



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another wonderful week at WBP, filled with creativity, curiosity and community spirit. Here is a round-up of everything that has been happening across the school:

🌟 WBP Arts Fortnight – A Creative Celebration!



The first week of our annual Arts Fortnight has been truly fantastic, with creativity spilling from every classroom! This year's theme, 'Eras', has inspired some incredible learning, with each class diving into a decade from the roaring 20s through to the bold and bright 80s – and beyond. A special highlight comes from Year 4, who have been exploring the work of Pop Artist Roy Lichtenstein. Using his bold and colourful style as inspiration, they created their own digital self-portraits – with truly impressive results!

🏰 Year 5 at Lesnes 500

This week, Year 5 had the privilege of taking part in the Lesnes 500 celebrations, marking 500 years since the closure of Lesnes Abbey. The children enjoyed a history and arts workshop, took part in a group procession to the Abbey ruins, and even watched a live theatre performance in the historic setting. A memorable experience that beautifully blended learning and culture.



Personal Development in Y5 and Y6



Children in Years 5 and 6 also took part in an important personal development session delivered by a qualified nurse. The session focused on the physical and emotional changes children may experience as they grow. It was an informative and reassuring opportunity for pupils to ask questions and learn in a safe and supportive environment.



KS2 Sports Day – Energy, Effort & Encouragement

The sun was shining, and spirits were high this morning as children across Key Stage 2 took part in Sports Day. It was a joy to see our pupils competing with aspiration, resilience and respect – the core values we are so proud of. A big thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support and cheer the children on – your encouragement made all the difference!



Willow Bank Festival – Friday 4th July

Excitement is building as we prepare for our 3rd Annual WBP 'Around the World' Festival next Friday! This vibrant event is a celebration of the wonderful diversity within our school community and promises an afternoon full of music, food, stalls and games.

Raffle tickets are now on sale at the end of each school day – don't miss your chance to win some fantastic prizes, including a £100 cash prize!



Transition Morning – Friday 4th July



As part of next Friday's celebrations, children will also be spending part of the day in their new classrooms, meeting their September teachers and TAs. This is an important step in preparing for the new academic year, helping to ensure a smooth and confident transition.

We are so proud of everything our pupils have achieved this week, and there is even more to look forward to in the days ahead.

Wishing you all a relaxing and sunny weekend.

Warm regards,

Mrs Oldfield and the WBP Team



Year 3

Year 3 shone on Sports Day, showing incredible energy, teamwork, and resilience. They supported each other, tried their best, and celebrated every effort—true champions of our school values!



Year 4

What a fantastic Sports Day it was for Year 4 Almond! We are incredibly proud of every single pupil for giving it their all and showing brilliant team spirit throughout the day. From sprints to relays, and everything in between, the enthusiasm, determination and support for one another was truly inspiring. It was wonderful to see every child participate with such energy and positivity. A huge well done to Almond for smashing the day you were amazing!



Year 5

Year 5 children took part in Sports Day with full enthusiasm, demonstrating excellent teamwork and partnership in every race. Their positive attitude and support for one another helped make the day a great success.



Year 6

Larch class thoroughly enjoyed their last ever Sports Day as primary school children today. A beautifully sunny day was topped off by a wonderful competitive attitude, underpinned with sporting spirit!





KS1 & EYFS Parent Reading Morning

Every Thursday from 8:40-9:10am



All parents and carers welcome!



We are looking for Read with Me volunteers at Willow Bank! These volunteers will visit our Yr 1 & 2 classrooms and listen to our children read.

If you are interested in volunteering with us for 30 minutes or an hour each week, then please pop into the office to express your interest and pick up our application pack.



★ ★ ★		Our target is over 96%
Magnolia - 88 %		Yew - 96%
Hornbeam - 95%	★	Redwood - 94%
		Almond - 94%
Hazel - 94%		Walnut - 93%
★ Larch - 91%		Sycamore - 91%
		

School Reminder

Children should not arrive earlier than 8.20am, for Bagel Breakfast club from 8.25am - 8.35am
School gates close at precisely 8:50am. After this time, entrance is via the school office and parents will need to sign your child/children in using the screen.

A reminder that we have our Chance To Chat.

As a school we provide ongoing support for the children's wellbeing and mental health to which one of the methods is they can fill out a form while in school to express their worries. The form then gets placed in the 'Chance to chat' box where it will be addressed by the wellbeing team.

We also have an online form which is located on the school website named 'Chance to chat'.

The children can complete the form if they are worried about something or need some advice? A member of staff will get back to the child at school.

Please copy the link below and paste in the search bar and it will direct you straight to the form.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MvrWB2Z-r0qnuEuN-giOI1CAPQc0X4RFje43giTliLNUOE5BWUFISE40VjBXODZYRVFITLNXVzZYNCQLQCN0PWcu>



Willow Bank
Primary School

Upcoming Events



Summer 2

PLEASE SEE YOUR CHILD'S YEAR GROUP OVERVIEW FOR TRIPS AND OTHER DATES

JUNE
19

Book Fair

On the playground for a week



JUNE
19

Class Photos

Please ensure children are in their school uniform



JULY
4

Transition Morning

Children will meet their new teacher



JULY
4

Summer Festival

Children are invited to wear their cultural clothes, join us after school with friends & family for music, food and games.



JULY
10

WBP Spelling Bee

Children will take part in our annual spelling bee, be sure to help them practice at home!



JULY
17

Reception Graduation (am) & Y6 Performance (pm) to parents



JULY
21

Class Parties

Children can bring shop bought treats (ingredients labelled) in



JULY
21

Year 6 leavers disco



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 4* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with *Pikachu*, *Donkey Kong* and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

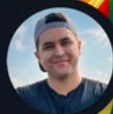
Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of *Daily Star* and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including *IGN*, *TechRadar*, and plenty more.



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