



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

It is becoming very cold and wet outside, and I hear there is possible snow around next week. That will add to the excitement at Great Wilbraham! Mrs Leadbeter has led yet another parent information session regarding phonics. This was well received by those who came

Remembrance

Our Remembrance service went well, and the Prayer Team thoroughly enjoyed leading it. The event was well attended by parents and the messages of remembrance and hope for the future were put across very well by the children. The poem read by Hedgehogs was fantastic – such a powerful piece of writing, easy to understand and accessible to all...here it is.

The Inquisitive Mind Of A Child

Why are they selling poppies, Mummy,
Selling poppies in town today?

*The poppies, child, are flowers of love,
For the men who marched away.*

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
Why not a beautiful rose?

*Because, my child, men fought and died,
In the fields where the poppies grow.*

But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?
Why are the poppies so red?

*Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.*

The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.
Why does it have to be black?

*Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.*

But why, Mummy, are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.

*My tears are my fears for you, my child,
For the world is forgetting again.*

It is always a very special time of the year. Never forget.

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Food Waste and Cooking Workshops

Children in Hedgehogs and Badgers took part in some fun and informative workshops run by the Waste Education Officers at Cambridgeshire County Council.

Students participated in four engaging activities as part of the recycling workshop:

1. **Bin Sort** – A collective activity where students worked in groups to correctly sort waste items.
2. **Eco Quiz** – Testing knowledge about recycling and sustainability.
3. **How Long Does Waste Take to Rot?** – Exploring decomposition times for different materials.
4. **Educational Videos** – Focused on blue bin recycling and composting practices.

Students learned practical ways to reduce food waste in the Love Food Hate Waste Cooking Workshop by:

- **Making Cheese Muffins with Vegetables** – Using leftover ingredients creatively.
- **Preparing Smoothies from Leftover Fruit** – Turning surplus fruit into healthy drinks.



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Reading at Home

Hearing your children read regularly at home is really important and goes a long way to developing the partnership between school and parents. We appreciate all the work you do with your children in helping their academic development. We aim for 5 times a week!

Traffic calming measures outside the school

Please see below a very exciting letter from the Parish Council which you should all have received on Friday:

We are pleased to share some very positive news regarding road safety outside Great Wilbraham Primary School.

Earlier this year, Great Wilbraham Parish Council submitted a strong Local Highway Improvement (LHI) application to Cambridgeshire County Council requesting the installation of a zebra crossing outside the school. This followed ongoing concerns about the current traffic "pinch point," which is inadequate and poses a risk to children, families and other road users.

Following the LHI submission, we were invited to present our case at a panel hearing, where parish representatives explained why this improvement was necessary.

Thanks to the hard work of parish volunteers — including many hours spent piecing together key information and days of gathering speed and traffic data — our application was successful.

We are therefore delighted to inform you that funding has now been awarded for a zebra crossing to be installed as part of the 2025/2026 LHI programme. This is a significant achievement for our village and an important step toward improving safety around the school.

What happens next?

Cambridgeshire County Council will begin the project design phase next year, with input from the Parish Council. The overall process — including design, consultation and delivery — typically takes up to 18 months.

We will provide updates as the project progresses.

Funding the project

To top up the funds allocated by Cambridgeshire County Council and those set aside by the Parish Council, the Parish Council and local project team will shortly be forming a dedicated fundraising group to help raise the remaining amount needed to complete the scheme.

If you have ideas, or would like to support fundraising by getting involved, please contact a member of the PTFA or write to them directly on wilbrahampfta@gmail.com.

Thank you

We know how important road safety is to our school community, and this improvement simply would not have been possible without the support, time and dedication of residents and volunteers. Together, we are making our village a safer place for our children to learn, play and thrive.

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This is amazing news, and I have further information to say that we (the village) needs to raise £30000 towards the project.

I know a fundraising committee is being set up to try to achieve this.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this. It will make such a difference to our children.

Children in Need

What a brilliant, fun day everyone had on Friday! The total raised by our school community so far is an amazing **£1006.60** – well done to everyone!



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) Are there more colours than things?
- 2) Are you a different person by the end of each day?

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!

David Sandford and the GW team

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Attendance expectations

Attendance whole school 2024-25: 96.9%

Best class attendance: Hedgehog Class 98%

Dates 2025 – 2026

Autumn term

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

Friday 13th March – Level 1 Bikeability

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

