Newsletter 12.09.25

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a brand new school year at Winshill Village Primary and Nursery School! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and that the children are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. It has been fantastic to see everyone settling quickly back into routines, and we are especially delighted to welcome our new children and families who are joining the school community for the first time.

We have already been impressed with the children's positive attitude towards their learning and how quickly they have remembered our high expectations. The start of the year is such an important time, giving children the chance to build confidence, establish routines, and reconnect with their friends and teachers.

We are also delighted to share that we have launched our new school website alongside our refreshed mission statement and values, which will guide everything we do this year and beyond.

It has been wonderful to see so many parents in school for the recent Meet the Teacher sessions, and we are grateful for the positive feedback about how valuable these opportunities are in strengthening our home-school partnership.

We are truly excited for all that this year holds and look forward to working together to make 2025-2026 a successful and memorable year for every child.

Mrs Howard

Important Diary Dates for Autumn Term:

Monday 15th September
4pm: Reception 'Meet the Teacher'
4.30pm: Year 6 'Meet the Teacher'

Tuesday 16th September
Individual Photograph Day

Tuesday 14th October
Year 3 Stone Age Workshop
Year 3 Tudor Workshop

Friday 24th October
Break Up for Half Term

Monday 3rd November
Children back to school

Wednesday 5th November
Parents Evening (3.30pm - 6.30pm)

Thursday 6th November
Parents Evening (3.30pm - 6.30pm)

Week Beginning 10th November
Anti-Bullying Week

Tuesday 11th November
2.30pm: Year 6 Residential Information Session
Rememberance Day

Thursday 13th November
5pm: Reception Open Evening

Thursday 14th November
Children in Need

Key Messages:

Our Vision and Values

We are delighted to share that we have launched our new mission statement: "Winshill Village: A place to dream big and learn without limits." At Winshill Village Primary and Nursery School, our vision is to be an excellent school where outstanding practice, equality, independence and well-being are at the heart of everything we do. We are a vibrant, inclusive community where happy children are inspired learners, empowered to dream big and learn without limits. These values truly reflect us as a school and underpin all that we do.

Our Dream Big values – Discover, Respect, Effort, Aspiration, Mindfulness, Belonging, Independence and Growth – equip our children with the knowledge, skills and confidence to thrive in an ever-changing world, preparing them to achieve their very best and make a positive difference to the lives of others. These values are incorporated into our behaviour procedure, our lessons, and you will see them celebrated visually around the school, reminding us all of what it means to be part of the Winshill Village community.

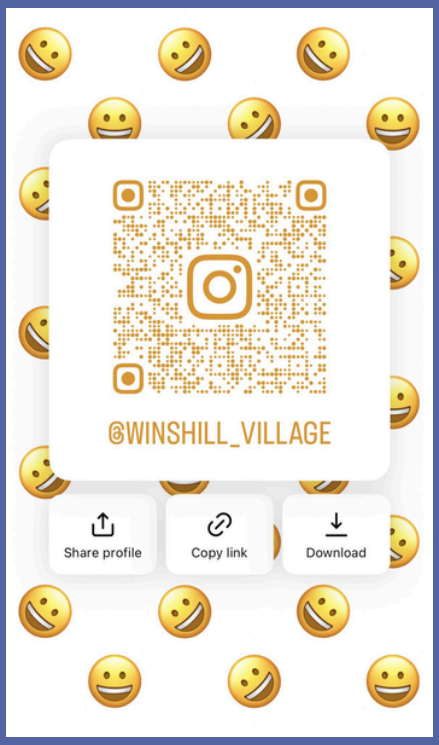
Key Messages:

New School Website

We are delighted to share that our new school website is now live: www.winshillvillage.org.uk. The website will be kept regularly updated with the latest news, all key dates, policies, and information about school life. We encourage all parents and carers to check it often, as it will be an important hub for communication between school and home.

Follow Us on Instagram

We are excited to let you know that Winshill Village Primary and Nursery School is now on Instagram! Our page will give you a window into daily school life, celebrating children's achievements and keeping you up to date with events and activities. We would love parents and carers to follow us and join in as we share the wonderful things happening across our school community.



My Child At School (MCAS) App – Update

We cannot apologise enough for the delay and mix-up in setting up the My Child at School app. Ms Tompkinson and Mrs Manlove have been working tirelessly to get the system running smoothly; however, the issue has been caused by Bromcom, the software provider, whose system has unfortunately been down. This has been completely out of our control, but please be assured that we are doing everything we can to resolve the problem as quickly as possible. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this time—it is very much appreciated. We are hopeful that the app will be fully up and running very soon, and once it is, it will be a fantastic tool to support communication between school and home moving forward.

Class Dojo - Parent Access

We are excited to let you know that we will be rolling out Class Dojo across school as a new way to strengthen communication between home and school. Class Dojo will allow teachers to reward children with positive Dojo Points, celebrate successes, and share updates, photos, and announcements with parents. Each child has their own Dojo Monster avatar, which can be customised once parents connect to the app.

Over the next week, you will receive a personal invitation (including a QR code and unique code) to set up your parent account. Please also read and complete the Class Dojo Code of Conduct form when it arrives.

For families in Nursery and Reception, Tapestry will continue to be our main platform for sharing learning journeys and communication in Early Years, while Class Dojo will be introduced for behaviour points only. You will also receive a Google Form to give consent for your child's Tapestry account.

We are looking forward to using these platforms to keep you even more connected with your child's learning and school life.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance is vital to every child's learning and success. Research shows that children who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve well academically, develop strong friendships and feel confident in school. At Winshill Village Primary and Nursery School, we expect all children to attend every day and on time, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

- The school day starts at 8:45am and pupils must be in by 9:00am. Arrivals after 9:15am will be marked as an unauthorised absence, which impacts attendance.
- Parents/carers must contact school by 9:15am on each day of absence, giving a clear reason (e.g. "sickness" rather than "unwell").
- Absences will only be authorised in cases of genuine illness or exceptional circumstances agreed in advance by the Headteacher. Holidays in term time cannot be authorised.
- Where attendance falls below expected levels, we will work closely with families to offer support. Persistent absence (below 90%) or severe absence (below 50%) may lead to formal intervention, including penalty notices from the Local Authority.

We are committed to supporting families and celebrating good and improved attendance. Every school day counts, and together we can give children the very best start in life.

OPAL Reminder

As part of our OPAL playtimes, all children need to have wellies and a waterproof coat in school every day so they can enjoy outdoor play in all weathers. Please also remember that children should not use the OPAL equipment before or after school, as it is only supervised during playtimes and lunchtimes. Thank you for your support in keeping play safe and fun for everyone.

Healthy Snacks at Break Time

We kindly remind parents and carers that all children should bring a healthy snack for break times. Snacks such as fruit, vegetables, cheese, or yoghurt are encouraged, while items like crisps, chocolate or sweets are not permitted. As an alternative, children can buy toast and either juice or milkshake from the school kitchen for 50p each, which can be paid for in cash on the day. Providing children with healthy choices helps them to stay focused and energised for their learning throughout the day.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

To keep all children safe at the start and end of the school day, we are reinforcing our policy around collection. Only siblings aged 14 or older will be permitted to collect younger children from school. In exceptional circumstances, if a sibling under 14 needs to collect, parents must provide a signed letter of consent to the school office at least 24 hours in advance, confirming they take full responsibility. Thank you for your support in helping us to keep all children safe.

Medical Requests

If your child has any medical needs, please ensure that the school office is informed and that a care plan is in place. In line with JTMAT policy, only prescription medication can be administered in school. Parents and carers are responsible for making sure that inhalers, epi-pens, and any other essential medication are in school every day and remain in date.

Nut-Safe School

Winshill Village is a nut-safe school. This means that, as far as reasonably possible, we aim to keep nuts out of school. Please avoid sending any food items containing nuts, including Nutella, cereal bars, or similar products.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe.

PE Days

Children should come to school dressed in their PE kits on their allocated PE days.

Reception: Monday & Tuesday
Year 1: Tuesday & Thursday
Year 2: Thursday & Friday
Year 3: Thursday & Friday
Year 4: Wednesday & Thursday (Swimming)
Year 5: Tuesday & Thursday
Year 6: Monday & Wednesday

Early Birds Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs from 7.30–8.45am (term time only) and offers children from Nursery to Year 6 a healthy breakfast and a calm start to the day with purposeful activities. Sessions cost £4.50 and must be booked in advance via the MCAS app by Friday lunchtime for the following week. Please note we cannot offer refunds for missed sessions.

After School Clubs - Autumn Term

We are excited to share that our after-school clubs are returning this term with a brand-new look under the theme of "We are...". Each club will run as a project, giving children a real sense of purpose and achievement as they work towards an outcome – for example We are Explorers, We are Crochet Creators, We are Singers. Clubs will run from 3.20–4.20pm starting the week of 29th September and finishing the week of 24th November (no clubs during the week of 3rd November due to Parents' Evening). A small contribution of £1 per week is requested to help provide resources, payable via the MCAS app. Sign-up details will be sent home shortly, with places to be booked on MCAS by Friday 19th September at 9am.

Winshill Child Care After School Club

Our wraparound care runs every school day from 3.20–6.00pm, offering a safe, nurturing environment for Winshill pupils. Children can enjoy a range of activities including arts and crafts, baking, games, film nights, and indoor/outdoor play.

Costs are £4.80 per hour for school-aged children and £5.30 per hour for Nursery/Reception pupils. Places are limited and allocated on a first-come basis.

To book or find out more, please contact Fae Tipper: fae_alisontipper@winshillchildcare.com or 07493 064560.

Reception Open Evening

Thursday 13th November, 5pm - 6pm

We are delighted to invite you to our Open Evening on Thursday 6 November from 4.30pm to 6.00pm.

With the admissions window for Nursery and Reception places opening in November, this is the perfect chance for prospective parents to explore our school. It's also a wonderful opportunity for our existing families to come along, see our school in action, and celebrate the fantastic learning taking place.

During the evening, you'll have the chance to:

- Tour our school and classrooms
- Discover our vision, values, and curriculum in action

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing all that makes Winshill Village a vibrant and inspiring place to learn.

Autumn Term 2025	
Monday 1st September 2025	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 2nd September 2025	School opens to pupils at 8.45am
Friday 24th October 2025	School closes to pupils at 3.20pm
Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 – School Closed	
Monday 3rd November 2025	School opens to pupils at 8.45am
Thursday 13th November 2025	Reception Open Evening at 5pm
Monday 24th – Friday 28th November 2025	Year 6 Residential at Laches Wood
Friday 19th December 2025	School closes to pupils at 1pm
Spring Term 2026	
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 6th January 2026	School opens to pupil at 8.45am
Friday 13th February 2026	School closes to pupils at 3.20pm
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026 – School Closed	
Monday 23rd February 2026	School opens to pupils at 8.45am
Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th March 2026	Year 5 Residential at Whitemoor Lakes
Friday 27th March 2026	School closes to pupils at 1pm
Summer Term 2026	
Monday 13th April 2026	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 14th April 2026	School opens to pupils at 8.45am
Monday 4th May 2026	Bank Holiday – School closed to pupils
Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May 2026	KS2 SATs Week
Friday 22nd May 2026	School closes to pupils at 3.20pm
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th Mat 2026 – School Closed	
Monday 1st June 2026	School opens to pupils at 8.45am
Friday 3rd July 2026	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Friday 17th July 2025	School closes to pupils at 1pm
Monday 20th July – Monday 31st August 2026 – School Closed	

AFTER SCHOOL WRAPAROUND CARE

Arts & Crafts

Baking

Outdoor Play

Films

Games

We are delighted to continue offering high-quality after-school childcare exclusively for our pupils in a safe, nurturing, and familiar environment. Whether you need regular care or occasional support — we've got you covered!

£4.80 per hour for school-aged children
£5.30 pe hour for EYFS (Nursery & Reception)

07493 064560

fae_alisontipper@winshillchildcare.com

Everyone a Learner. Everyone Learning.

Abbot Beyne School warmly invites Year 5 and 6 students and parents / carers to attend our

Prospective Parents' Open Evening

Wednesday 17th September 2025 - 6.00pm to 7.30pm

at the Evershed Building, Mill Hill Lane, Winshill, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, DE15 0BA.

The evening will begin with a talk from the Headteacher at 6pm, you will then be able to meet current students, school staff, view the facilities and discuss the exciting learning opportunities available at Abbot Beyne School.

For more information please call 01283 759007 or visit www.abbotbeyneschool.co.uk

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TELEGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION 17+

Telegram isn't new, but it's grown significantly in popularity over recent years, thanks to its secure nature and speedier performance than many of its competitors – including WhatsApp. While Telegram is an excellent app in terms of actual performance, like any messaging platform it brings its own challenges for parents when it comes to feeling confident about children being able to handle their own messaging conversations and contact with the outside world in general. Here's everything that trusted adults need to know about using Telegram safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE RESTRICTION

Telegram has a 16+ age restriction on using the service, while someone is required to be over 17 to actually download the app. Once that's accomplished, however, there's no need to provide further identification. That means there's no guarantee that under 17s aren't using the app – and no way to confidently verify that any other user actually *is* who they say they are.

POSSIBLE CYBERBULLYING

If your child uses Telegram, they could well be in a group with friends and peers on the app. These groups are managed by admins who can remove the option to post replies – possibly leading to instances of cyberbullying in which the victim has no ability to respond. Messages can be forwarded from groups, too, which potentially opens up images and text being seen by to people they weren't intended for.

UNMODERATED CONTENT

Because Telegram relies on users' self-moderation, it can sporadically become a hotbed for illegal or inappropriate content. In the past, the circulation of this material has led to its temporary removal from the App Store. In fairness, the same can be said of several messaging platforms, but Telegram's features (Secret Chats, for instance) certainly present more issues than the likes of WhatsApp.

PREMIUM COSTS

Telegram is free to use, but it also offers a premium membership (£4.99 per month or £35.99 a year) which increases download speeds, adds translation features, and increases channel and account limits. If your child has access to your Apple ID or Google Pay details, they may be able to sign up for the premium package without your knowledge.

UNAUTHORISED ACCESS

One of Telegram's major selling points is that it's accessible across multiple platforms. Once the app's been downloaded, users can log in from a phone, tablet or computer. This multi-device availability means increased opportunities for someone else to gain unauthorised access (if your child leaves a computer or tablet at school logged into their Telegram account, for instance).

SECRET CHATS

Telegram offers a feature called Secret Chats, which allows for messages which self-delete after a specified period of time. There are instances where this can be useful (journalists often use Telegram to protect their sources, for example), but for young people it can make it extremely difficult to prove that someone has been abusive or inappropriate towards them on the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PRIVACY CONTROLS

If your child wants to use Telegram, we'd strongly suggest using the app's built-in privacy settings to restrict who can see when they were last online, their profile photo, and their phone number. This can be set to 'everybody', 'my contacts' or 'nobody': we'd recommend either the second or third options, depending on how locked down you want the platform to be.

DISCUSS SECURITY

It's important that your child understands the merits of strong passwords and logging out of devices when they're finished – and the benefits of protecting their personal data in general. This could range from relaxed chats and simple tips like "don't send your bank details" to how to set up passcodes for Telegram so your child's chats stay secure when they step away from their screen.

REPORT UNSAFE CONTENT

If your child receives private messages which include content that could be considered illegal, unsafe or upsetting, they can of course block the account responsible within the app itself. Be aware, however, that Telegram won't necessarily take any further action it unless this offensive content involved a user-created channel, bot or sticker.

USE THE BLOCK FUNCTION

Users can block spam, abusive, or imposter accounts within the app. Blocking stops that account from messaging your child, or viewing their profile and activity. If the user in question is one of your child's peers or friendship circle, it may be worth bringing it to the attention of their school. Also bear in mind that your child can also voluntarily leave a Telegram group at any point if they wish.

PROTECT PAYMENT METHODS

Apple and Google's storefronts offer family sharing options, but it's also worth double-checking your settings to ensure that a password or two-factor authentication option is set up to prevent any unexpected purchases. If your child *does* pay for a premium Telegram subscription without your consent, Apple and Google have been known to issue refunds in some cases.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

Source: https://www.telegram.org/ | https://www.engadget.com/telegram-explained-2023-103035081.html

National Online Safety® #WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.05.2023

Friends of Winshill Village
Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

The parents lottery

Support your school with every ticket

WIN £25,000 and SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Various prizes up for grabs each week!
Buy your tickets at **theparentslottery.org**

Choose us on The Parents Lottery list → **Each ticket only £1** → **Play with up to six tickets** → **Prize draw every Friday** → **Each ticket supports our school**

The Parents Lottery is a weekly lottery promoted by Parentkind Enterprises Ltd (**PEL Company no :5884281**), a wholly owned subsidiary of Parentkind. It is run under our remote operating licence (**Licence no: 057904**). The Parents Lottery is strictly 18+ only. Playing a lottery is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a problem gambling, please call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 8020 133.

GambleAware GAMBLING COMMISSION LOTTERIES COUNCIL

Parentkind

The parents lottery