

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

Hi everyone

As the first of 6 half terms draws to a close, I like to reflect on how the school has been moved forwards.

Our new behaviour policy will be ready for launch after governors have ratified it late November – all stakeholders have had an opportunity to contribute. There have been some significant staffing changes to bed in, and this has happened smoothly. Internally, the focus, as it should be, has been on teaching and learning.

Our new curriculum is almost complete, marking systems have been overhauled and expectations from the children have risen. The implementation of the Wilbraham Way is in its infancy, but there are green shoots of growth already!

Parents evening was a great opportunity for you all to find out about learning and your child's achievements – the fact that no one came to see me is a huge positive.

Trips

Year 6 from both schools enjoyed a trip to Astra Zeneca. They indulged in a scientific experience, beyond what a primary school can provide. They all (staff included) had an amazing time



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Earlier this week a joint girls football team (again from both schools) went for a day long football tournament – as usual with Great Wilbraham, there was success! The girls came top of 'Division 2', but more importantly conducted themselves with the sportsmanship we expect from our students. Well done all!



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Safeguarding – Online Safety

I thought I'd give this newsletter an online safety focus. As darkness draws in, it becomes more difficult for children to be allowed out, particularly during holidays – the result is often more time in front of phones (often on social media), computers or TV (I had an interesting 'debate' with my 15-year-old about whether or not TV counts as screen time – it does in my house!).

The NSPCC have a wonderful website – What Is social media? It highlights some of the risks of using social media. Below is brief list of some of the risks (the website will go into more detail)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

- Oversharing
- Sharing Location (even your child's school jumper, often visible in photos on social media, can reveal the school they go to!)
- Talking to people they don't really know (any multi-player game online – Xbox, PlayStations)
- Sending/Receiving inappropriate content
- An unrealistic sense of reality
- Obsessive focus on likes/comments

A phone conversation with my now 20-year-old daughter just confirms the NSPCCs stance. She wishes she hadn't been so hung-up social media during her teen years and especially what other people thought – she highlighted the obsessiveness over likes/comments as a particular problem that no one really talks about.

Below is a list of some of the most popular social media sites and their 'age restrictions':

- Snapchat - 13
- Instagram - 13
- WhatsApp – 13 (was 16 until April 2024!)
- Facebook – 13
- TikTok – 13
- Twitter/X – 13
- In fact almost all sites are 13+.

The age requirements are there because of data protection laws. Online services are not allowed to collect or store children's personal information if they are under the age of 13.

Data protection laws also say that only children aged 13 and over can sign up to online services without parental permission.

'CEOP Education – Is my child ready for social media?' is an excellent website with huge amounts of advice on this.

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Speaking and Listening

Here are three more of my 'conversation starters' (an extra one for half-term!). 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) Are fireworks a good invention? (a little early I know)**
- 2) Does a cup of tea or coffee weigh more if you add sugar to it?**
- 3) What do you think is the greatest invention ever**

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 half term all of you and we will see you all ready and eager on November 3rd.

Take care

David Sandford and the GW team

Attendance expectations

Attendance whole school 2024-25: 97.1%

Best class attendance: Hedgehog Class 97.9%

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Dates 2025 – 2026

Autumn term

Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October – Half Term

Monday 3 November – School opens

Wednesday 5th November – ISP meetings

Thursday 6th November – Cooking and Food Waste Workshops for Hedgehogs and Badgers

Friday 14th November – Children in Need – more details soon

Tuesday 18th November – Year 4 – 6 cinema trip

Wednesday 19th November – R – Year 3 cinema trip

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

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

Wednesday 26th November – Panathlon event

Wednesday 26th November – LGB meeting

Monday 1st December – PTFA funded pantomime to Years R – 6

Wednesday 3rd December – GenR8 Christmas Assembly

Monday 8th December – NCMP – Year R and Year 6

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

Thursday 18th December – Christmas lunch

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

Friday 19th 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 28th January – LGB meeting

Friday 13 February – School closes

Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February – Half Term

Monday 23 February – School opens

Tuesday 10th March – Reception Vision Screening

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

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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! 🎁

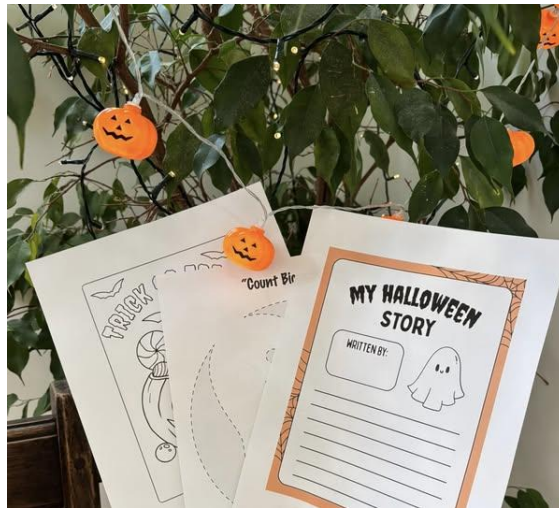
🌟 How to Enter:

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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