



# 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

Hello again everyone,

## **Harvest Festival**

Firstly, I have to say how amazing it was to speak to so many parents at our Harvest Festival on Monday. There were around 40 adults in attendance – amazing! The children worked so hard and loved having the responsibility of running the whole service. One child said to me the following day that what was good about it, was that every single child got their moment at the front. I hadn't ever thought of a service in this way – but they did. Getting the children involved is always the key.

## **Parent Consultations**

If you haven't already booked your slot, please do so. The children have worked so hard this half term and it would be a pleasure for you all to view their work and see how they are doing.

## **Open Morning**

It was an absolute pleasure to see so many prospective parents at our first Open Morning event. Attendees received a presentation, had the opportunity to chat with governors Jo and Claire (a big thank you to them for their support), and listened to a wonderful piano recital by Jess. Guests also savoured treats from June's kitchen before touring the school and visiting Fieldmice Class to see our students in action.

Again, the children involved were the stars! Tilly and Jess spoke eloquently and proudly about their school.

A huge thank you to all the adults who made this event possible—the office staff, June, and of course Mrs. Leadbeter and her team in Fieldmice. Their dedication truly showed the parents how proud we all are of our school. We're grateful to everyone involved.

Our next Open Event will take place on Wednesday, 19th November. Once again, visitors will have the chance to meet the governors and children, and spend time in the Fieldmice classroom.

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## Year 3 Multi-Sports Event

Earlier this week, Charlie Brown took the Year 3 students to a multi-sports festival. The children had an amazing time and were enthused on their return to GW. Please see photos below:



## Staffing

A few parents have noticed one or two changes to staffing over the last week or two. As an Executive Head, I have the flexibility to use members of staff from both schools. Here is a brief outline of what has and will happen moving forwards.

Most changes currently affect Fieldmice.

*Katie Churchard.*

Katie was working in Fieldmice as a TA. As already communicated, we were extremely fortunate to have her in that role as she has QTS. She now has a teaching position at Burrough Green and this is a full-time post

*Helen Brown*

From January, Helen will be in Fieldmice all day Friday and a few other afternoons – not yet confirmed. Helen is based at Burrough Green and is a hugely skilled and experienced teaching assistant. She specialises in EYFS and will be an asset to the school. She is trained in many interventions, including Zones of Regulation, Lego Therapy, Sensory Circuits, ELSA and First Aid. She is currently undergoing THRIVE training to benefit both schools). She has been in Fieldmice the last week or so. Next half term she will be absent from school.

*Jo Harrison*

Jo will be in Fieldmice class on Wednesday afternoons moving forwards. She is a qualified HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) and has many skills. She will move from Burrough Green to Great Wilbraham during this time. She will be an asset to the school, I am sure.

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*Charlie Brown*

Our amazing sports coach will be teaching at Burrough Green on a Monday afternoon but will always be back at GW for after-school sports.

I think that is all for the moment, but there will be times during the year when staff are asked to take up roles and responsibilities across both schools.

## **Governors**

Our governing body met late September and have these points to share with the community:

- Jo Helmy was re-elected as Chair of Governors, and James Wilson was appointed as Vice Chair.
- Governors recorded their sincere thanks and appreciation to Eleanor Laws for her dedicated service as Co-Chair and Co-Vice Chair over the past two and a half years.
- The Board also extended its gratitude to outgoing governors Lyndsey Fairweather and Holly Tilbrook for their contributions to the governing body.
- Governors welcomed the new leadership team and staff, and received an overview of their current activities, initial assessments, and priorities for the academic year. It was noted that the School Improvement Plan for 2025–26 is currently in development, and that the Behaviour Policy is scheduled for review.
- Governors were informed of the introduction of the 'Wilbraham Way' habits—Pride, Tidiness, Resilience, and Respect—which will complement the school's existing values of Love, Thankfulness, Courage, and Wonder.
- At the start of the term, governors from across the Trust attended a conference morning at Burrough Green, providing valuable opportunities for networking and engagement with fellow governors, members of the Trust's central team, trustees, and a representative from the National Governance Association (NGA).
- Planning for governor monitoring visits for the academic year is underway and governors look forward to coming into school.
- Governors commended the outcomes of the recent safeguarding audit and SIAMS inspection, both conducted at the end of last term. The Board recognised the significant efforts made in preparation for the SIAMS inspection, including the development and embedding of the school's revised vision and values, as well as the refreshing of the RE and collective worship curriculum.

## **Speaking and Listening**

Here are two more of my 'conversation starters'. Research tells us that it is so important that we engage in meaningful conversations with our children. It helps them to grow as both speakers and listeners.

**1, What is the most precious thing you own?**

**2, How important do you think it is that we look after the planet**

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These are just fun ideas for a discussion to have with your family or friends. The intention is to provide an opportunity for fun discussions as a family. Hope they are useful! I know some of you have used these and have had great fun with them. Enjoy!

Have a great weekend... 1 more week to go!

**David Sandford and the GW team**

## **Attendance expectations**

*Attendance whole school 2024-25: 97.4%*

*Best class attendance: Squirrel Class 98.5%*

## **Dates 2025 – 2026**

### **Autumn term**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Author visiting Hedgehog and Badger Classes

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – STEM Space challenge – Hedgehog and Badger Classes

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – 3.30 – 7.30 pm - Parent Consultation meetings

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Year 6 to STEM event at AstraZeneca with Year 6 from Burrough Green

Friday 24 October – School closes

Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October – Half Term

Monday 3 November – School opens

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – ISP meetings

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Cooking and Food Waste Workshops for Hedgehogs and Badgers

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need – more details soon

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Year 4 – 6 cinema trip

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November – R – Year 3 cinema trip

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Open Afternoon for Rising Fives due to start school in Sept 2026

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November – whole school trip to Ely (please see separate letter)

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Panathlon event

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November – LGB meeting

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December – PTFA-funded pantomime to Years R - 6

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Flatford Mill

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas lunch

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – 5.30 pm - Fieldmice Nativity in the Church (with whole school singing)

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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – 2.15 pm - Fieldmice Nativity in the Church (with whole school singing)

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 28<sup>th</sup> January – LGB meeting

Friday 13 February – School closes

Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February – Half Term

Monday 23 February – School opens

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Reception Vision Screening

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Class Photos

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – LGB meeting

Friday 27 March – School closes

Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April – Easter Holidays

## **Summer term dates 2026**

Monday 13 April – School opens

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April – National offer date for primary places

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – May Day Holiday – School closed

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May – KS2 SAT's

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – KS2 scootering event

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – LGB meeting

Friday 22 May – School closes

Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May – Half term

Monday 1 June – School opens

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July – LGB meeting

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July – School closes

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Professional Development Days – School Closed

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## Chapel Dental's Spooktacular Halloween Competition! 🧛‍♀️

👻 Hey little ghosts and ghouls! It's time to get creative! 🎃

Enter our Halloween Storytelling Competition for a chance to win a spooktastic prize! 🏆

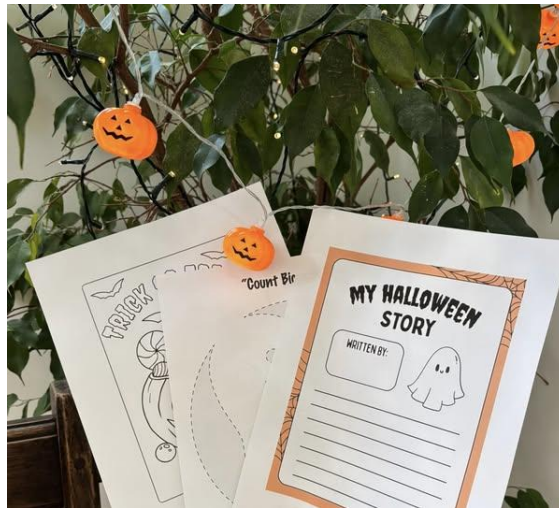
🌟 How to Enter:

1. Write your best Halloween story, the scarier, funnier, or more magical, the better!
2. Submit it to Chapel Dental by October 30th.
3. You'll automatically be entered into our Halloween prize draw! 🧑‍🎨

The winner will be drawn on Halloween (October 31st) and contacted directly! 🎃  
Get your thinking caps (or witch hats!) on and share your most fang-tastic tales with us...

Who knows? Your story might just be the one to give us chills! 🧛‍♀️

[#ChapelDental](#) [#HalloweenFun](#) [#StoryCompetition](#) [#SpookySmiles](#)



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