Newsletter - 13.11.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Autumn 2. I hope you all had a restful half-term break and enjoyed some quality time with family and friends.

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school last week. They have returned settled, ready to learn and eager to embrace the opportunities that this half term will bring. As always, I have been incredibly proud of the kindness, enthusiasm and determination that our pupils show each day.

This half term is always one of the busiest and most exciting in the school calendar. We have lots to look forward to, including our Mexican Fiesta Special Lunch, the Year 6 residential visit to Laches Wood, Christmas performances, our Carol Concert, festive events and many exciting learning opportunities across the curriculum. These experiences help to create lasting memories for our children and are a key part of life at Winshill.

I would also like to thank all of our families for their ongoing support. The positive relationships we have with our parents and carers are incredibly important to us and help us to achieve the very best outcomes for our children. We greatly value your feedback and would encourage you to complete our Parent Survey if you have not already done so.

As we move into the winter months, please remember to send children to school with suitable outdoor clothing, including a waterproof coat and wellies if they wish to access the field at playtimes and lunchtimes. We are committed to ensuring children have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors throughout the year.

Finally, as we approach the festive season, I would like to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and kindness. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive school community, and I look forward to sharing many special moments with you over the coming weeks.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and wish you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Howard

Important Diary Dates for Autumn Term:

Friday 27th November
Come As You Please: Bottle and Sweet Donations

Tuesday 1st December
Reception Parent Workshop: Festive Maths & Christmas Crafts

Monday 7th - Friday 11th December
Year 6 Residential at Laches Wood

Monday 7th December
Christmas Craft Afternoon in The Dreambuilder's Den

Tuesday 8th December
Nursery Parent Workshop: Healthy Habits, Toilet Training & Christmas Cheer

Monday 14th December
Rec & Y1 Performance 9.30am
Y2 & Y3 Performance 2pm
Y4,5,6 Carol Concert 5pm

Tuesday 15th December
Y2 & Y3 Performance 9.30am
Rec & Y1 Performance 2pm

Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 18th December
Pupils Break Up for Half Term

Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January
Half Term - School Closed

Monday 4th January
INSET Day -School Closed to Pupils

Tuesday 5th January
School Opens to Pupils

💛🏃‍♀️ Winshill Gets Moving for Children in Need! 🏃‍♂️

Today, children and staff across the school came together to support BBC Children in Need by taking part in our "Stop What You're Doing and Run for Pudsey" event.

Throughout the day, children enjoyed running, jogging, walking and dancing, all while raising money for a fantastic cause. It was wonderful to see so many bright yellow, spotty and sporty outfits around school, with plenty of energy, enthusiasm and smiles on display!

A huge thank you to all of our children, families and staff for supporting the event and for your generous donations. Your kindness will help make a difference to children and young people across the UK.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and helped make the day such a success.

Thank you for helping us get moving for Children in Need!

🌦️ Wellies and Waterproofs

As we head into the wetter months, we are keen for children to continue enjoying our field at playtimes and lunchtimes.
To access the field, all children must have a pair of wellies and a waterproof coat in school. Unfortunately, if children do not have both of these items available, they will be unable to use the field.
Please ensure that all wellies and waterproofs are clearly named and kept in school so that children can make the most of our outdoor spaces throughout the autumn and winter months.
Thank you for your support. 👢💚🌳

📋 Parent Survey – Autumn Term 2026

At Winshill Primary School, we are always striving to provide the very best education and experiences for our children and families. To help us do this, we would be extremely grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete our Autumn Term Parent Survey.

Your feedback is invaluable. It helps us to understand what is working well, celebrate the things we do best, and identify areas where we can continue to develop and improve. Whether your experience has been positive, challenging, or somewhere in between, we welcome and appreciate your views.

🔗 Parent Survey – Autumn Term 2026
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/zBxQ03EjJJ

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Your feedback plays an important role in helping us shape the future of our school and ensure we continue to provide the best possible experience for all children and families. 😊



🎄 Christmas at Winshill Primary School 🎄

The festive season is fast approaching, and we are already looking forward to welcoming families into school for our Christmas performances and celebrations.

Reception & Year 1 Performance
Monday 14th December at 9:30am
Tuesday 15th December at 2:00pm

Year 2 & Year 3 Performance
Monday 14th December at 2:00pm
Tuesday 15th December at 9:30am

Year 4, 5 & 6 Carol Concert at the Church
Monday 14th December at 5:00pm

Following feedback from previous years, we have decided not to hold an evening performance for Reception to Year 3. This will help ensure all children are able to participate fully and enjoy performing alongside their classmates.

Ticket booking forms will be sent out shortly via Microsoft Forms, allowing families to reserve their seats in advance. Further details, including ticket allocations, will be shared nearer the time, so please keep an eye on your emails and school communications.

We can't wait to share the festive season with you and create some special Christmas memories together! 🎅✨🎄

🌮 Mexican Fiesta Special Lunch – Tuesday 17th November 🌮

We're hosting a special Mexican Fiesta Lunch and would love as many children as possible to join us!
On the menu: 🌮 Mexican Shredded Chicken Taco
or
🌱 Vegetarian Chilli Taco
Served with: 🍚 Rice
🥒 Cucumber Salad
🥬 Slaw
There will also be a selection of fresh fruit and other tasty treats for children to enjoy.
School Day is an important day for schools, and every meal ordered makes a difference. Please support us by booking a lunch for your child via the My Child At School (MCAS) app and helping us make this a fantastic whole-school event.
We can't wait to enjoy our Mexican Fiesta with the children! 🌮🎉



🎒 Reception Applications for September 2027

The application process for children starting Reception in September 2027 is now open.

Parents and carers can apply online through Staffordshire County Council, with online applications being the quickest and easiest way to secure a school place.

📅 Application opening date: 1 November 2026

📅 Application deadline: 15 January 2027

We encourage all prospective Reception parents to submit their application before the closing date to ensure it is considered as part of the main admissions process.

If you require any support with your application, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. 😊

👁️ Children's Eye Tests

Did you know that eye tests are free on the NHS for all children?

Vision screening is not routinely provided in schools in Staffordshire, so the Orthoptic Department at University Hospitals of Derby and Burton recommends that all children have a regular eye test with a local optician, ideally once a year.

Even if your child appears to have normal vision, some eye problems can be difficult to spot and are often best identified early. Regular eye tests can help ensure your child's vision is developing correctly and that any concerns are addressed as soon as possible. If your child is not already under the care of an eye specialist or has not had a recent eye test, we encourage you to book a free NHS eye test with your local optician. 👓

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our children healthy and ready to learn.

💬 Communication Procedure Reminder

As part of our commitment to working in partnership with families, we would like to remind parents and carers of our school communication procedures.

If you have a question or concern about something that has happened during the school day, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. They are often best placed to provide information, answer questions and resolve concerns quickly.

If a longer discussion is needed, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with the appropriate member of staff. Where necessary, concerns can then be referred to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

We kindly ask that parents and carers allow staff time to respond to communications. Whilst we aim to respond as promptly as possible, staff may be teaching or engaged in other school duties during the day. Messages received during the evening, weekends or school holidays will be responded to as soon as possible during normal working hours.

We also ask that concerns are raised directly with the school, rather than discussed with other parents or children. This allows us to investigate matters fully, address issues fairly and sensitively, and ensure accurate information is shared.

As a reminder, our main methods of communication include MCAS, Class Dojo, email, newsletters, Tapestry (EYFS), telephone and the school office. Please ensure your contact details are up to date so that you receive all school communications.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain positive, respectful and effective communication across our school community.

Our Learning This Half Term

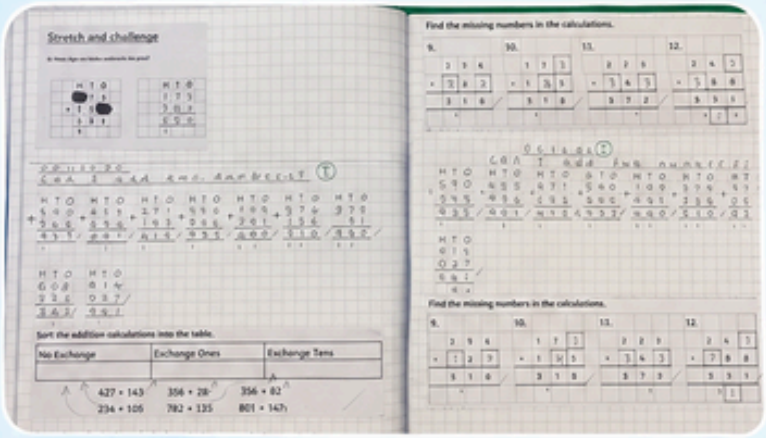
Reception

Reception loved working together to create portraits, talking to each other, taking turns and having fun getting to know their new friends.



Year 3

Year 3 have been developing their column addition skills, practising how to add three-digit numbers with and without exchanging tens and hundreds, before tackling some tricky stretch and challenge activities!



Year 4

Year 4 have begun looking at sculpture and 3D in art. Inspired by Magdalene Odundo we practised drawing large ceramics using whole-body movements on the floor of the playground.

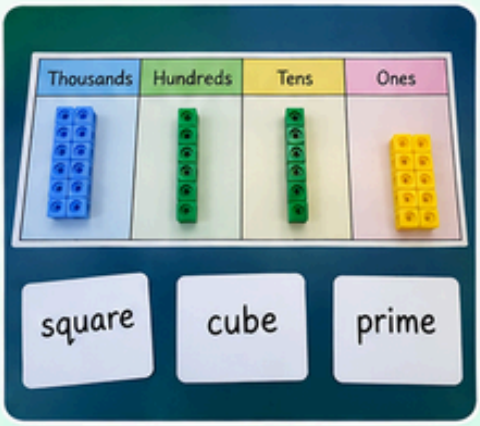




Year 5

Year 5 have been developing their place value knowledge, identifying and ordering numbers on a place value chart. We have also been looking at multiplication and learning how to identify squared, cubed and prime numbers.





UK Health Security Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit https://qrco.de/minfec.

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John Taylor MAT

CEO: Mike Donoghue OBE MA (Hons), MBA, NPQH, NLE

Dear Parents/ Carers and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we announce that nominations are now open for the JTMAT Exceptional Achievement Awards (Autumn 2026) for which all John Taylor MAT pupils are eligible to be nominated for.

The awards are an opportunity for young people to be recognised and celebrated for their achievements, and pupils may be nominated based on the following criteria:

Primary Aged Pupils (Early Years, KS1 & KS2)	Secondary Aged Pupils (KS3, KS4 & KS5)
▪ County, National or International status in any given activity in the last 18 months ▪ Grade 1 or above at KS1, or Grade 3 or above in music or singing at KS2 ▪ Performing in televised programme/ film or National stage production ▪ Fundraising for a charity over £2000 ▪ Success in overcoming adversity	▪ National or International status in any given activity in the last 18 months ▪ Grade 8 or above/ Diploma in music or singing ▪ Performing in televised programme/ film. ▪ Fundraising for a charity over £5000 ▪ Success in overcoming adversity

Please complete the online form via this link:
John Taylor MAT- Exceptional Achievement Award Nomination Form (Autumn 2026) – Fill in form

The form will ask you to complete a short paragraph; as a guide, **please work to a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 250 words** for the nomination to be fully considered. Please be as specific as possible and provide a good amount of information regarding the achievement.

Once you have made your nomination, please be advised that, if successful, you will be invited to attend an online presentation ceremony, where Mike Donoghue OBE, CEO, will speak about each of the incredibly talented recipients, who will then be presented with a very special gold pin-badge and certificate from their Headteacher in school; parents will be welcomed to attend via Teams.

Please be advised that the presentation is scheduled for **Friday 11th December 2026 at 9:00-10:15am**; once you submit your nomination, please hold space in your diary to be available to attend.

Please be advised that we may request supporting evidence regarding your nomination, which you should provide to the student's headteacher.

Please be advised that, regretfully, we cannot accept nominations for students who have previously been successful in securing an award in a very similar activity/ discipline; we understand that you will be incredibly proud, and have every right to be, particularly where progress has been achieved in a given activity where the young person has already displayed a great talent, however, they will be ineligible to receive another award on this basis.

We very much look forward to seeing our school community embrace this opportunity and celebrate those who achieve the award. The deadline for nominations is **4pm on Wednesday 18th November 2026** and we will be in contact with all who have made nominations shortly after that date to notify whether their nomination has been successful.

If you have any enquiries, please email jtmat-subjectexcellence@jtmat.co.uk

Sent on behalf of Gill Martin and Lisa Farmer, Directors of School Improvement, John Taylor MAT.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS & GPs

NHS

CAMHS

CRISIS & INTENSIVE SUPPORT TEAM

Support • Advice • Guidance



AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK | **9:00am – 10:00pm**

CALL NHS 111 → OPTION 2

Before directing any child or young person under 18 to A&E

STOP & CALL FIRST

If you are concerned about the mental health of a child or young person under 18, please contact our CAMHS Crisis & Intensive Support Team to speak to a CAMHS Practitioner **before** directing them to hospital.



OUR AIM

To reduce avoidable attendances at local A&E departments and ensure children and young people receive the **right support**, in the **right place**, at the **right time**.

HOW WE CAN HELP

- Mental health advice and guidance
- Risk assessment support
- Clinical support and intervention
- Assistance in determining whether an A&E attendance is appropriate

AFTER 10PM

Calls will be answered by a call handler who will ensure CAMHS receives the information for appropriate follow-up the next morning.

NHS 111 – OPTION 2

CONTACT CAMHS BEFORE REFERRING UNDER 18s TO A&E

We are MPFT

NHS Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ADVERTISEMENTS AIMED AT CHILDREN

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Children are particularly vulnerable to the persuasive effects of advertising because of their still-developing critical thinking and impulse control skills. Children are regularly and passively exposed to advertising online, whether through influencers, paid advertisements, or sponsored content. Although 92% of 12-17-year-olds felt confident recognising online advertising, only 37% correctly identified sponsored adverts in search results.

INFLUENCER MARKETING

Influencers are an increasingly prominent part of children's online experiences, with four in ten 3-17 year olds who watch online videos reporting that they watch influencer content as entertainment. Influencers can appear credible, relatable, trustworthy and aspirational. Although seven in ten 12-17 year olds recognised a paid partnership, some believed products were promoted because influencers liked or thought they were 'cool'.

PARENTAL PRESSURE TO PURCHASE

Children's exposure to online advertising can pressure parents to buy products they see advertised. When told no, children may feel upset, treated unfairly or left out when comparing themselves with peers. With children potentially seeing up to 40,000 adverts a year, parents cannot meet every request. This can lead to arguments and put strain on family relationships.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Advertising often focuses on the positive effects of a product, which can create unrealistic expectations among young people. Children may be particularly susceptible to these claims when they do not recognise the persuasive intent behind them. They may be more likely to believe that a cream will 'transform' their skin, clothing will help them fit in, or protein powders will quickly build muscle. Repeated exposure to adverts such as beauty content can normalise unrealistic expectations and create material dissatisfaction or body image concerns.

HARMFUL ADVERTISING

Children can encounter online advertising through games, videos, social media and links, meaning they may see content that is inappropriate for their age. This can include products or messages that influence attitudes towards body image, health or behaviours such as gambling. Repeated exposure to beauty content can normalise adult-oriented beauty routines and psychological pressure.

UNINTENDED PURCHASES

Online advertising can encourage young people to make purchases. Ofcom found that 58% of 8-17 year olds had spent money online, with 27% saying adverts encouraged them to spend and 22% influenced by influencer content. Despite this, a third of the children regretted an in-game purchase, while almost half said they were unclear about what they were buying. This can lead to children spending more than intended or making purchases without fully understanding the cost or product, adding pressure on parents to spend.

LACK OF ADVERTISING TRANSPARENCY

Advertising is not always obvious to children, particularly when influencers promote brands, products or services without clearly stating that it is an advert, or when advertising is embedded within entertaining content and uses positive language. Children may not realise that the adverts are promoting something, making the recommendation seem more trustworthy and more influential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO SPOT ADS

Help children to recognise when content is trying to sell them something. Teach them to look for signs such as '#ad', 'sponsored', 'paid partnership' as well as promo codes or product links attached. Explain to your child that these adverts can be embedded within videos, social media posts, games or influencer posts and are not always obvious to identify. Helping children recognise these advertisements can make them less likely to be influenced by them.

ENSURE PAYMENT DETAILS ARE LOCKED DOWN

Avoid saving your bank card details on children's devices, games or apps wherever possible. This can help reduce the risk of children making accidental or impulsive purchases following seeing an advert. Check the purchasing settings on games and social media accounts and use parental controls or purchase approval settings where possible. Talk to your child about the importance of asking before making a purchase online.

DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

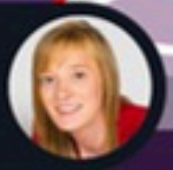
It is important to encourage children to question what they see online rather than automatically believing it. Encourage them to stop and think before clicking. Have them ask themselves, 'Why am I seeing this?' and 'What are they trying to get me to want/buy?'. Remind them that adverts and influencers only highlight the positive aspects of a product. By developing these skills, children will begin to recognise, question, and respond to manipulative marketing practices.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

While it is important to set age restrictions on games and social media, inappropriate adverts can still slip through. Talk regularly with your child about adverts or influencer content they see online. Open communication makes it easier for your child to come to you if they have any questions about products or inappropriate content. It also helps you understand what your child is being exposed to online and where they may need support.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an education consultant and digital safety expert, with a background in primary teaching. She combines her PhD research in cyberbullying with hands-on experience, delivering impactful digital wellbeing workshops and policies for schools across Australia and now in the UK.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Winshill Village
Learning without limits

Winshill Childcare

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

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£5.30 per hour for EYFS (Nursery & Reception)







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fae_alisontipper
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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

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH TOILET TRAINING?

NHS
Midlands Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

ERIC is the UK's leading Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity and supports children, teenagers, and their families

ERIC free Helpline: 0808 801 0343
Mon to Thursday, 10:00 - 14:00

Potty Training.....

How to start | Podcast | free webinar | child with additional needs | other languages

0-19 Health professionals in our Hubs can respond to any questions or concerns you may have about their child's wee, poo or toileting

Staffordshire Parents/Carers phone: 0808 178 0611

Stoke Parents/Carers phone: 0808 178 3374

ChatHealth **text messaging service**

Living in Stoke-on-Trent text: 07312 277161

Living in Staffordshire text: 07520 615722

