



Great Wilbraham Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mr David Sandford

Great Wilbraham C of E Primary School, Church Street, Great Wilbraham, Cambridge, CB21 5JQ, 01223 880408

Our Vision: 'With God, all things are possible'

Our Core Values: Love, thankfulness, courage and wonder

Dear Families,

Hi everyone. Hope you are all well. This is the first of what I hope is many newsletters from the Great Wilbraham school community.

I have many things to talk about – homework and school gates in particular – but first, I wanted you to know how amazing the children are. I have been swept away by their enthusiasm and the welcome they have given me.

The Roof

The school has changed considerably over the summer. 2 large skips have been filled, dump runs completed and we had an extended deep clean to give the children as clean a school as we could. Regarding the roof, the good news is that the roof is soon going to be professionally cleaned, and the established moss swept away which we are hoping will make some difference to the water flow. A full roof replacement is not within our budget. I will keep you updated on developments.

'The Wilbraham Way'

In school we have introduced 'The Wilbraham Way'. This is a simple code which we expect the children to live by during their time at Great Wilbraham. Our current focus is on 4 words – Pride, Tidy, Resilience and Respect. A display is forming in the hall, and it is hoped the children will experience pride more often, will be tidier and respect others and the environment and will show resilience in everything they do. We are trying to change the children's mindsets. I want them to be proud of everything they do.

Homework (Year 2-6)

Homework will now take the form of workbooks. It will be made clear by each class teacher what is expected of the children. There will be maths and English.

Homework will be set on a Friday and will be expected in on a Wednesday or before. This work will be marked so you are as informed as possible. The homework should take around 30 minutes. I view homework as an opportunity. Children will not be 'sanctioned' if it is not completed. Research shows that those children with established learning habits (of which homework is one) have a greater chance of succeeding later in their schooling. By setting homework, I believe we are readying the children for far greater expectations further down the line. As I mentioned, learning habits need to be established.

If a question or 2 is too tricky either research it with your child (or they do this themselves) - As my mum used to say, 'The best learners will want to solve a problem' – or leave it blank. Maybe write a small note explaining that this was too hard and the class teacher will see this and react.

'With God, all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26)





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Homework is not meant to be a battle and if it turns into one, please stop. Should the level given (it will be age appropriate to begin with) be too difficult, tell us and we will adapt.

Gates in the morning

From Monday 15th September, access to the school will be as follows:

- The main gate will be open for taxis, disability drop offs and bicycles/scooters (please dismount bikes/scooters at the gate and walk them in).
- All other children should enter via the gate opposite the school front door
- During the day, the car park gate will be closed and the gate next to it will be locked. Access will be via the gate in front of the school door
- Year 1/EYFS will continue as they are.
- Arrange to see class teachers after school please – this will help maximise time teachers spend teaching and the children spend learning
- Schools starts from 8.40am – teachers will have activities ready to consolidate and extend learning from then – don't miss out!

Senior Leadership Team have considered entrance arrangements and feel that this is the safest. Staff should all be in school by 8.30 to minimise risk in the car park area.

Flatford Mill (Year 5 and 6)

There will be a parent meeting in the school hall on Wednesday 17th September at 9am regarding the residential in December. It will last around 30 minutes.

I will explain about the residential (I have run a residential here many times before), activities, accommodation, food, etc. Your children, I assure you, will have the absolute time of their lives, and I cannot wait for it to come around.

Those that cannot make it will have the paperwork sent home and I am always available to talk about this as I know it can be a worrying time for parents, with their children staying away for an extended time.

Big Questions / Global Curriculum.

At Great Wilbraham, to supplement our curriculum, the children will now access a 'global curriculum'. This is designed to get children to think about those huge issues whether it be access to clean water for all or considering more spiritual questions such as 'If you have happiness does there have to be sadness?'

The question for the whole school this term is:

ARE ELECTRIC CARS A GOOD THING?

There is already a display up in the hall outlining the pros and cons of electric cars and there will be assemblies on topic during the term.

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Our purpose is to get the children to be 'global', to think about issues that are bigger than the area in which they live. We want them to have opinions and to learn to listen to others. Later this school year, oracy will become a whole school focus.

The power of these activities is potentially huge. At Burrough Green we 'altered' our British Values on the back of such a question – children decided that 'tolerance' is a negative word – we shouldn't tolerate, we should accept. From a child, this is beautiful.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...

Harvest Festival

We have the Harvest Festival date.

It will be at 2.15pm at Little Wilbraham Church on Monday 13th October

Have a great weekend

David Sandford

Attendance expectations

Attendance whole school 2024-25: 97.8%

Best class attendance: Hedgehog Class 97.9%

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Dates 2025 – 2026

Autumn term

Wednesday 17th September – 9.00 am – Flatford Mill Residential – Parents Meeting
Wednesday 24th September – LGB meeting
Thursday 25th September – 4.30 – 8.00 pm Linton VC Open Evening
Wednesday 1st October – Flu Vaccinations – R – Year 6
Thursday 2nd October – Badger Class trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum
Thursday 2nd October – 5.30 – 8.00 pm Bottisham VC Open Evening
Thursday 2nd October – 6.00 – 8.00 pm Netherhall Open Evening
Friday 10th October – Individual and Family photos
Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th – Reception Bikeability Balance course
Monday 13th October – 2.15 pm – Harvest Festival – Little Wilbraham Church
Monday 20th October – Author visiting Badger Class
Tuesday 21st October – STEM Space challenge – Hedgehog and Badger Classes
Friday 24 October – School closes
Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October – Half Term
Monday 3 November – School opens
Wednesday 26th November – LGB meeting
Monday 1st December – PTFA funded pantomime to Years R - 6
Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th December – Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Flatford Mill
Friday 19 December – School closes
Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January – Christmas Holidays

Spring term dates 2026

Monday 5 January – Professional Development Day – School Closed
Tuesday 6 January - School opens
Wednesday 28th January – LGB meeting
Friday 13 February – School closes
Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February – Half Term
Monday 23 February – School opens
Tuesday 17th March – Class Photos
Wednesday 25th March – LGB meeting
Friday 27 March – School closes
Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April – Easter Holidays

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Summer term dates 2026

Monday 13 April – School opens

Thursday 16th April – National offer date for primary places

Monday 4th May – May Day Holiday – School closed

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May – KS2 SAT's

Wednesday 20th May – KS2 scootering event

Wednesday 20th May – LGB meeting

Friday 22 May – School closes

Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May – Half term

Monday 1 June – School opens

Wednesday 8th July – LGB meeting

Thursday 16th July – School closes

Friday 17th July and Monday 20th July – Professional Development Days – School Closed

