



Parent Digest

21 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this week's edition of the Parent Digest. Please click on the relevant links which open the document or letter on the school website.

Kind regards,

The Willink School

Whole School

Learning Review Days: Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December 2026

Parents and carers are invited to meet with their child's/children's Form Tutor(s) to review progress and set goals to ensure that all can flourish and fulfil academic and personal achievement. Please [see this linked letter](#) with further information about Learning Review Day and how to make an appointment.

Appointments can be made from 4pm on Wednesday 4 November and will close at 4pm on Wednesday 2 December.

Term 2 Uniform Reminders

As we break for half term, I have written to all families [[please click here to read](#)] with some reminders for our return in November, when cooler weather and darker days will be with us. The letter covers dressing for the season, including a reminder that uniform expectations stay the same throughout the winter months and that navy trousers are a practical, warm uniform option for girls. It also includes some simple advice to help students stay safe on darker journeys to and from school, so please do take a few minutes to read it with your child.

Term Dates Reminder

A reminder that term ends tomorrow. The school day finishes at the usual time of **3.05pm on Thursday, 22 October 2026** for the half-term break. We hope all our students, staff and families enjoy a restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday 3 November**, ready for Term 2. Please remember that we will return on a **Week A timetable**. Have a lovely half term!

Reminder School Flu Vaccination Years 7-11 – Friday, 13 November 2026

Students in years 7 – 11 are eligible for their free annual flu vaccination. The flu vaccine helps protect children, families and school communities before winter, when flu can spread more easily. Please [see this linked letter](#) for more information and submit a **YES** or **NO** consent via the linked form. Vaccinations will take place in school on Friday, 13 November 2026. **Consent closes at 9am one full school day before the vaccination session.**

Reminder: Enrichment Activities – Autumn Term

We are delighted to offer our students a wide range of enrichment opportunities, enabling them to explore their interests, develop new skills and make new friendships. Participation in any of these enrichment activities is free of charge. A full timetable of lunchtime and after-school clubs can [be viewed here](#).

Reminder: Safe Driving and Considerate Parking

We have received some feedback from local residents about traffic around the school at busy drop-off and pick-up times, so would like to share a gentle reminder to take extra care when travelling to and from The Willink.

Our school entrances and surrounding roads are shared with local families, including young children walking to the nearby infant and junior schools. Please take your time, be patient around pedestrians and avoid mounting pavements or parking in ways that block footpaths, restrict visibility or obstruct residents' driveways.

If you're using the entrance via Willink Leisure Centre, please also remember that the car park is reserved for leisure centre users and Willink staff, rather than for student drop-off and pick-up.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping to keep everyone safe, respected, and considerate of our local community.

Reminder: Food and Nutrition Reminder

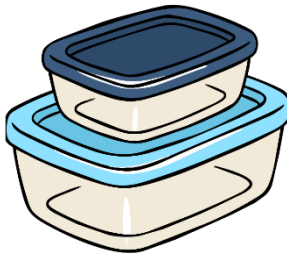
A quick reminder for all KS3 Food and Nutrition students to remember to collect their food at the end of each day.

Food left behind on Fridays will be disposed of at 3.20pm for food hygiene reasons, so please make sure you collect your food and take home to enjoy.

We've also built up a collection of unclaimed Tupperware and food containers, many of which are unnamed or have names we can't read. If you're missing any items, please come and collect them as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we don't have the space to store these indefinitely, so any items left unclaimed will eventually be recycled or disposed of.

Thank you for your help!

FOOD & NUTRITION REMINDER:





DON'T FORGET!

Please collect your food at the end of the school day

Any food left by 3.20pm on FRIDAYS will be disposed of for food hygiene reasons

Diary Dates

Wednesday 21 October – Sixth Form Open Evening, 6-8pm

Thursday 22 – Monday 26 October - KS4/5 Iceland Trip

Thursday 22 October – Break for Half Term, 3:05pm Finish

Friday 23 October – Monday 2 November – Autumn Half Term Break

Tuesday 3 November – Term 2 Starts

Tuesday 10 November – Year 11 Revision Skills Evening (for parents/carers & students)

Thursday 12 November - Get Curious: Health and Sports Sciences at Oxford Brookes University (For young people from Armed Forces families)

Friday, 13 November - School Flu Vaccination Years 7-11

Saturday 14 November – Rugby Trip to Allianz Twickenham

Monday 16 November - KS5 Physics Live! Trip (A-Level Physics Students)

Monday 23 November – Art & Textiles Emmanuel Centre London Trip (KS4/5)

Thursday 26 November - First Aid Training (PSHEE Years 7 and 11)

Tuesday 1 December – Whole School Production

Wednesday 2 December – Whole School Production

Thursday 3 December – Whole School Production

Thursday 3 December – Learning Review Day

Friday 4 December – Learning Review Day

Tuesday 15 December – Year 7 Theatre Trip to the Panto

Wednesday 16 December – Celebration of Success Event (Year 13 Class of 2026)

Friday 18 December – End of Term, 12:40pm finish

[Click here](#) to access the whole school calendar.

PE Schedule of Activities 2026/27

For all students in Years 7–11, the Scheme of PE Activities for this academic year can [be viewed here](#).

PE Fixtures Calendar

PE Fixtures are communicated directly to the students taking part. A calendar of school PE fixtures can be viewed [here](#).

Examinations

[Click here](#) for examinations information available on our website.

- Thursday 3- Friday 4 December – Year 12 Examinations
- Monday 7 – Friday 18 December – Year 11 Examinations

Year 7

Year 7 Theatre Trip: Aladdin Pantomime, Tuesday 15 December 2026

We are delighted to offer our annual theatre trip for Year 7 students to the pantomime. This year they will get to enjoy a festive performance of Aladdin on Tuesday 15 December 2026. Please [see this linked letter](#) for full details, including payment arrangements and how to provide consent for your child to attend.

Reminder: Food and Nutrition Ingredients Lists Autumn Term 2026

Students who are studying Food and Nutrition this term will have brought home an ingredients list for their practical lessons this term. These lists are also available on our school website [here](#), along with the recipe cards they will follow in the lesson.

Year 8

Reminder: Food and Nutrition Ingredients Lists Autumn Term 2026

Students who are studying Food and Nutrition this term will have brought home an ingredients list for their practical lessons this term. These lists are also available on our school website [here](#), along with the recipe cards they will follow in the lesson.

Year 9

Reminder: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Launch

We are delighted to launch the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award for the 2026–27 academic year, open to our Year 9 students. Please [see this linked letter](#) for full details on how to enrol, including payment information, expedition dates and other important information.

DofE also run virtual information sessions for parents and carers. Please [click here](#) to view the dates and how to join.

We look forward to supporting our students as they take on new challenges, develop their independence and gain valuable skills through this rewarding experience.

Reminder: Food and Nutrition Ingredients Lists Autumn Term 2026

Students who are taking Food and Nutrition this term will have brought home an ingredients list for their practical lessons this term. These lists are also available on our school website [here](#), along with the recipe cards they will follow in the lesson.

Year 10

Reminder: Year 10 Work Experience

Work experience can be one of the most valuable and transformational opportunities for young people during their education. Through placements, students gain meaningful exposure to the workplace and develop important skills for their future. All Year 10 students are expected to take part in work experience; please see Mrs Connor in the Careers Hub for any questions or queries. Please see [this linked letter](#) for further details.

Year 11

Join us at The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening today- Wednesday 21 October 2026, 6-8pm

Thinking about your next steps after Year 11? Join us at The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening to explore all that we have to offer - no booking required, just turn up and discover your next academic adventure!

Explore courses, facilities, and meet our staff while discovering opportunities for your next academic adventure. We offer:

- **29 expert-led courses**
- A vast array of **enrichment opportunities**
- Comprehensive **pastoral and futures support**
- Our **Early Bird programme** to help with applications to top universities
- **Community and leadership initiatives**

Start your evening with a **Head of Sixth Form presentation** in the Hall at **6:00pm (Surnames A-K)** or **6:45pm (Surnames L-Z)**, then explore all that makes The Willink Sixth Form a vibrant, supportive place to learn and grow!



The poster for The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening features a blue header with the school crest and name. Below is a photo of three students walking. The central text block is yellow and blue, announcing the event on Wednesday 21st October 2026 from 6-8 PM. It lists activities: hearing from the Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form, exploring subjects and student life, and meeting the Sixth Form team. A QR code is provided for more information, with the text 'SCAN TO LEARN MORE!'. The footer includes the school's website, willinkschool.org.uk, and the slogan 'Pursue Your Passions At The Willink Sixth Form'.

The Willink
Village School, Global Outlook
— Sixth Form —

WEDNESDAY
21st
OCTOBER
2026
6-8 PM

The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening

*The Willink School Lane,
Burghfield Common, Reading,
Berkshire, RG7 3XJ*

- Hear from our Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form in school hall:
 - 6:00 pm - Surnames A-K
 - 6:45 pm - Surnames L-Z
- Explore subjects and student life with staff & students.
- Meet the Sixth Form team & tour our fantastic facilities.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

willinkschool.org.uk

*Pursue Your Passions At
The Willink Sixth Form*

Please note, entrance to the Open Evening will be via the gates by The Willink leisure centre.

Applications to The Willink Sixth Form open today. Students will receive an email to their school email account with guidance on how to apply.

Learn more about our Sixth Form – watch the video: Click [here](#).

We look forward to welcoming you!

Sixth Form

Engage – Weekly Sixth Form Newsletter

We share a large number of opportunities and other information with students every week. To streamline this process, we have created a weekly publication for Sixth Formers called 'Engage'. Please click [here](#) to read this week's edition. We would really appreciate it if parents would read and discuss relevant items at home each week. Many thanks.

Reminder: KS5 Physics Live! - Friends House, London, 16 November 2026

We are delighted to launch an exciting trip to London to take part in KS5 Physics Live! This trip is for A-level Physics students, with Y13 taking priority should the trip be oversubscribed. Please [this linked letter](#) for more information. Interest for this trip should be made on Scopay by **Wednesday 14 October**.

Year 12

Please see this week's Engage.

Year 13

Reminder: Year 13 UCAS Applications

A reminder to all Year 13 students who are applying to university through UCAS to keep making progress with their applications. Now is the time to get cracking on your Personal Statement and finalising your course choices.

Students should be using Unifrog to research courses and universities, and to record key parts of their application. Regularly updating personal Unifrog accounts will help students stay organised and on track.

If your child needs any support or guidance with their application, they should speak to their tutor, Dr Rees or Mrs Matcham, who will be happy to help.

Please see image for UCAS Key dates and reminders or [click here](#) to view and download a copy.

UCAS KEY DATES FOR 2027 CYCLE

Key Dates:

- 1 **Thursday, 15 October 2026 (18:00 UK time)**
Earlybird Deadline for the universities of **Oxford and Cambridge**, and **Medicine, Dentistry**, and **Veterinary** courses.
- 2 **Monday, 9 November 2026 (18:00 UK time)**
The Willink School internal deadline for UCAS applications (*ready for internal checking and approval*).
- 3 **Wednesday, 13 January 2027 (18:00 UK time)**
Deadline for all other undergraduate courses.



Reminders:

- Use www.unifrog.org to search universities and courses
- Shortlist the (up to) 5 universities you want to apply to and visit them where possible
- Work on and upload your personal statement to www.unifrog.org
- Continue to work on your UCAS submission on www.ucas.com
- The Sixth Form team are here to support you – please ask!

Engage

Respect

Achieve

Career Opportunities

Each week we will be sharing current and exciting opportunities for our students to explore.

If any students would like help in applying to any of them or would like more information, please ask them to see Mrs Connor in the Careers Hub.

Reminder: College Open Dates for Year 11

For any questions regarding your next steps, my door is always open (outside sixth form) or email careers@willink.w-berks.sch.uk. The Willink Sixth Form Open Evening is 21 October but you can see a list of other college events: [Click here](#)

Mrs Connor – Careers Leader

****Careers within the NHS****

Year 11 - do you know how many different careers options there are within in the NHS? From healthcare and science to administration, digital technology, estates and finance, there are opportunities to suit a wide range of skills and interests.

You can join through different pathways, including apprenticeships, university degrees and entry-level roles, with plenty of opportunities to learn, progress and make a real difference.

Here at The Willink, we offer Level 3 AAQ Extended certificate in Medical Science to study during your time at the Sixth Form. This course is fantastic stepping stone to many roles within the NHS. For more information on the course please click [here](#) or talk to your science teacher.

Apprenticeship Opportunities at AWE

Are you interested in finding out more about the apprenticeship opportunities at AWE?

We are currently recruiting for over 20 different roles to start 1st September 2027. Come and speak informally to managers and apprentices about what each apprenticeship involves. No need to pre-register.

When: **Thursday 22 October | 4.00pm - 8.00pm**

Who for: **All**

Where: **Tadley Community Centre, The Link, Newchurch Rd, Tadley, RG26 4HN**

NavigATE: How to search and apply for apprenticeships

Join this webinar, run by Amazing Apprenticeships, for a step-by-step guide to the different vacancy platforms for apprenticeships, including the Government website Find an Apprenticeship, as well as to hear tips for navigating the application process.

When: **Wednesday 21 October | 3.30pm - 4.15pm**

Who for: **All**

Where: **Online**

For more information and to register please click [here](#).

****Business and Law October Half Term Virtual Work Experience****

Struggling to find wex within the law world? Sign up for this amazing opportunity!! Suitable for **Year 10 and up**.

No other free event gives you a live, real-world look at both law and business in one day, led by people at the very top of their fields.

You'll hear from judges, barristers, solicitors, in-house teams and business leaders. You'll also hear from trainees and apprentices who got in recently. You'll learn what employers really look for, and how to write an application that stands out in some of the UK's most competitive recruitment processes.

When: **Tuesday 27 October | 9.00am - 4.15pm**

Who for: **Y10+**

Where: **Online**

For more information and to register please click [here](#).

King's College London Medicine and Dentistry Lecture Series

Applications for the online King's College London Medicine and Dentistry Lecture Series 2027 are now open! This programme is for students across the UK in **Year 11, 12, and 13** interested in becoming a doctor or dentist.

Over the course of the programme, students will hear from a wide variety of speakers to help build their understanding of the opportunities and challenges of being a doctor and dentist, as well as guidance on the application process.

Most importantly participants will become part of a community of like-minded students all interested in applying to medicine and dentistry and finding out what being a doctor and dentist really entails!

Lectures will run from January to April, with sessions taking place **online via Zoom every Tuesday evening**, from **5:00-6:30pm**.

To apply for this fantastic opportunity, please click [here](#). Deadline for signing up is Tuesday 1 December 9pm.

Support Our School

Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for The Willink School with easyfundraising? There are over 8,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/the-willink-school> and join for free.

Donate to The Willink Charitable Trust

[Click here](#) to learn more about The Willink Charitable Trust and make a donation. To support the Trust you can make a donation to the school in the form of a regular standing order or a one off annual donation; we currently receive individual amounts between £5 and £35 a month. Whatever the size of donation please be assured it will be greatly valued.

Useful Links

- School website: www.willinkschool.org.uk
- Term Dates: [The Willink School - Term Dates](#)
- School Letters: [The Willink School - Letters](#)
- Safeguarding: [The Willink School - Safeguarding](#)
- Contact us: [The Willink School - Contact Information](#)
- Reporting absence: [The Willink School - Student Absence](#)
- Payments and Online Ordering: [The Willink School - Payments and Online Ordering](#)
- Food Technology Ingredients lists: [The Willink School - Food and Nutrition](#)
- PE Activity Lists (KS3): [PE Scheme Overview 2026-27.pdf](#)
- Facilities for hire: [The Willink School - Facilities For Hire](#)