



Williamstown Primary School

Parent Newsletter Sept 2026



Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

A very warm welcome back to all our pupils, families and staff for another exciting school year!

We hope you all enjoyed a restful summer break and are ready for a year filled with learning, laughter and success.

A special welcome to the new families joining our Williamstown community. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you and your children.

At Williamstown Primary School, we believe that when school and home work in partnership, every child can thrive. Together, we will support, challenge and inspire our children so that they enjoy a happy and successful year.

We are particularly excited to launch our school-wide Year of Reading. This initiative will run through the year, with inspiring books, joyful reading experiences and exciting opportunities designed to spark curiosity and nurture a lifelong love of books.



Open a Book, Open a World.



School Improvement Priorities 2026–27

At Williamstown Primary School, we are committed to ensuring every child thrives, achieves their best and enjoys coming to school. Our School Development Plan focuses on three key priorities that will have the greatest impact on children's learning, attendance and wellbeing.



Priority 1: Improving Reading and Phonics

Reading is at the heart of learning and forms the foundation for success across the curriculum. This year we will continue to strengthen early reading and spelling through high-quality teaching using our Monster Phonics programme.

What this means for children:

- ★ Daily phonics lessons in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
- ★ Additional support for pupils who require further help.
- ★ Increased opportunities to apply phonics skills in reading and writing.
- ★ Continued support for reading at home through strong school-family partnerships.



Priority 2: Improving Attendance and Engagement

Every day matters. Good attendance helps children make progress, build friendships and fully participate in school life. This year we will work be using the Inclusive Attendance approach to work closely with families to ensure all pupils attend regularly and feel connected to our school community.

What this means for families:

- ★ Continued support for pupils experiencing attendance difficulties.
- ★ Strong communication between home and school.
- ★ Early identification of barriers to attendance.
- ★ Close collaboration with families and external agencies where needed.



Priority 3: Ensuring Assessment Supports Progress

We want every child to make the best possible progress. Staff will continue to develop assessment practices so that learning is carefully matched to pupils' needs and next steps.

What this means for children:

- ★ Clear feedback that helps them improve.
- ★ Learning tailored to individual needs.
- ★ Opportunities to understand their strengths and next steps.
- ★ Earlier identification of gaps in learning.



Supporting Every Learner

Alongside these priorities, we remain committed to inclusive education and ensuring all learners receive the support they need to succeed.

- ★ Develop inclusive teaching practices.
- ★ Support pupil wellbeing.
- ★ Strengthen partnerships with families.
- ★ Ensure children receive the right support at the right time.





Our Year of Reading

This year, Williamstown Primary School is proud to launch our Year of Reading initiative.

Reading is not only one of our School Development Plan priorities, it is also a key ingredient in helping children become successful learners, confident communicators and curious thinkers. Throughout the year, we will be placing reading at the heart of school life and creating exciting opportunities for children and families to share a love of books.

What can pupils expect?



Daily reading opportunities in every class

Dedicated opportunities for reading every day in every class.



Termly reading challenges and rewards

Children will take part in individual and class reading challenges throughout the year.



A focus on reading for pleasure

Celebrating reading success through certificates, displays and special recognition events.



Family reading events and workshops

Opportunities for families to join us for reading workshops, book fairs and special reading celebrations.



Visits from authors and storytellers

Visits, virtual events and storytelling opportunities to inspire young readers.



Reading across all areas of the Curriculum for Wales

Using books, articles and texts to enrich learning in all subjects.



“

**Reading is the key to
everything.**



”





How Can Families Help?

You can support your child by:

- ✓ Reading together every day
- ✓ Listening to your child read regularly
- ✓ Visiting your local library
- ✓ Talking about books and stories
- ✓ Being a reading role model at home



Just 10 minutes of reading a day
can make a huge difference.



Family Reading Tip

Make reading part of your daily routine. Just 10 minutes of reading together each day can help build vocabulary, confidence and a lifelong love of books.



The Williamstown Reading Challenge

Can you complete our reading challenge this year?

- ✓ Read a book recommended by a teacher
- ✓ Read outside in an unusual place
- ✓ Read to someone at home
- ✓ Read a non-fiction book
- ✓ Read a book by a new author
- ✓ Visit the library
- ✓ Share a book recommendation with a friend
- ✓ Read every day for a week



Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.





Book Recommendations



One of the best ways to encourage reading is by sharing great books! Throughout our Year of Reading, staff will be recommending some of their favourite books. Why not see if you can read one together as a family?

Nursery & Reception

-  We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
-  Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae
-  The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Years 1 & 2

-  The Dragon Machine by Helen Ward
-  The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt
-  Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl

Years 3 & 4

-  The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf
-  The World According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney
-  The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy

Years 5 & 6

-  Wonder by R.J. Palacio Percy Jackson and the
-  Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
-  The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

Cymraeg a Cynefin

Ages 3-7

- Welsh Legends for Little Children by Rosie Dickins
- The Smallest Dragon by Caryl Hart
- Stories of Saint David

Ages 7-11

- First Welsh Legends by Claire Fayers
- The Snow Spider by Jenny Nimmo
- The Clockwork Crow by Catherine Fisher

Family Favourite Welsh Legends

- Gelert: The Faithful Hound
- Cantre'r Gwaelod (The Lost Kingdom)
- Blodeuwedd
- Pwyll, Prince of Dyfed





Calendar of Events 2026-27

School term times 2026/2027

TERM	FROM	TO
Autumn 2026	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
Half Term	Monday 26 October 2026	Friday 30 October 2026
Autumn 2026	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Christmas Holidays	Monday 21 December 2026	Friday 1 January 2027
Spring 2027	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 5 February 2027
Half Term	Monday 8 February 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
Spring 2027	Monday 15 February 2027	Friday 19 March 2027
Easter Holidays	Monday 22 March 2027	Friday 2 April 2027
Summer 2027	Monday 5 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 May 2027	Friday 4 June 2027
Summer 2027	Monday 7 June 2027	Tuesday 20 July 2027

Tuesday 1 Sept 2026 will be a designated INSET days for **all** LA Maintained Schools. The remaining INSET days to be taken will be at the discretion of each individual school following appropriate consultation with staff.

All schools will be closed on **Monday 3 May 2027** for the May Day Bank Holiday.

Significant dates:

- Christmas - Friday 25 December 2026
- Easte - Good Friday 26 March 2027
- Easter - Monday 29 March 2027
- May Bank Holidays
 - Monday 3 May 2027
 - Monday 31 May 2027

Diary Dates for the Term

Thursday 3rd Sept - School Returns to most pupils

Friday 4th Sept - ASC1 class returns

Tuesday 15th Sept - St Fagans Trips - Y1/2 and ASC2

Friday 3rd Sept - ASC 1 class returns

Wed 7th Oct - Flu Jabs

Wed 14th Oct - Image Theatre Company

w/c 19th Oct - Parents' Week

Wed 16th Dec - Techniquet trip Y1/2 and ASC 1

Friday 18th Dec - Last day of term

Monday 4th Jan - School returns for all pupils

Christmas Concerts

Mon 7th Dec 2:00 - N/R concert

Tuesday 8th Dec 2:00 - Y1/2 concert

Thursday 10th / Friday 11th Dec 2:00 - Y3-6 Concerts