

# Willaston Primary School

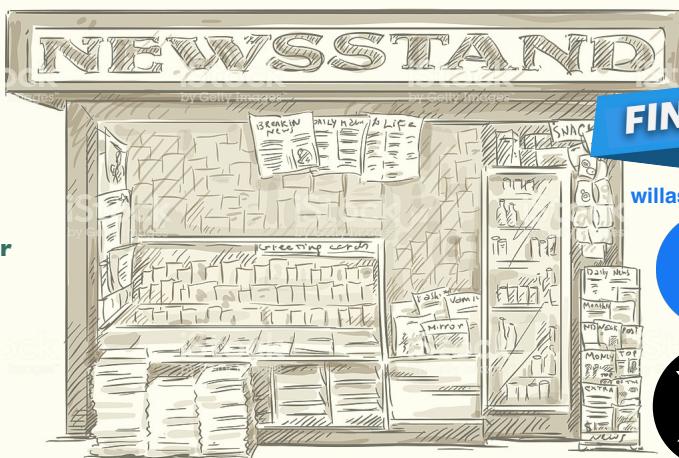
'Behaviour values: fair, respect, safe. This is how we do it here'



Executive Headteacher  
Mr Maxim Kelly

Head of School  
Mrs Beth Lace

01624 621577  
willastonenquiries@sch.im



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NEWSLETTER  
JAN 2026

## Dates for Your Diary

- 22.01.26 St. Ninians High School Open Evening for Y6s at 6pm
- 12.02.26 Valentines Disco - more details to follow
- 13.02.26 School closes for half-term 3.30pm
- 23.02.26 School reopens for half-term (2)
- School Council elections will be taking place at the end of January.

Swimming starts on Tuesday 3rd February for Y3/4/5/6 - more information to follow.

*This is not an exhaustive list! The homepage of our school website has a live calendar of events - check it out!*

If you know of any families with a child due to start in Reception in September 2026, please encourage them to contact the school as soon as possible so that they can register. Thank you for helping us spread the word within the community.

Welcome back to all of our children. We're set for another great year of learning at Willaston!

## Staff Updates

As we begin January, we are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to the Willaston team. Mrs Johnson and Miss Bruce have joined us in support roles across the school, where they will be working closely with children and staff. We are also pleased to confirm that Mrs Ross and Miss Halsall have now stepped into substantive positions within the school. In addition, Mrs Helen Kelly has joined our team as an additional cleaner. We warmly welcome all our new colleagues and look forward to them becoming valued members of our school community.

## Head Lice Checks

We ask all families to carry out regular head lice checks at home. This simple step makes a big difference in preventing spread across school and helps maintain attendance and wellbeing.

Thank you to all the children, parents and families who sent Christmas cards and kind messages over the festive period — they meant a great deal to me. I was also genuinely touched by the unexpected gifts received. Many staff were also kindly thought of, and while never expected, these gestures are always deeply appreciated. Please accept our collective thanks.

Can you believe it is now 2026?! Allow me to extend my best wishes for a prosperous, successful, and healthy new year to everyone. The children have settled back into school routines quickly and eagerly, and there have already been lots of super learning activities taking place in each of our classes. New learning themes are being explored with great enthusiasm, and I'm sure you'll hear further details about these from your children in the coming weeks. It was an incredibly busy and productive end to the last term, and I hope you all enjoyed our Christmas Nativity by Reception and Year 1 and the Carol Service at St. Ninian's Church. I thought the children were magnificent, and it was a real privilege to watch their performances. School really couldn't do everything it does without the wonderful support of the parent community! I hope you find all the information in the newsletter useful. Don't forget we publish newsletters on the first Friday of the month throughout term time. You can also find a plethora of information on our website and via our social feeds on Facebook and Twitter. With best wishes, Max Kelly, Headteacher

**In the interest of the well-being of our school community, we wish to remind parents of the 48-hour rule. If your child experiences symptoms such as vomiting and/or diarrhoea, it is imperative that they stay home and are symptom-free for 48 hours before returning to school. This measure helps in curbing the spread of infections and ensures a healthier environment for all.**

## Wellies for Outdoor Play

As we move through the wetter winter months, we would like to remind families that pupils wishing to use the field at playtimes and lunchtimes must bring suitable wellies to school. This helps ensure children can enjoy outdoor play safely and comfortably, without unsuitable footwear becoming muddy or slippery. Having wellies available also supports us in keeping indoor areas clean and safe for everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in helping children make the most of outdoor play throughout the year.



Enrol your child and get a

## FREE BOOK

every month until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday

The Isle of Man Imagination Library is a registered charity formed to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to the Isle of Man.

We're working hard to secure funding to unlock areas across the island.

Visit [imaginationlibrary.im/register](http://imaginationlibrary.im/register) or scan the QR code to check if registration is open for your postcode.

Available now in Douglas!



scan to register →



Isle of Man Imagination Library

Registered Charity No. 1364

[www.imaginationlibrary.im](http://imaginationlibrary.im)  
books@imaginationlibrary.im

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

We are delighted to share an exciting opportunity from the Isle of Man Imagination Library. This wonderful programme gifts free, high-quality books every month to children from birth until their fifth birthday, regardless of family income. Registration is currently open for children living in Douglas, including some of our younger Reception children and siblings at home. Research shows strong links to improved early reading outcomes, so we would strongly encourage eligible families to register and take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

## Keeping Us Up To Date

We would also ask parents to notify the school if you have recently changed your email address, particularly if you are moving away from a manx.net account. Keeping contact details up to date helps us ensure important information reaches you promptly.

## Valentines Disco

Our Valentine's Disco will take place on 12 February from 3.30–4.45pm, with PTA information coming soon.

