



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 again everyone,

I hope by the time you read this newsletter you will have received the letter regarding our journey so far this year at Great Wilbraham. Much has been achieved in a few short weeks, and all staff are working as hard as they can to make your child's experience as positive and as productive as possible.

We have had two trips out last week, one a joint venture between both schools.

Ely Cathedral

On Wednesday, the whole school (bar a few – more on those children later) travelled to Ely to visit the cathedral. The visit was very well planned by Mr Turner and Mrs Chubb, and it ran without incident.

The children spent time in the stained-glass museum, learning about making processes and various Christian symbols used in the windows through time. They were given a search-and-find quiz to complete to ensure they got the most out of this visit.

They all had a session with a pilgrim who explained what she does and children learnt about clothing and were then immersed in a range of drama activities regarding various 'local' saints such as Wendreda.

The final session was a seven-stop trail around the cathedral which was very cleverly designed. It included all seven days of the earth's creation and related them to modern eco-friendly behaviours. The children I went around with were very knowledgeable, and most contributed to discussions.

A huge thank you to all staff involved. It was a great day.



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





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Panathlon

The few children that didn't go to Ely Cathedral, went to Coleridge Community College in Cambridge. They represented the school incredibly well, showing great politeness, tenacity and ultimately fabulous teamwork.

They managed to come first, which is incredible! Well done to all who went with particular thanks to Mrs Chaudhry, Mrs Williams and Mr Torode who facilitated the trip.



Languages at Great Wilbraham

Last year I organised (even though I wasn't here then) the fabulous Language Leaders from King's in Ely. This is an event that happens across both schools in our 'federation' with Burrough Green.

The children (aged 16 – 18) who visited, all had English as a second language and came to speak to the children at Great Wilbraham about their countries, including teaching some basic language. The great news is that I can confirm this will be happening again in 2026.

We will be having them visit us again in March 2026 – this is an incredibly exciting repeat booking, as it really caught the children's imagination and interest. Staff enjoyed it too. This visit will further develop a child's 'Cultural Capital' – something I am incredibly passionate about – I will speak more about this next week

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) Does the run-up to Christmas start too early?

2) If you could give one gift to one person, who would get it and what would it be?

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. I 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

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 – please book children in by Friday 5th December – meals must be booked in advance

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

Friday 19th December – we will have a special visitor!

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 – Year 5 and 6 athletics event

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 3rd March – Years 1 – 4 Rise Gym event

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

