

# William Harding School

## HARDING HERALD NEWSLETTER



### House Captains;

**Nightingale:** Joleen P (Lead), Erin C (vice), Jack W (vice)

**Guttman:** Abigail S (Lead), Charlie C (vice), Brayden W (vice)

**Hampden:** Jakub K (Lead), Robyn M (vice), Candence T (vice)

**Rothschild:** Harry H (Lead), Ethan P (vice), Chenai M (vice),  
Haseeb R (assistant vice)

### House team and points

House points for Spring term;

**Nightingale** 5742

**Guttman** 5902

**Rothschild** 5478

**Hampden** 4969

**Well done Guttman!**

### School Values, SMSC & BV

This half term we have been focusing on ensuring the pupils know what BV means and why it is important. BV stands for **British Values** and the pupils have been learning about how Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect, Tolerance & Liberty are linked to our curriculum.

If you wish to find out more about how we show BV at WH then please go on our website.

<http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/british-values-and-smsc>

**School Value;** our pupils have been fantastic at showing **Responsibility** as our school value.

Next half term our School Value will be **Inclusion**.

## PTA AT WILLIAM HARDING

We were hoping to hold an AGM meeting in March, which unfortunately didn't go ahead, however we are pleased to confirm that we are holding the meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7:45pm via Zoom. We would love for you to join us so please [click here](#) for further information and dial in details.

At this meeting we will be able to discuss future plans and we will be looking for a Treasurer and Secretary. If anyone is interested in this position or has any questions please could they email [pta@williamharding.school](mailto:pta@williamharding.school). We will be more than happy to help.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising/events so if you would like to join us, please email us on [pta@williamharding.school](mailto:pta@williamharding.school). There is also a page on the school website, which has more details about the PTA. [www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/pta](http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/pta).

Thank you for your continued support

Lyn and Jane



## MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

It never ceases to amaze me how our children, given adverse and challenging circumstances, learn to adapt and adjust to new environments and procedures. I am so proud of how well they have coped with bubbles and the rules that go with them. We can all look forward with confidence to a Summer term and brighter 2021 for them all.

After a difficult year for all children I cannot stress enough the importance of supporting your child as they grow and would urge you to pay particular attention to the development of their self-esteem. It is crucial to their academic achievement, participation, engagement in activities, social relationships, and, ultimately, their sense of wellbeing.

The following are all factors that can positively influence the growth of a child's self-esteem and encourage them to believe in themselves:

*Praising effort, encouraging friendships, helping them to identify and use their strengths, letting them know they're loved and valued, encouraging them to find and try new things and encouraging them to overcome difficulties by thinking calmly. Remind them that asking for help is a sign of strength not weakness and most of all to practice kindness to themselves and to others.*

Check- out the [5-ways to boost your child's confidence and self-esteem](#). After all, children higher in self-esteem feel more confident and capable, they are proud of who they are and what they are able to achieve. No mean feat in today's demanding world.

Happy Easter!

Warmest Regards,  
Mrs Pacelli

## PE & Sport at William Harding

The PE team ‘jumped for joy’ when we had full classes once again. We are thrilled at the level of enthusiasm shown and it’s clear that pupils are enjoying themselves.

This term, we launched a new sports club for years 1-6. We still have a few more places left, so if you want to sign up then follow the links in our letter [School Sports Clubs](#) Sports Clubs.

During the Easter break, you can keep active by visiting our [PE & Sports page](#), where you will find a wealth of at home activities to do, including real PE at home.



*“It’s active, gets your body working and your heart pumping”*

*“We move around a lot, people enjoy their PE lessons”*

## Pre-school News

The Violets have had a busy term adjusting to lots of change including welcoming new children who have settled in beautifully. We have been planting various flowers and vegetables for our garden. Poppy’s and Daisy’s have spent lots of time focussing on our independence, from putting our coats on, writing our names and tackling PE equipment. We have learned about Holi, Easter and Chinese New Year.

We have explored water play, paint, chalk, playdough, coloured rice, shaving foam and lots more! We joined the Aylesbury Stone Snake craze by hatching our own called William. Have you seen him in our car park? And we loved having our Wednesday morning PE sessions with Miss Timberlake!! Next term we will have a new theme of Change and Growth with a topic about Knights, Wizards and Dragons so will have lots of exciting activities planned, as well as welcoming more new children.

Have a great Easter Break!!



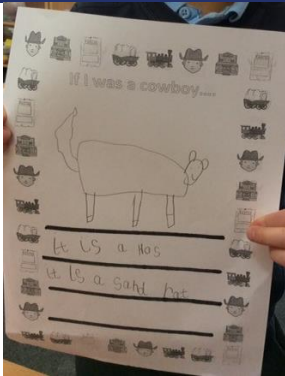
We also have a pre-school twitter page where we share photos of what we have been up to, so follow us [@PreschoolWH](#)

## Reception News

In Reception this half term, the children have been learning about 'The wild west'. The children have learnt about cowboys, Native Americans and what it is like to live in the wild west!

In English, we have been reading lots of wild west themed books and have been writing sentences about cowboys and Native Americans. In Maths, we have been thinking about subitising, addition, subtraction and number bonds to 5.

This half term we have been learning about animals and plants that would be found in the wild west as well as considering where it is on the globe and looking at maps. We have been learning about totem poles and tepee's and why these are important to Native American's. The children are excited to continue their learning next half term through our topic of dinosaurs'!



***"We have to show respect to our classroom by tidying away what we have been playing with"***

Chloe

## Year 1 News

After what has been a difficult start to Spring 2, the children have flourished on their return. They have been keen to get back into their learning and have produced some excellent pieces of work. In History, we have been looking at the role of parliament and the government.

The children have enjoyed running their own elections, choosing a certain party and being members of counting in our 2s and 5s. The children have also been designing t-shirts in DT for a cuddly toy and considering the purpose of the t-shirt.



***"I love coming to school and learning about the Prime Minister"***

***"School teaches me how to be responsible, which is one of our school values"***

Year 1



## Year 2 News

First and foremost, you should all be incredibly proud of yourselves. We as teachers cannot express how amazing it is to have you all back in school learning. You have all demonstrated your perseverance and enthusiasm coming back to school and this has shown through some of the outstanding work you have produced. Being back at school may have been a shock to some of you, however you have shown an understanding for tenses and can now use these correctly and consistently within your writing.

You have carried out an exciting experiment with plants that showed us how important water, light and air is so that they grow and we made our own bridges in DT! We have had CENSUS day where we created our own bar models after collecting data and we wrote up individual questionnaires which we then completed as a class. We cannot wait for next term.

We hope you have a great Easter!



About RE

***“I went home and asked my mum and dad what they think happens when someone dies”***

Harley  
Year 2

## Year 3 News

This half term we are extremely glad to have all of our pupils back. It is great to see so many of the pupils getting stuck in and showing brilliant perseverance on their return.

In English this half term we have studied Charlotte’s Web, we have all loved hearing about Wilbur’s adventures and how his friendship with Charlotte has developed. We even acted out some of the scenes from the story, focusing on how we say some of the lines in the text.

In DT we have looked at healthy eating including what calories are and how we use them, we had fantastic fun planning and then creating our own fruit salad. We learnt new skills including how to cut, peel and grate a variety of different fruits. Have a look at the picture of some of Willow class making a fruit salad.



***“I have loved this half term because I have enjoyed learning about how the Romans invaded Britain and how we made a yummy fruit salad in DT”***

Josiah  
Year 4

## Year 4 News

We are incredibly proud of how all the pupils have returned to school and their work ethic is tremendous. This term, Year 4 have delved into the mind of David Walliams through our very popular novels 'Demon Dentist and Mr Stink'

With our Maths hats on, we went fraction crazy by looking at adding, subtracting fractions and finding a fraction of a quantity. In Science, we learnt about everything sound including the effect of pitch and how we can alter this in different musical instruments. For History we went back to the Tudor period where we were fascinated by the struggle of power during the War of Roses. We even had time to fit in a World Book day where we dressed up and had a Census day.

***"Experiarmus"***

Grace

Year 4 pupil



## Year 5 News

Although this half-term started out a bit strange, it was lovely to be together again from week 3! We have all been so proud of how well the children settled back into life at William Harding and we have been astounded but their resilience!

This half-term we have focused on poetry and the children have thoroughly enjoyed reading The Highwayman. They have created some fantastic pieces of work inspired by the setting, plot and characters of The Highwayman and even learnt about the real-life highwayman: Dick Turpin!

A highlight of this half-term was the virtual trip Year 5 experienced. Year 5 were given a virtual tour of the Houses of Parliament and were able to see inside the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Hughenden were particularly inspired by this trip and have expressed their desire to pass a law giving children the right to vote!



***"I enjoyed the virtual school trip to parliament; it was very interesting and almost life like."***

Phoebe

Year 5 pupil

## Year 6 news

This half term has been a strange one, but the Year 6 teachers have been particularly impressed with how the Year 6 children have conducted themselves over the past few weeks, especially during assessment week. In Maths this half term, we have looked at measuring angles, ratios and revisiting the four operations.

In English, we have reached the end of Goodnight Mr Tom, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed, whilst also writing persuasive and suspense texts. In other subjects we have looked at how light works, the history of World War 1 and how to control our stress levels in PSHE. We would like to welcome Mr Irwin to the Year 6 team, who will be taking on the class teacher role in Dudley.

Have a restful Easter break, eat plenty of chocolate and we look forward to seeing you back in the Summer term.



***"I enjoyed using ClassDojo to do learning from home but it was really good to get to see all of my friends again."***

Nathanael  
Year 6 pupil

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## Head Teachers News

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Dear parents and families,

It was great to welcome all the children back to school on 8th March, and I know all the teachers are proud of them as they have, yet again adapted amazingly well to the changes they have had to experience. It has been and continues to be challenging for us all, but hope is on the horizon with the vaccination role out going well in the UK, and with twice weekly testing happening in schools across the country. We previously shared with you that as a family of school aged children, Covid tests are available to you, your household and support bubble. For further information please refer to the [letter](#) on our website.

We have had various activities going ahead either in school or virtually where needed. We are continuing to offer a number of [virtual clubs](#) which I would like to thank the staff for their time and effort they put into these. I think it makes such a difference to the children's wellbeing to be able to access resources such as these, especially from familiar faces. We have been able to start after school sports clubs with Mr Palmer and Miss Timberlake, which the children are enjoying immensely. We also held parents meeting virtually as we did back in October and was pleased to receive great feedback of what a success it was again.

We enjoyed Red Nose day, where children and teachers dressed in red with lots of fun outfits and a sea of different shades of red. Thank you for your kind donations which will go towards helping tackle important issues including homelessness, hunger, domestic abuse and mental health stigma, all of which have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

To keep the children moving and reduce the traffic and number of cars outside school during drop off and collection times, we would like to encourage you to take part in The Living Streets' WOW which started on 15th March. As a reminder, it is a year-round walk to school challenge which rewards your child for travelling to school sustainably. I know this is not easy for everyone to do, but please do try your best if at all possible. I have previously shared the great news with you that pathway improvements outside the school are now on the agenda with the Local Council and I will keep you informed about how this is moving forward as and when I hear any updates.

Our FLOs (Family Liaison Officers) have recently had a virtual meeting and are in the process of starting up a community link group so we can work together in harmony as a school with parents and local residents. More information will be shared with you and if you wish to join, please do email the office for the attention of the FLO team.

For those of you know about our school pets, unfortunately we sadly lost Toffee one of our gerbils back in February. Toffee lived a long and healthy life for a gerbil, as they often only survive for approximately 2 years, but he was a ripe old age of 5. He will be sadly missed by the children, myself and his brother, Waffle. Waffle is doing well and has gone on his holidays for Easter.

We are also currently exploring the possibility of increasing our school animals, for more information on the benefits of school pets, please see our website <http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/school-pets-and-animals> We are getting ever closer to having school chickens, and a team of staff have been meeting and planning the logistics of this and how children can be involved in keeping them well looked after.

Please all enjoy the Easter break, hopefully this lovely weather will stay around so you can enjoy meeting up with family and friends outside, albeit socially distanced, but a welcome change as restrictions are beginning to ease, and we look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Tuesday 20th April.

Take care and keep safe,

Miss Cotchin