In geography, we have been developing our knowledge of New Zealand and the South Pacific Ocean islands. We have been learning about reproduction and life cycles in science: we had a go at drawing a life cycle of a frog and then compared it to a human's. In Design and Technology, we have been designing our own moving toys; we also created an animal and made a certain part of its body move! Some of us have been continuing to develop our musical skills on the flute and some of us have started taking

violin lessons! In preparation for sports day, we have been practising our athletic skills in PE, and we have also learnt how to tie a tie! We have many exciting events coming up in Year 5 next half-term, including Bikeability and our school trip to Lynn Museum!



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Year 6

This half-term, we have worked incredibly hard to secure our knowledge and understanding in maths and English. We have continued to build on our success and work collaboratively to support each other, and have tackled the challenges, emotions and SATs papers with confidence, resilience and determination. No matter the results, every child should feel a sense of pride and achievement at this busy time of the year. In history this half-term, we have explored the Cold War to build on our knowledge from World War Two; additionally, we have been excited about our trip to IWM Duxford to support and deepen our learning. In science, we have been learning about the human body and body parts, using correct scientific vocabulary to explain key concepts. In PSHCE, we have explored a variety of relationships and looked at those which support our mental health, help us cope with bereavement and those which are healthy and support us to have full lives. We had an incredible time at Crucial Crew exploring the theme of citizenship and how to be safe in a variety of situations we could potentially find ourselves in; we learnt new practical life-saving skills which we can use for the rest of our lives!

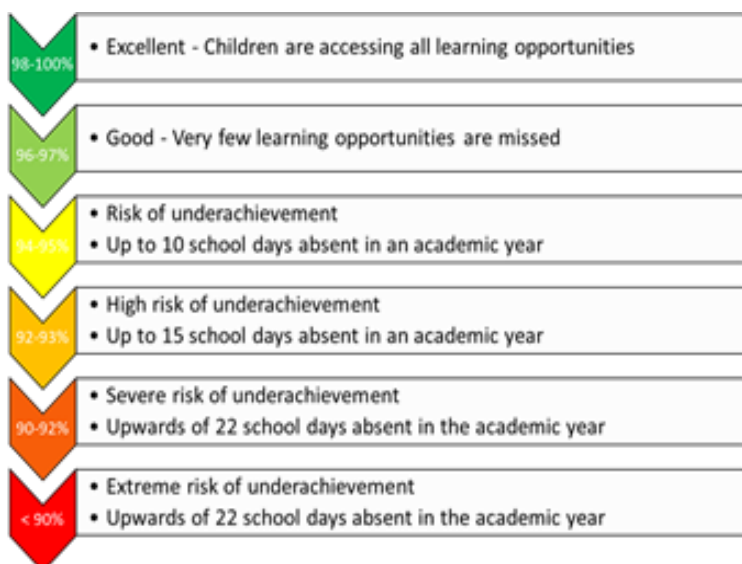


The Importance of Good Attendance

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, as 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.





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Coming up soon

- **TODAY!** Sweet Treat Friday.
- **Tea Towel Fundraiser** in progress
- **Monday 13th July**– Colour Run (after Sports Day)

Diary Dates

COMING SOON

Monday 1st June – Y5 Bikeability Week
Monday 1st June – Y4 MTC fortnight (Multiplication Tables Check)
Monday 1st June -WNAT / KLDCC Photographic competition - closing date
Thursday 4th June – Y2 trip to Wisbech Science Centre
Monday 8th June – Y1 PSC fortnight (Phonics Screening Check)
Monday 8th June – Great Athletes visit (Alice Sharpe)
Thursday 11th June – Y5 trip to King's Lynn Museum
Monday 15th June – WNAT Spelling Bee final
Wednesday 24th June – Y3 trip to King's Lynn Museum
Thursday 25th June – Author visit
Friday 3rd July – WNAT Primary Maths Challenge
Monday 6th July – MITI workshop and performance
Monday 13th July – Sports Day and PTA Colour Run event