



William Harding School

Harding Herald Newsletter



House Points

Rothschild 5079

Guttman 5266

Hampden 5575

Nightingale 4946

House Captains

For the inter-house competition this half term, we did cross country running. Each year group had a different number of laps to complete, getting progressively harder (we had 6 laps of the field to run in Year 6). We helped to organise the event, led the race and supported the children completing the laps by motivating them. Despite the disappointing weather, it was a fun experience.

Rothschild 72

Guttman 56

Hampden 63

Nightingale 48

Overall, the winners for the inter-house competition in Autumn 2 are **Rothschild!!**

Adi, Milana, Riley and Aryan (House Captains)

Class Information

Do you want to know what your child is learning in the next term? By going on our school website <https://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/> and clicking on your child/ren year group tab you can find the class newsletters as well as the Knowledge Organisers which will show you what your child will be taught.

Head Teacher News

Dear Parents and Families,

We have had a fantastic second half to the Autumn term and it is wonderful to see the school full of life as the festive excitement builds.

I am delighted that there have been lots of trips and events taking place across the year groups since we returned after half term including days out to the woods, the farm, Waddesdon Manor, the Imperial War Museum and Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. In addition to these, we have also had themed days in school where the school was overtaken by exotic animals in Reception while the Vikings invaded Year 4 and the Greeks in Year 5 ran a mini Olympic Games and discussed and re-enacted myths and legends. As part of our Enrichment offer our pupils are certainly getting their Culture Capital!

<https://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/enrichment-curriculum>

This term staff have been busy meeting with pupils for the Pupil Voice meetings. These discussions allow pupils to share their views about school life and it's evident how much children love learning at WH and how happy they are here. All of the Pupil Voice comments can be viewed on our website

<https://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/pupil-voice>

I am excited to announce that we have had some new arrivals at WH and we are delighted to share our new school pets with you all. Please head to our website to see who they are, learn a bit about them and discover where they live in the school and why they are important to us.

<https://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/school-pets-and-animals>

We were very happy to see so many parents join us for parents events this term, we held parents' evenings (both in person and virtually), a Come and Read session and a Christmas Craft afternoon. Reception and Year 1 parents were treated to a delight when they came to watch the children in their Christmas performances this week. We had both the Nativity and the Reception Carols in the same week. It was great to see some of our Governors attend alongside parents. The children were fantastic and performed beautifully after all their hard work and weeks of rehearsing. Thank you for helping to support all of these additional events – thank you also to the staff for all of their hard work.

We have had some lovely praise this term from parents which you can find here

<https://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/parent-feedback> We have also had some lovely external praise too

<https://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/community-feedback>

Please be reminded that you can find dates and times of all our upcoming events on our school calendar

<https://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/new-datesevents?view=calendar&month=12-2023>

I hope that you enjoy the festive break with your family and manage to keep well and safe. Please note that there is no inset day in January and school reopens to pupils on Thursday 4th January 2024. We will be looking forward to welcoming everyone back into 2024.

Happy Christmas and a happy new year to you all.

Best wishes

Governors

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe the term is nearly finished – what a busy one it's been. Governors have a role to play in all areas of school life and we're fortunate to participate in a variety of activities. We've joined staff professional development sessions, reviewed policies and seen the work done to upgrade the premises, allowing a more effective use of space and creating a fresh, bright look around the school. During our Curriculum Committee meeting in November Miss Cotchin and Mrs Fuller led us on a Learning Walk focusing on Extended Writing and Maths. Visiting the Year 2 and 6 classes we observed the teaching, looked at books and talked to the children about their learning. The Senior Leadership Team monitor teaching and learning across the school based on set criteria, and provided many examples of strong practice, particularly the consistency in approach between the classes in both year groups. There are clear and high expectations for all pupils, and we were delighted to see the positive attitude of the children to their learning, and the quality of support in each classroom to meet individual children's needs. Alongside classroom learning, children have taken part in many activities over the term, including trips to a museum, the pantomime and Waddesdon Manor. There have also been themed days and fundraising activities providing much needed donations for local and national charities. The Reception and Year 1 teams have been busy rehearsing carols and a nativity which we know will create incredibly special memories for children and parents alike. On behalf of the Governing Body, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support and to wish you all a happy and healthy festive season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

School Governors

School Council

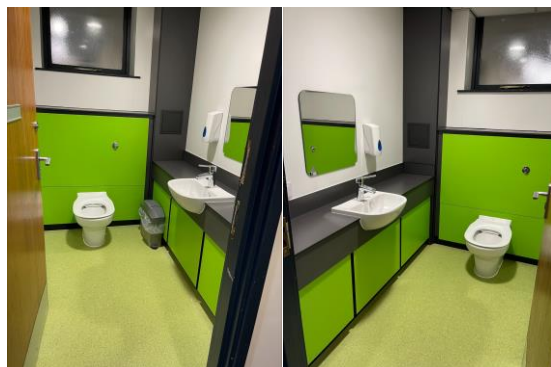
This year's School Council children have had a very successful first term in their new roles! During the Autumn term, we have discussed an array of different agendas as a School Council team. The School Councillors have even taken on their own role within their classes, holding important class councils, opening up the opportunity for everyone to have their opinion heard. By listening to the views and suggestions of the children, we have already addressed and solved issues that have arisen and made a proposal of other goals we want to achieve by the end of the school year. As a School Council, we have already begun fundraising for a variety of charities, including raising an enormous collection of non-perishable food items during our Harvest festival, accumulated for the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse. We have also helped to raise over £580 for Children in Need, over £280 for the Poppy appeal and collected donations of over £357 for the Save the Children charity. Thank you to everyone who has donated and supported us with this. We look forward to keeping you updated with our accomplishments over the year!



William Harding School Council

Premises

In comparison to the summer holidays, it has been a reasonably quiet term this Autumn! We have been very lucky to have taken delivery of new PCs and screens as well as new interactive whiteboards that will be installed between now and the February half term. This will include the ICT suite that pupils use. The boys and girls toilets in Year 5 have received a makeover and look gorgeously fresh and clean! We have very successfully obtained a food hygiene rating of 5 with our lunchtime caterers Freshstart.



Miss Judge – Business Support Manager

PE News

Sport at William Harding In PE lessons this term, the children have been taking part in a variety of sporting activities such as dance, ball skills, tag rugby and football. This term's interhouse competition was cross country! There were some amazing performances all throughout the year groups! All runners showed determination and perseverance throughout. Reception took part in their first inter house competition of the year. The results of the competition will be announced in assembly.

Competitions and festivals This term has been extremely busy for our school football teams! The boys A team have had a great start of the season, progressing through to the next round of the league cup and having a strong start to their league campaign. Also, they took part in the County Finals. They performed amazingly winning one game, drawing 2 games and losing one. The boys B team and girls A team have also had a great start to the league campaign with the B team winning their 1st game and the girls drawing theirs. A few of our year 4 children took part in an exciting sports festival at the Mandeville School. All children involved really enjoyed the activities. Also, some of our children took part in Wheel Power Sports Festival which was a fantastic opportunity and experience that was really enjoyable.

Our Sports Leaders have begun running exciting activities on the playground at lunchtimes. Each week the Sports Leaders will run a variety of different sporting activities for the children to do at lunchtimes.

We look forward to another busy term of sport at William Harding!



Mr Rayner – PE Department

Pre-School News

We have had lots of fun at Preschool this half term. We have celebrated Diwali, Hanukah and have started to celebrate Christmas. Over at Poppy and Daisy room we made Hanukkah menorah candles using paperchains. To start off our Christmas activities we have decorated our trees and made Christmas cards for our family and friends. We have changed our role play area into Santa's Grotto for the children to explore.

In Violet room we have made Diwali tealights out of salt dough. The children observed them in the oven and discussed staying safe whilst cooking. For some Christmas activities we have been making penguins, baubles, candy canes and Christmas cards. We are all super excited about our new fish pet. All the children helped to set up and decorate the tank that now lives in Violet room.

"This is my tealight"
- Cassidy



Miss Parveen – Pre-School

Reception News

Reception have had a lovely half term, we have been busy learning about Australia, their country and their culture. We have also compared this to our own country and cultures, finding the similarities and differences between the two. We were very lucky this half term, we had an exciting visitor from the outback- Safari Stu. He came with lots of animals for us to hold, including a tarantula and snakes- we were very brave and all touched it even if we didn't want to hold it. We have also enjoyed celebrating Christmas, by learning about the traditions and decorating the classrooms. We have learned our Christmas songs for our carol concert and all of the grown-ups in Reception were very proud! We have also made some yummy biscuits, which were even good enough for Santa! We wish you a very merry Christmas!



"I have shown responsibility as I have picked up all of the rubbish in the shared area" - Sophie

Miss Beaney – Reception

Year 1 News

To start the term Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic trip to 'Woodside animal Farm' we got to go on a tractor ride and feed some of the animals. In Maths, we have learnt about the features of 2D and 3D shapes and solved addition and subtraction word problems. In English, we have enjoyed reading exciting books such as Dogger, Traction Man and Knuffle Bunny. In Science, we have been learning about animals, their features, and how we can classify them into groups. In History, we have explored how Kings and Queens throughout history have changed the way we live in England. Throughout our DT lessons we have been exploring mechanisms, and using this to create exciting Christmas cards. We have also had a chance to show off our acting skills in our Nativity. Keep up the fantastic work Year 1! We are all proud of you!



"The animals are tickling my hands when they eat the food!" Rose

Miss Garner – Year 1

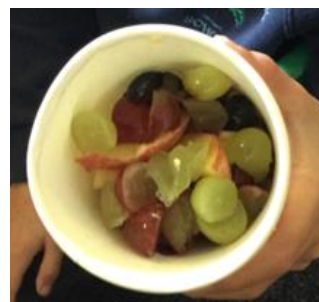
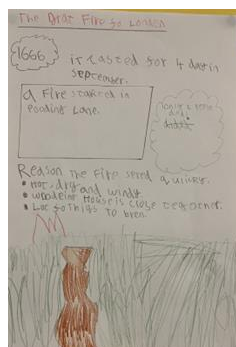
Year 2 News

What a busy half term it has been for Year 2! Not only have the children been working hard and learning lots of new things, they have also successfully completed their first SATS style assessment week and represented the school amazingly at both Wendover Woods and The Waterside Theatre.

A clear favourite this half term has been our History topic 'The Great Fire of London'. We have found it so interesting learning about this key historical event. In our SQUIRT sessions, we've loved reading Vlad and The Great Fire of London and seeing how facts about the fire have been used to create the story. We've even used these facts to create our own stories and diary entries!

We also really enjoyed learning about healthy foods and having the opportunity to design and create our own fruit salads in DT. Year 2 definitely deserve a good rest before we start again in January!

"I enjoyed cutting the fruit when we made our fruit salads" - Stefan



Miss Wainwright – Year 2

Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a great half term. They had the fantastic opportunity to go on, not one but two trips! They had an amazing time at Mead Open Farm where they saw lots of different animals and fed them. They also visited Waddesdon Manor where they took a tour of the house, which was inspired by childhood tales such as Alice in Wonderland and Peter Pan. The children also designed their very own bauble with Christmas designs. In Maths, Year 3 have been learning how to add and subtract amounts of money, find fractions of an amount and multiply and divide using the 4 and 8 times table. In English, we have been looking at using description in our writing by using adverbs, expanded noun phrases and adverbial phrases. Furthermore, Year 3 have enjoyed reading Greek myths in Reading and have been making predictions and inferences. In History, the children have been learning about the prehistoric period and how people lived in the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.



“I like that there were lots of characters from Disney movies and lots of stalls with nice stuff inside” - Maham

Miss Farid – Year 3

Year 4 News

We've had a brilliant time in Year 4 this half term. In English, our lessons were based on the book 'The Wolves in the Walls'. The children wrote their own entertaining narratives including one from the perspective of the poor, frightened wolves. In Maths, the children were focusing on multiplication and division. They were also using resources to deepen their arithmetic skills. The Anglo Saxons and Vikings was our focus in History. We had our spectacular Viking Day where the children were enthralled by the amazing Viking expert. During DT, we learnt about 'Levers & Linkages' and the children put their knowledge to use by designing and creating a fabulous Christmas card with linkages. In Science, the children became experts on living things as they learnt about the features of vertebrates, invertebrates, flowering and non-flowering plants.



“I really enjoyed Viking Day. The Viking training was fun” - Oliver

Mrs Valji – Year 4

Year 5 News

Year 5 have had another great half term and really impressed us with their efforts and attitudes throughout the past 7 weeks, especially during assessment week. The children have continued to work hard in all lessons and it has been wonderful to see some of the progress they have already made! We've noticed them beginning to apply their Maths skills to different problems as well as their use of more complex and ambitious techniques within their writing. One of the highlights of this half term was our Greek Day. Not only did the children enjoy the different activities they took part in (including a mini Olympics, Ancient Greek puzzles and board games), but also enjoyed developing their knowledge of Ancient Greece. The children have also enjoyed making their own cam mechanism toys in DT this half term and it was great to see their problem-solving skills in action when some of them didn't quite work in the way they should have!

"Alexander the Great was so successful because he was decisive, ambitious and ruthless" - Olivia



Mr Fuller – Year 5

Year 6 News

Year 6 have continued their successful start to Year 6, showing they are fantastic William Harding School Trustees. In English, Year 6 have continued reading *The Clockwork Sparrow* in SQUIRT, using this to inspire their writing for a number of different purposes. It has been amazing to see the children working particularly hard on their suspense writing. During our maths lessons, children have been focusing heavily on fractions, decimals and percentages. All the children have shown incredible resilience when tackling some tricky concepts which are brand new to them. One of the highlights of the half term was seeing the children's work in DT. The children have been practicing different stitches and showing great perseverance to eventually produce a purse or wallet from felt.



"DT has been very enjoyable this half term as we have been making purses and wallets. Sewing is really fun as you can create different designs" –
Aadhav and Vidhi

Mr Irwin – Year 6