

Newsletter - 18.09.26

 Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! There is always something special about September. A new school year brings a real sense of possibility – fresh energy, new opportunities and, for every child, the chance to take another step towards a happy and successful future.

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back and to see our classrooms, corridors and playgrounds full of life once again. A particularly warm welcome goes to all the children and families joining Winshill Village for the first time. We hope you quickly feel at home and part of our school community.

The children have made a fantastic start, settling into their new classes, routines and learning. Our staff worked incredibly hard over the summer and during our INSET days to ensure that everything was ready to give every child the very best possible start.

As always, our ambition is simple: for every child to feel happy, safe and valued; to enjoy coming to school; and to be encouraged and supported to achieve their very best. There is already so much to look forward to – trips, visitors, sporting opportunities, performances, OPAL play, clubs and all those special moments that make primary school life so memorable.

We also know that children thrive when home and school work together. Thank you for your continued support, communication and partnership. Please continue to talk to us, share successes and let us know early if there is anything we can do to support your child or family.

We have an exciting year ahead, and I am looking forward to celebrating all that our children learn and achieve along the way.

Here's to a happy, successful and exciting 2026–2027 – and another year of dreaming big and learning without limits! 🌟

Mrs Howard



Important Diary Dates for Autumn Term:

Tuesday 13th October

Reception Parent Workshop: Phonics & Reading for Pleasure

Tuesday 20th October

Nursery Parent Workshop: Speech & Language and Independence

Friday 23rd October

Pupils Break Up for Half Term

Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

Half Term – School Closed

Monday 2nd November

School Opens to Pupils

Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th November

Parents Evening

Monday 9th November

Reception Open Evening

Tuesday 1st December

Reception Parent Workshop: Festive Maths & Christmas Crafts

Monday 7th – Friday 11th December

Year 6 Residential at Laches Wood

Tuesday 8th December

Nursery Parent Workshop: Health Habits, Toilet Training & Christmas Cheer

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

Home School Agreement

At Winshill Village Primary and Nursery School, we value every child as an individual and are committed to helping all children achieve their full potential. We believe that a strong partnership between school staff, governors, parents, carers and pupils is essential in supporting children to be happy, safe and successful throughout their school journey. Our Home School Agreement sets out the shared commitments and expectations of pupils, parents, staff and governors. We have discussed this with the children during assemblies so that they understand the role they play, alongside the commitments made by adults, in creating a positive and supportive learning environment. We encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to read the Home School Agreement, which can be found within our policies section here [Winshill Village Primary School - School Policies & Procedures](#). By working together, we can ensure the very best outcomes for every child.



The application window for a September 2026 start at secondary or high school is now open.

Parents can apply online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

As in previous years, the local authority is no longer providing paper copies of the 'Information to Parents' booklet. Parents are able to access this booklet on their website. Deadline for applications is 31 October 2026.

★ Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts!

Regular attendance and good punctuality help children make the most of their learning, friendships and wellbeing. With only 190 school days each year, even small amounts of absence can quickly add up – 90% attendance means around 19 days missed, or approximately four weeks of learning.

Please remember to report absences promptly, arrange appointments outside school hours wherever possible and avoid holidays during term time, as these will not be authorised.

If your child is struggling to attend school for any reason, please speak to us early. Mrs Frend, our School Strategic Lead for Attendance, and the wider school team are here to help.

Every day matters. Every minute matters.



Reception Open Evening – Monday 9 November 2026, 4.30pm

Open Evening – Monday 9 November 2026, 4.30pm – 6.00pm

We are delighted to invite parents, carers and prospective families to our forthcoming Open Evening on Monday 9 November 2026, from 4.30pm.

As the admissions window for Nursery and Reception places opens in November, this is a wonderful opportunity for families considering joining Winshill Village Primary and Nursery School to come and look around our school, meet staff and see what makes our school such a special place to learn.

🏠 Building Works Update

There have been some exciting improvements to our school building over the summer. Our Year 1 and Year 2 toilets have been fully refurbished, providing much-improved facilities for our children.

Our roof replacement project is also progressing and is expected to be completed by the end of the October half-term. Contractors will remain on site, with working areas securely fenced and strict safety procedures in place.

While work continues, the lower car park remains unavailable to parents and visitors. Please park considerately on surrounding roads, keeping driveways, junctions and access points clear.

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support while we invest in improving our school for the future.

🌟 Celebrating Success – DREAM BIG! 🌟

We're excited to introduce new ways to recognise and celebrate children who live out our DREAM BIG values through their choices, attitudes, actions and the way they treat others.

Each week, one child from every class will become a Values Superstar, nominated by their classmates for demonstrating the week's DREAM BIG value. We'll also celebrate DREAM BIG Champions – children recognised by staff for consistently demonstrating all our values and being fantastic role models. Champions will be revealed in Monday's assembly and enjoy a special monthly treat!

We're also launching The Road to 500! Throughout the Autumn Term, children will earn ClassDojo points for positive choices, hard work, kindness, great learning behaviours and demonstrating our values, with the exciting goal of reaching 500 points. There will be milestones and rewards to celebrate their individual effort and progress along the way.

Together, our Values Superstars, DREAM BIG Champions and Road to 500 will help us celebrate success and remind every child that their positive choices really do matter. We can't wait to celebrate their achievements!



School Uniform – September 2026

A reminder to families about our school uniform expectations for the new academic year. Uniform helps promote a sense of belonging, equality and pride across our school. Nursery children are not required to wear uniform, although they are welcome to do so.

New for September: children may wear a red hoodie on PE days instead of their usual school jumper or cardigan. This is completely optional and does not need to have the school logo—a suitable plain red hoodie is fine.

Please remember to clearly label all uniform, PE kit, coats and belongings with your child's name.

Thank you for helping our children look smart and feel proud to belong to Winhill Village.



Free School Meals – Important Changes

From September 2026, Free School Meal eligibility is expanding to include children from all households receiving Universal Credit, regardless of household earnings. Families receiving Universal Credit or other benefits are encouraged to apply, even if they were not eligible previously.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 already receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, but families receiving Universal Credit should still apply, as this can help the school access additional funding.

Applying only takes a few minutes. Families who have applied previously do not need to reapply, as eligibility will be checked automatically.

For help with an application or to request a paper form, please contact the school office.

Who Should I Speak To?

Good communication between home and school helps us resolve questions or concerns quickly and effectively.

If your concern relates to something that has happened in class or involving your child during the school day, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. They know your child well and are usually best placed to explain what has happened and help resolve any concerns.

For matters that require a longer or more private conversation, please contact the school office to arrange a suitable time to speak with the class teacher rather than trying to discuss detailed concerns on the playground.

If a concern cannot be resolved with the class teacher, or you feel further support is needed, the matter can then be passed on to the appropriate member of the senior leadership team.

We really value positive, respectful communication between home and school and appreciate families working with us to ensure concerns are directed to the right person.



Can You Help Our Nursery?

Our Nursery team are looking for bark to help improve and refresh their outdoor playground area.

If any parents, carers, local businesses or members of our community are able to kindly donate some bark, we would be incredibly grateful. Every donation, big or small, will help us continue to develop an exciting outdoor space for our youngest children to explore, play and learn.

SECRETS OF THE SEASON AUTUMN EDITION



**4-week online course starting
Wednesday 30th September**

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This is a 12-hour online course held over 4 weeks, delivered through an introductory zoom session, themed weekly email packs and access to digital resources.

Staffordshire residents can join this course for FREE. For those living outside Staffordshire there is a cost of £30.



**Contact Rebecca to reserve your place or find out
more - 07525 120117 /
Communityforestservices@gmail.com**



10 Top Tips on Supporting Children with SELF-REGULATION

Children need to learn to understand and recognise their emotions, while finding healthy ways to process them. Emotional self-regulation, however, depends heavily on age and development. While very young ones or children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may find it particularly challenging to self-regulate, nurturing these important skills can be hugely beneficial. Here are ten top tips for supporting children with their self-regulation.

1. DESIGNATE A TRUSTED ADULT

It's vital that children feel safe and know that there's someone they can always go to for help if they need it. Schedule consistent times for the child to develop a relationship with this person – ideally through play and games – allowing trust to grow and ensuring that the child is more likely to come forward if anything is wrong, rather than hiding their emotions.

2. MEET CHILDREN HALFWAY

Unless you know where a child is developmentally and tailor your approach to their needs, you're less likely to have an impact. In particular, younger ones and children with SEND can struggle to self-regulate and instead rely on others to help them. We call this 'co-regulation'. Rather than offering strategies for self-regulation, it could be better to start co-regulating with a trusted adult first.

3. FACTOR IN THEIR BASIC NEEDS

Remember that for a child to develop emotional regulation skills, their basic needs must be met first. Children who are hungry, tired, cold and so on – as well as those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences – may struggle to self-regulate. Before you develop strategies with any child, make sure they feel safe, secure and comfortable in themselves.

4. REMAIN PATIENT

If a child is struggling with their emotions, it can often become difficult to stay calm. Remember that dysregulation is beyond their control, so a display of frustration or anger could negatively impact the situation. Instead, children need to be met with comfort and understanding to help them manage these problematic feelings.

5. BE 'A DYSREGULATION DETECTIVE'

While some children can tell you why they become dysregulated, many others can't. You could investigate potential triggers by observing the child and talking to their family. When the child becomes dysregulated, note down details like the time, what they're doing and who they're with – the trigger may be someone they sit near, an unmet sensory need or something else entirely. Once we identify some triggers, we can help to avoid or overcome them.

6. USE SUITABLE LITERATURE

There are some wonderful books that can help you teach self-regulation to children. Reading these with a child can be especially powerful. Take time to discuss the content: ask questions about what feelings the characters had, why they felt that way and what strategies helped them. It can also be useful to refer back to snippets of these books at appropriate moments.

7. TRY SENSORY RESOURCES

An overlap between sensory needs and emotional regulation is possible. Children may struggle to self-regulate if they're experiencing sensory overload (a noisy classroom, for example). Positive sensory input can help calm them down. Use resources such as weighted blankets and fibre-optic lights. Of course, what works for one child might not work for another – so it's important to offer a choice of resources to discover which they prefer.

8. NURTURE INDEPENDENCE

If you feel it's appropriate, let children try out these strategies alone. Always offer them a choice: they could listen to music when they're feeling stressed, for example, or they could write down their worries or draw something to represent how they feel. This may take time for the child to get used to, so be patient. Encourage them to share any helpful strategies with a trusted adult.

9. MODEL GENUINE FEELINGS

Children learn a lot just from watching grown-ups. Don't be afraid to show your own emotions and self-regulation strategies. While you'll obviously want to avoid sharing anything too personal with children, they should still see us experiencing and handling our own feelings. Tell them how you are feeling, then show them how to respond in a healthy manner.

10. FORMULATE A PLAN

As much as we try to prevent children from experiencing dysregulation, it's always wise to have an appropriate plan for when it does happen. Discuss this strategy with the child (if appropriate) and their family. The best approach for an individual child is often a bespoke one; it's hugely important to know in advance what might help and what could worsen the situation.

Meet Our Expert

Georgina Durant is an author, former teacher, Special Educational Needs Coordinator and the founder of the award-winning SEN Resources Blog, where she shares activities, advice and recommendations for parents and teachers of children with SEND.



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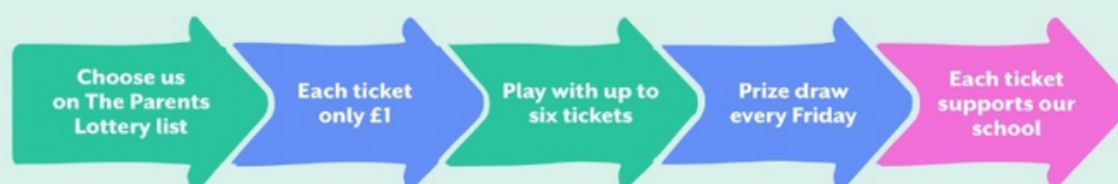
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