



End of Year Newsletter: Summer 2026

As we come to the end of another successful school year, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved and celebrate the many successes of our school community. Our children have worked incredibly hard throughout the year, showing enthusiasm, determination, and resilience in all that they do, and we are immensely proud of their progress and achievements. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our parents and carers for their continued support and partnership throughout the year—it is greatly appreciated.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated staff, whose hard work, commitment, and care make such a positive difference to the lives of our children every day. We wish everyone a safe, happy, and restful summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year.

Ms Howard

Curriculum Updates

There has been so much happening throughout school during the summer term. Our Phase Leaders: Mrs Rudram, Mr McDonald, Miss Woodward & Mr Hedar are keen to share these updates -

Early Years: (Pre-school, Nursery & Reception)

This summer term, our Early Years children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our '**Under the Sea**' theme through a range of exciting stories, activities and hands-on learning experiences.

In **Preschool**, the children loved listening to stories, including *Shark in the Park*. Inspired by the story, they enjoyed walking the plank, making their own telescopes and using their imaginations during role play and outdoor adventures.

In **Nursery**, the children were fascinated by learning about a variety of sea creatures, with jellyfish becoming a particular favourite! They created their own colourful jellyfish and aquariums, and it has been wonderful to hear them confidently using their new vocabulary and sharing their knowledge through play.

In **Reception**, the children have enjoyed welcoming surprise readers into the classroom to share a range of wonderful stories, helping to foster a lifelong love of reading. It was a pleasure to welcome our Chair of Governors, Mrs Mathers, who visited to read her favourite story. The children have also taken part in balance bike sessions, developing their confidence, balance, coordination and overall physical skills.

A particular highlight of the term was our visits to Cannon Hall, where our Nursery and Reception children had a fantastic time exploring the grounds, learning about the animals and enjoying a range of outdoor experiences. The visits provided wonderful opportunities to develop their curiosity, communication skills and understanding of the world around them.

It has been a fantastic term across Early Years, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and progress shown by all of our children. We would like to thank all of our families for their continued support throughout the year. We wish everyone a wonderful, relaxing summer holiday and look forward to welcoming both familiar and new faces back in September.

Key Stage One: (Years 1 & 2)

Our summer topic in Key Stage One has been all about the seaside. Children have enjoyed learning all about the natural and human features of the seaside, including enjoying our trip to Filey. We were lucky enough to get to visit the RNLI lifeboat and have a talk about water safety from the captain of the ship. We also enjoyed making sandcastles, playing on the 2p slots, dipping our toes in the sea, and fighting off some very hungry seagulls. Of course, no trip to the seaside would be complete without an ice-cream! In Science, we have been learning about life cycles of plants and animals. We have even had the chance to grow some marigolds, which have survived despite the heatwaves.

After our many attempts to host Sport's Day were thwarted by the British weather, we were finally able to enjoy the occasion this month. Our children were a credit to our school as they competed with resilience, showing great sportsmanship. The brilliant uptake of the grown-up race put our staff to shame, but (if this gets past the edit) this newsletter is official confirmation that Mrs Howard will take part in a staff race next year. We hope that all of our children enjoyed the day!

Many of our children in Years 1 and 2 have taken their phonics screening this term, and we are delighted with the effort the children have been putting into their lessons. Phonics is a key part of learning to read fluently and we are very pleased with the improvement our children have shown this year. They should all be very proud of themselves.

Finally, it wouldn't be Windhill without all of our extra-curricular activities. Our children got to spend time with a tennis coach in honour of Wimbledon and even got to learn how to play wheelchair basketball, which was very challenging! This week, they will begin to study financial maths in their lessons, learning how to use money and how to become a critical consumer. As the year comes to an end, we are looking forward to our picnic and celebrating our Year 6s as we say goodbye.

As always, I'd like to thank our adults at home for their support and involvement in school life. We appreciate this and think our continued partnership around the children is one of the things that makes our school special. Thank you!

Lower Key Stage Two: (Years 3 & 4)

What a fantastic and busy Summer Term it has been for Lower Key Stage 2! The children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity and determination. Throughout the term, they have enjoyed engaging lessons across the curriculum, developed their teamwork and problem-solving skills through exciting projects and taken part in a range of memorable experiences. From creative art and design activities to scientific investigations, sporting events, educational visits and outdoor learning, the children have continued to grow in confidence while demonstrating resilience and a love of learning.

Children had an unforgettable visit to the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, where they stepped back in time to explore life in Roman Britain. During an exciting interactive workshop, the children enlisted in the Roman army, learning authentic marching techniques and battle formations before putting their shields to the test as staff launched foam axes at them! There were plenty of squeals and laughter, prompting the Roman General to remind everyone, "Romans don't squeal!" The adventure continued as the children discovered the other side of the story by joining the Iceni tribe, learning about the courageous Boudicca and her rebellion against the Romans. They thoroughly enjoyed decorating themselves with blue face paint, practising their fierce war cries and immersing themselves in the lives of the Iceni warriors. It was a fantastic day of hands-on history that brought our learning about the Romans to life.

Also, as part of our Roman topic, the children became designers and craftspeople by creating their own Roman shields. They began by exploring the different symbols, colours and patterns used on Roman shields, learning how these designs represented Roman legions and conveyed strength and identity. Using this knowledge, each child created a design before constructing and decorating their own shield. The finished shields were both eye-

catching and historically inspired, giving the children a real sense of pride while deepening their understanding of Roman life.

We were incredibly proud of our Year 4 children who took part in their residential adventure during some very hot weather! They approached every activity with enthusiasm and resilience, making the most of exciting experiences including pond dipping, den building, creating wild art and visiting the animal house. Despite the soaring temperatures, everyone stayed safe and cool with plenty of hydration breaks and some much-needed water fights! One of the highlights of the trip was putting their den-building skills to the test, as staff used water pistols to see just how waterproof the shelters really were. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop their teamwork, independence and confidence while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Our Year 3 children had a wonderful time visiting CAST Theatre to take part in the Doncaster Storytelling Festival. Throughout the afternoon, they were inspired by a fantastic line-up of authors and performers, including author and illustrator Kate Pankhurst, creator of the Fantastically Great Women series, Doncaster's much-loved performance poet Paul Cookson, and bestselling author M.G. Leonard, known for Beetle Boy, Adventures on Trains and the Twitch series. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to stories, discovering how books are created and celebrating the joy of reading. Every child received a free book to take home and enjoy, helping to inspire a lifelong love of reading.

This term, our Lower Key Stage 2 children have embraced a wide range of exciting sporting opportunities. They enjoyed Wimbledon-inspired tennis taster sessions, experienced the fast-paced and inclusive sport of wheelchair basketball and demonstrated fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship during our annual Sports Day events. A special congratulations goes to our Year 3/4 cricket team, who represented the school brilliantly at their tournament. They played with great skill, resilience and enthusiasm!

We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved this term.

Upper Key Stage Two: (Years 5 & 6)

A Fantastic Year 5 Guitar Concert

Our Year 5 children were delighted to perform their guitar concert for family and friends. It was wonderful to see their hard work come to life as they played with confidence and enthusiasm. The concert showcased not only their musical talents but also the teamwork, perseverance and dedication they have shown throughout the year. Well done, Year 5!

An Incredible Year 6 Production of Matilda

Year 6 wowed us all with their fantastic production of Matilda. From learning lines and songs to perfecting dance routines and bringing each scene to life, every child played their part in making the show such a success. It was a memorable performance that had audiences

smiling, laughing (and even crying) from start to finish and is sure to be a highlight of their final year at primary school.

A Wonderful Three-Day Residential for Year 6

Our Year 6 children had an amazing time on their three-day residential. It was a fantastic opportunity to try new activities, work together and make memories with friends before moving on to secondary school. There were plenty of smiles, laughter and new experiences, and we're sure these are memories they'll treasure for years to come.

Year 5 and Year 6 Rounders Success at Laurel Academy

Congratulations to our Year 5 and Year 6 rounders teams, who both came away as winners at the tournaments held at Laurel Academy. They represented our school brilliantly, showing great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Positive Year 6 Transition Days

Our Year 6 children returned from their transition days full of smiles and exciting stories about their new schools. It was lovely to hear how positive their experiences were, and we hope the visits have helped them feel confident and excited about the next chapter of their education.

An Informative Visit from a Local Councillor

The children enjoyed a visit from a local councillor as part of their learning about natural disasters. They explored the impact of flooding in our local area and had the chance to connect their classroom learning to real-life experiences. It was a fascinating visit that brought the topic to life.

Inclusive Sports and Wheelchair Basketball

Pupils had the opportunity to take part in wheelchair basketball, giving them a chance to experience sport from a different perspective. It was a fun and engaging session that encouraged teamwork, respect and an appreciation of inclusive sport. The children thoroughly enjoyed trying something new.

A Huge Thank You from the UKS2 Team

As another fantastic school year comes to an end, we'd like to say a huge thank you to all of our Year 5 and Year 6 children for their hard work, enthusiasm and determination.

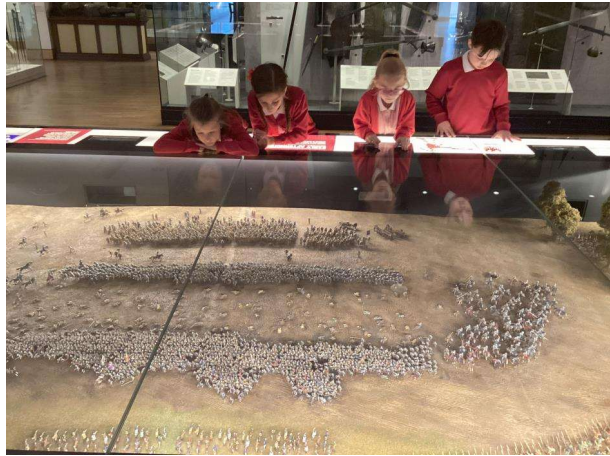
We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved, both in the classroom and beyond. Watching their confidence grow, seeing friendships flourish and celebrating so many successes has been a real pleasure. Thank you also to our families for your continued support throughout the year—we couldn't do it without you. We hope everyone has a wonderful, well-deserved summer break!



















Summer of fun!

It has been another fantastic term of sporting success and exciting opportunities at Windhill Primary School! A huge well done to all of our cricketers, who proudly represented the school by winning the Doncaster school rounds and progressing to compete against the best schools from across South Yorkshire. Our Year 3/4 team came incredibly close to qualifying for the Yorkshire finals, missing out by just a few runs—an outstanding achievement that they should all be very proud of.

Alongside our competitive sporting events, the children have also enjoyed taking part in a Wimbledon Tennis Day, a cricket experience and a Wheelchair Basketball Day, giving them the opportunity to experience new sports, develop new skills and, most importantly, have lots of fun. The children also thoroughly loved the 'Wheel chair basketball' event!

Our Sports Days have also been a huge success, with children showing fantastic determination, teamwork and sportsmanship while enjoying the chance to celebrate their achievements with family and friends.

The recent heatwave also brought a memorable end to the term, with the whole school taking part in a fantastic water fight! It was the perfect way to cool down after a very hot and sweaty week, and it is safe to say that the staff enjoyed it just as much as the children! Thank you to all of our parents and carers for your support during the exceptionally warm

weather. Your understanding in ensuring children came to school prepared with water bottles, sun hats and sun cream was greatly appreciated.

We are very proud of the enthusiasm, resilience and positive attitude shown by all of our pupils throughout such a busy and exciting term.











Sing Out!



We were delighted with children and their fantastic performance at the Dome at the recent Sing Out event. They worked so hard to learn all of the songs and dance routines, and their dedication truly paid off. It was wonderful to see their confidence shine on stage as they performed with such enthusiasm, smiles and pride. They were a credit to our school, and we couldn't be prouder of their amazing achievement.





Primary Enterprise Challenge



We are incredibly proud of our children who took part in this year's Primary Enterprise Challenge at Doncaster Cast Theatre. Back in March, all the children from Years 2 to 6 worked collaboratively in small teams to design an innovative '**Sensory Nook**', creating detailed models and presenting their ideas to a panel of judges. The winning team from each

year group then represented our school at the finals, where they confidently articulated their designs and answered questions from an expert judging panel. Throughout the challenge, our children demonstrated outstanding teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and communication skills, making them all excellent ambassadors for our school. We are thrilled to announce that Windhill Primary was presented with the **'Most Enterprising School'** award—a fantastic achievement that reflects the hard work, enthusiasm and enterprise shown by all of our pupils.





Matilda!



A huge 'well done' to Year 6 children for their fantastic production of *Matilda*. We were amazed by their wonderful singing and acting talents, and they entertained everyone with their confidence and enthusiasm. A special mention also goes to those who worked behind the scenes, creating all of the props and playing such an important role backstage to ensure the production was a success. Every child contributed in their own way, and they should all be very proud of what they achieved. Thank you to everyone who was able to come and support the children—we hope you enjoyed the show as much as we did!







Safeguarding Team

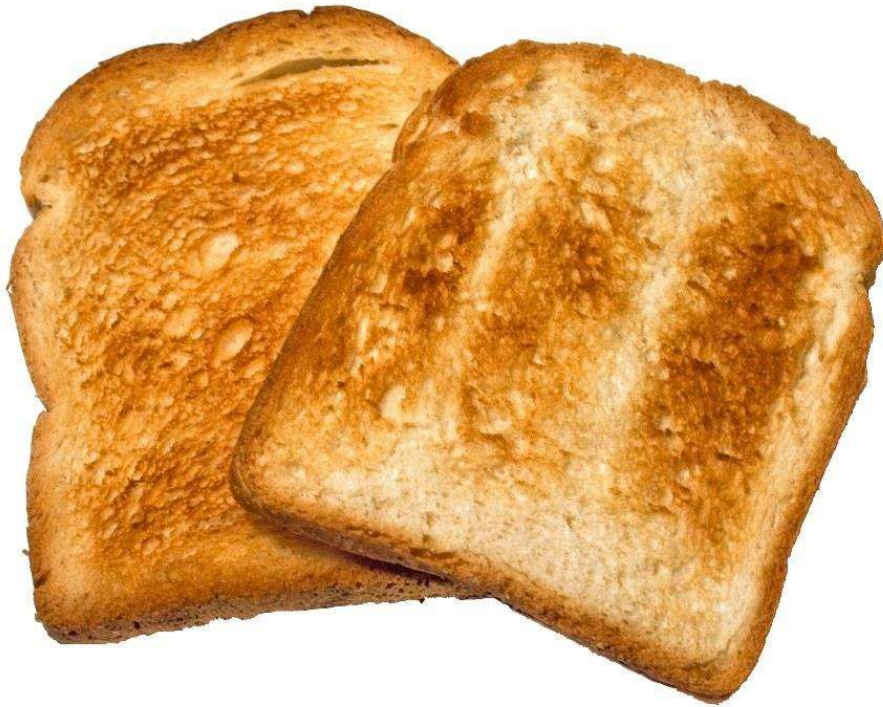
At Windhill Primary School, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. Our Safeguarding Team is always here to listen and offer support if you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Mrs Neesome**, supported by our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, **Ms Howard**, **Mrs Grayson** and **Mrs Hicks**.

If you are worried about a child or would like to speak to a member of the safeguarding team, please do not hesitate to contact the school during school hours on **01709 586949**. No concern is ever too small, and we encourage parents and carers to get in touch so that we can work together to keep all children safe.

If you have safeguarding concerns outside of school hours, please contact the **Doncaster Safeguarding Team** on **01302 737777** so that appropriate support can be provided.

Free Breakfast Club



When we return to school on the 2nd September, all pupils from Reception to Year 6 are invited to attend our 'Free Breakfast Club' which will run from 8.15am daily.

Children will be able to enjoy a healthy breakfast and take part in enrichment activities such as 'fun & games', 'skipping', 'Lego' and colouring.

For parents/ carers requiring Breakfast Club from 8am, there will be a 50p charge per day.

You do not need to book for the free breakfast club, however any pupil attending this provision must be in school **no later than 8.20am**. Children who arrive after this time will not be allowed in to the club as gates will be locked as a safeguarding precaution.

Please note that from September there will be no bagels in classes as the funding for this has finished and been replaced by the free breakfast club.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Great British Summer Saving



From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

As part of this campaign, they have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>¹.

¹<https://news.service.education.gov.uk/9D49BD1A826F6A14FA56AF38D466C3737662B153E6B3B6C0C3F479665F818175/23288AFFBAE2CB73BB565C461AA2E467/LE35>

Good Luck!

As another school year comes to a close, it is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to four much-loved members of our Windhill family. Whilst we are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead for each of them, they will all be greatly missed by the children, families and staff who have had the privilege of working alongside them.

Mrs Whitehead has made the difficult decision to begin her well-earned retirement after more than 30 years of dedicated service to Windhill Primary School. During that time, she has taught and inspired hundreds of children, spending much of her career in Year 6, where she has helped pupils prepare for the next stage of their education with patience, kindness and unwavering encouragement. Mrs Whitehead has always taken the time to truly get to know every child in her care, offering not only excellent teaching but also the pastoral support that has helped so many children grow in confidence and believe in themselves. Her compassion, wisdom and dedication have touched the lives of countless families, and she leaves behind a wonderful legacy. We wish her a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

After almost 10 years at Windhill Primary, Miss Troughton will be leaving us to take up an exciting promotion as an Early Years Leader at another school. This is a thoroughly deserved achievement and reflects the passion, expertise and dedication she has shown throughout

her time with us. During her years at Windhill Primary, Miss Troughton has worked with children across both Early Years and Key Stage One, making a lasting difference to the lives of so many pupils and their families. She is a caring and compassionate member of staff who always puts the needs of children first, building positive relationships and creating a nurturing environment where every child feels valued, supported and encouraged to succeed. We are incredibly proud of her and know she will thrive in her new leadership role.

Miss Bailey will be embarking on an exciting new chapter as she joins another school in Doncaster this September. Her journey at Windhill began almost 10 years ago as a work experience student, and through determination, resilience and hard work, she achieved her dream of becoming a teacher. Watching her grow and develop into the talented professional she is today has been a pleasure, and her story has inspired many others to believe that with commitment and perseverance, ambitions really can become reality. We are incredibly proud of all she has achieved and know she has a bright future ahead of her.

Finally, after three years at Windhill, Miss Ramskill will also be moving on to a new opportunity. Throughout her time with us, she has embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, teaching across a variety of year groups and always putting the children at the heart of everything she does. Her caring nature, positivity and commitment have made a real difference to the pupils she has taught, and we know she will continue to have a positive impact wherever her career takes her.

To each of them we would like to say thank you for their kindness, their dedication, their hard work and for the lasting difference they have made to the lives of so many children. Although we will miss them all enormously, we wish them every happiness and success as they begin their next adventures.

Goodbye our Amazing Year 6!

And finally, as we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children, we want to celebrate everything they have achieved during their time with us. They have approached every challenge with determination, worked incredibly hard, and shown resilience when faced with new experiences and obstacles. Watching them grow in confidence, kindness, and independence has been a privilege, and we are immensely proud of all they have accomplished. We know they are ready for the exciting journey ahead at secondary school, and we wish them every success and happiness in this next chapter. They will always be a valued part of our school community, and we will miss them dearly. Good bye our Year 6.



Important Dates for Next Year

Friday 17th July 2026 (3.15pm)	Children finish school for the summer holidays
Tuesday 1st September	Staff Inset - school closed
Wednesday 2nd September (8.45am)	Children return to school/ Free Breakfast Club starts
Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st Oct	Open Evening
Week commencing 10th May all week	Year 6 SAT tests - all y6 pupils must be in school

Inset Days for 2026/27:

Monday 2nd November

Monday 4th January

Friday 28th May

Wednesday 21st July

A polite reminder that from 4.30pm on Friday 17th July, staff will not be accessing any messages sent through Class Dojo. If you do need to get in touch with school over the holidays, please email admin@windhillschool.co.uk² and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

From all the staff and governors at Windhill Primary School, we hope you all have a safe and relaxing summer break - see you in 6 weeks!

²<mailto:admin@windhillschool.co.uk>