



# 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 Parents and Carers,

Hi everyone. This is the final newsletter of the year. It has been a long, but rewarding term and we are all looking forwards to the New Year and the challenges it will bring.

## **Message to parents**

As we approach the festive season, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly positive and transformative term at Great Wilbraham C of E Primary Academy. This term has seen significant progress across the school - I shared some of the highlights with you all a few weeks back.

Our new leadership team has been warmly welcomed by the entire school community, and together we have begun laying the foundations for a culture of high expectations and ambition. Staff have embraced new approaches to teaching and learning and we are already seeing improvements in classroom practice and pupil engagement. The children have responded brilliantly, showing resilience, enthusiasm and a real love for learning.

We have also strengthened our partnership with parents and the wider community, ensuring that your voices are heard and valued. The support you have shown for recent initiatives has been incredible, and we all share the same goal - to make our school the very best it can be.

While we are proud of the progress made, we know there is still a huge amount to do. Our journey is only just beginning, and we remain committed to continuous improvement in every area of school life. With your continued support, we are confident that together we can achieve something truly special for our children.

On behalf of the entire team, I wish you a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.

## **Christmas Quiz**

As is usual in my schools, I leave you all with a challenge...Below is simple quiz (well, I know the answers!) – avoid using Google please (other search engines are available...). I have chosen 5 categories – usually very popular with people! – sport, pop music, history, Christmas and geography. As in most quizzes, some are easier, some are harder.

The winner, should you be bothered enough to submit a script, will be lauded as a genius in the next newsletter.

Have fun everyone.

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## **Sport**

1. In Test cricket, who was the first bowler to reach 600 wickets?
2. Which Olympic Games first introduced the triathlon to the programme?
3. In rugby union, how many points is a try worth today?
4. Which football club was the first to win the European Cup (Called the Champions League now) three times in a row?
5. Who holds the men's 800m world record, and in which city was it set?
6. Which nation has won the most Davis Cups in history?
7. In snooker, what is the maximum possible break? (think hard people...)
8. Which Grand Tour cycling race was first run: Tour de France, Giro d'Italia, or Vuelta a España?
9. Who managed Derby County and Nottingham Forest to English league titles?
10. Which boat race tradition began in 1829, and between which two universities?

## **Pop Music**

1. Which artist holds the record for the most US number-one singles?
2. Who was the first artist to reach one billion streams on Spotify for a single track?
3. Which pop star's real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta?
4. What year did MTV launch, revolutionizing pop music videos?
5. Half Man Half Biscuit (my favourite band!!!) are from where?
6. What was the first album released by Prince?
7. Which boy band had a hit with 'I Want It That Way' in 1999?
8. What was Michael Jackson's first solo number-one hit in the US?
9. Which pop singer performed at the 2023 Super Bowl halftime show?
10. Who is the youngest artist ever to win Album of the Year at the Grammys?

## **History**

1. Which year marked the Glorious Revolution in England that deposed James II?
2. The Treaty of Westphalia ended which European conflict?
3. Who was the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity?
4. The Taiping Rebellion occurred in which century and against which dynasty?
5. Which medieval English charter limited the powers of the king and is foundational for constitutional law?
6. Which empire's capital was Tenochtitlan, conquered in 1521?
7. The Long March (1934–35) was led by which political figure?
8. Which British Prime Minister's government concluded the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921?
9. In 1066, which battle decided the Norman conquest of England?
10. Which period of the French Revolution (1793–1794) saw mass executions under the Committee of Public Safety?

## **Christmas**

1. Which British monarch popularised the Christmas tree tradition in the UK during the 1840s?
2. The carol 'Silent Night' was first performed in which country?
3. What is the liturgical season immediately preceding Christmas?
4. In Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', how many ghosts visit Scrooge?
5. Which country is credited with the first advent calendar tradition?

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6. The truce of 1914 during WWI famously included what festive activity between opposing troops?
7. On the Western Gregorian calendar, Orthodox Christmas Day falls on which date?
8. Which classic ballet is set at a Christmas Eve party?
9. In British tradition, which fruit is traditionally found at the bottom of a Christmas stocking?
10. The song 'Fairytale of New York' was released by which band in 1987?

## **Geography**

1. Which river has the largest discharge into the ocean?
2. What is the highest capital city by elevation?
3. Name the only country with a flag that is not quadrilateral.
4. Which desert is the largest hot desert in the world?
5. The Mariana Trench lies in which ocean?
6. Which nation has the most time zones when including overseas territories?
7. What is the deepest lake in the world?
8. Which island is the largest in the Mediterranean Sea?
9. Lake Victoria is bordered by which three countries?
10. The Wallace Line separates the fauna of which two biogeographical regions?

**Happy Christmas everyone and a prosperous new year**

**David Sandford and the GW team**

## **Attendance expectations**

Attendance whole school 2025-2026: 95.4%  
Best class attendance: Hedgehog Class 97%

## **Dates 2025 – 2026**

### **Autumn term**

**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 – Year 5 and 6 athletics event

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

**Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February – Half Term**

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Monday 23 February – School opens

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Years 1 – 4 Rise Gym event

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

**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

**Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May – Half term**

Monday 1 June – School opens

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

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

