

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 7300

Guttman 7380

Rothschild 7402

Hampden 6575

Well done Rothschild!

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 **Inclusion** as our school value.

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

Introducing some of our Governors

Jo Smith

I am a parent Governor and have two children currently at William Harding School. I have worked in Human Resources for the last 22 years working across a range of industries including manufacturing, retail and not for profit and I am currently working as an HR Business Partner for a pharmaceutical company.



Gaurav Shrivastava

I am a staff Governor at William Harding School. Originally from India, I now live in Stoke Mandeville and have two sons, the older one is at William Harding School and the younger one will attend from 2022.

I have a keen interest in education and raising education standards through effective policy and effecting long term changes to people's attitude towards education. I would like to bring my expertise in strategic planning, financial management and project and programme management to the role of Governor.

I work in IT and business change and have my own consultancy and work for clients predominantly in Health and Charity sector. In a career spanning over 17 years, I have managed large scale IT infrastructure and office fit out projects. I am passionate about bringing about changes to the technology and space to fit with client's organizational long-term strategy. Outside of my day work and apart from being a Staff Governor, I am a Parish Councillor with Stoke Mandeville Parish, a role which I have taken on recently. I am also a professional mentor to undergraduate and post graduate students at City University and a voluntary mentor for youths aged 11 to 16 years old who are from deprived backgrounds and are at risk of adverse outcome because of crime.

In my free time, I like to cook and spend time with my family. I am a keen cyclist and have cycled from London to Paris and taken part in 100 miles Prudential Ride London and Vélo Birmingham. I am a cricket lover and also a trustee for a cricket club as well as community groups and have taken an active part in setting up a community support group in Stoke Mandeville during COVID-19 which won Pride of Bucks Award.



Matt Sharpe

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all the pupils, families and staff at William Harding School. I have been teaching for over seventeen years in a variety of secondary schools. I have been working with academically able individuals for many years, both in mainstream schools, and from 2017, in specialist settings for autistic individuals. In 2015, I changed my focus from leading a large faculty and undertook the role of SENDCo, and then completed my National Award for SEND Co-ordination qualification. In 2019 I graduated with an MA in Special Educational Needs (Inclusive Perspectives) from the University of Roehampton. This course enabled me to focus on a wide range of special educational needs including ADHD, autism, speech, language and communication needs, and social, emotional and mental health needs. I am extremely excited about serving as a governor at William Harding School and being able to continue supporting children, families and staff from a different perspective. I look forward to joining you on our educational journey with William Harding School.



Becci Hubbard

I am a staff Governor. I am also a class teacher in Reception and Year Lead for Reception and Year 1. I also work a lot with Pre-school. I have been staff Governor for nearly 3 years and have loved working with the school during this time.

PTA AT WILLIAM HARDING

Dear Parents,

As you know we have not been able to hold events due to the pandemic. We hope with the road map from 21st June we will be able to start holding event and rising money for the schools wish list.

We would like to welcome Natalie Costa who has taken on the role of treasure.

'Hello, I'm Natalie. I have two boys aged 7 and 5 that both attend WH. I'm a busy mum juggling family life as well as working in insurance for the last 20 + years. Raising a family is hard work in a world that is constantly changing and if the last 12 months has taught me anything, it's to grab opportunities and make the best of every situation. I'm joining the PTA to try and give something back to the school community and I'm hoping the school discos can soon go ahead again having helped out at these previously and seen how much the children enjoyed these.'



We are looking for a new secretary to join the PTA, if you are interested please email pta@williamharding.school

The children have a **mufti day on Friday 28th May** and we hope this will start to bring in funds to help support the school. You will be informed of the total amount raised in the new term.

Enjoy the holidays

Jane, Lyn and Natalie.



MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

With the Summer term in full swing, it is wonderful to see the children working and playing hard to make up for the difficult year we have all endured. Given everything that has happened, your child may be unusually scared of taking risks and making mistakes and may need to be reminded of a healthy growth mindset. Explain to your children that trying hard things is what helps us grow, and by its very definition, you can't be perfect when you try something hard! One of the best ways you can model a growth mindset is to speak about the mistakes you've made, and what you learned from them.

Helping your child to understand the role of emotions encountered when learning can be enormously beneficial for both parents and children. For example, when they become angry, scared or feel threatened, their fight or flight response is activated. This can happen anytime, whether it's a spider in the bathroom or the prospect of maths in the classroom! Our brains are wired to protect us when we feel threatened and stress symptoms such as sweating, stomach cramps and your mind going blank is completely normal.

There are however, strategies we can encourage them to use when the fight or flight response tries to take over. A particularly effective technique to help them keep calm, retain focus and learn from the experience is called [Square Breathing](#), it helps to break the adrenaline rush that can flood the bloodstream and impair our senses.

I hope you have found this useful and wish you all a happy and relaxing half term.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Pacelli

PE & Sport at William Harding

The major triumph of this term has seen our Year 4 pupils get into the pool for their swimming lessons. It's been wonderful being able to get into the water and we were so very proud of the achievements of our pupils.

This term, we continued our last football themed sports club. The children (and Mr Palmer) loved the Disney and Marvel themed sessions, and we are delighted to say that we will be running these sessions again in September. After school clubs continue next term with a new athletics club.

Going into the final term of the year, the sports department are thrilled to inform you all that we will be inviting in cricket charity – Chance to Shine, to deliver curriculum PE to Years 3 and 5. To celebrate their involvement in the school, the whole school will be taught cricket in their PE lesson too!



Pre-school News

Pre-school has had lots of new starters this term who have settled in amazingly well. We have all been focusing on our mark making using pens, dabbers, puffy paint, slime and much more. Violets have been enjoying Wizards, Knights and Dragons, so we have been looking at castles and figures. Building Castles with blocks and balloon swords. We have been reading lots of stories about knights and saving the day.

Poppy's and Daisy's have been learning about the same topic and taking part in potion making, sword and shield making and taming dragons. We have been becoming more knowledgeable in estimating, totals and sequencing stories.



"I like coming to Pre-school, I get to see my friends and draw pictures for my mummy."

Pre-school Pupil

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

Reception News

In Reception this half term, the children have been learning about Dinosaurs. The children have learnt about herbivores, carnivores and all of the different kinds of dinosaurs! In English, we have been reading lots of dinosaur themed books and have been writing sentences about them. We have been challenging the children to include adjectives and conjunctions.

In maths, we have been thinking about doubling, sharing, addition, subtraction and number bonds to 10. This half term we have been learning about fossil and dinosaur bones, learning lots of dinosaur facts and sharing all of these through our dinosaur museum!

The children are excited to continue their learning next half term through our topic of 'Pirates'!



"My teacher keeps me safe when there is a fire drill or a lockdown practice."

Reception Pupil

Year 1 News

This half term, Year 1 have had an exciting time learning many new skills. In Art, the children created sculptures of their dream building including arches, rose windows and domes. In Geography, the children have learned about the continents of the world and learned the continent song. Why don't you ask them to sing it to you? In Maths, we have been using lots of different resources to double and halve numbers. We have been learning all about plants and types of trees and have grown cress in different conditions to show the children what plants need to survive. The children's stories that they have been writing in English have been made more interesting by the inclusion of similes, adjectives and conjunctions. Keep up the great Homework. Keep being twinkly stars.



“For my lemonade stand I will give free lemonade to children who can't afford it.”

Isaac
Year 1



“I know my map is the right way because I can see the boot (Italy)”

Rhys
Year 2

Year 2 News

What a fantastic half term we have had! Year 2 have enjoyed the topics in both Geography and Science. We have explored Mediterranean Europe including the food, physical and human features and climate of the area. In Science, we have been looking at the properties and purposes of material and have been conducting excellent experiments to improve the children's ability to work scientifically. In Maths, we have been reasoning about numbers and recapping what we know about fractions, time, shape and measurement. The children have made amazing progress in their reading and writing. They enjoyed reading Revolting Rhymes by Roald Dahl, Amazing Grace, Mary Hoffman by and looking at recipes. Keep up the great work Year 2!

Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a fantastic half term, it has been wonderful to see the year 3 children consistently showing our current school value of inclusion. We are so proud of how year 3 have continued to shine.

We have all thoroughly enjoyed reading 'The Beast Quest' by Adam Blade in English, we even made an exciting discovery, finding a gauntlet in the school courtyard! This led to some fantastic newspaper reports being written.

In Art, we have focused on drawing characters and scenes from Theseus and the Minotaur based on either Picasso or Sarah Young, here is a wonderful example of the art we produces using charcoal and chalk.



"I have enjoyed maths this half term because we are learning about time, it's quite tricky so I needed to persevere."

Freddie and Milana
Year 3

Year 4 News

We have had a superb start to our Summer term in Year 4. We have delved into the world of wolves through our novels 'Wolves in the Walls' and 'Wolves'. We thought about what creatures may come out of a wall and why.

With our Maths hats on, we have been counting those pennies and pounds. This included converting pence to pounds and solving money problems involving all four operations. In Science, we have learnt about the water cycle including creating information leaflets about each stage (precipitation, collection, evaporation, condensation).

For Geography, Mr McMahon was in his element as we looked at everything Northern Ireland. We travelled to the Giants Causeway, Titanic museum and much more. Also, we have had the pleasure to learn Djembe drumming on Tuesdays.

"I love learning about pets in French."

Georgie
Year 4



Year 5 News

Year 5 have had another successful half term. During our science lessons, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about space and astronomy and have been fascinated by the facts we have learnt about our Solar System and Nasa; we think we may even have some young astronauts among us!

Within our English lessons, the children have produced some fantastic pieces of writing, including diary entries, instructions and narratives, drawing on *The Spiderwick Chronicles* for inspiration.

This half term saw the start of fortnightly cornet and trombone lessons with Nigel, the music man. These sessions have been fantastic for developing the children's understanding of musical elements such as rhythm and pitch as well as providing them with the opportunity to work collaboratively and create music together.

"I like playing musical instruments with Nigel because it makes me happy and calms me down."

Year 5 Pupil



Year 6 News

Year six have had a fantastic penultimate term at primary school and we're starting to get excited about moving up to secondary school. We have been learning all about reproduction in science and are even growing our own potato, garlic and ginger plants as part of an experiment to see how asexual reproduction works.

We have also been learning all about the continent of Australia and the different biomes that make up this hugely diverse country in our geography lessons. In our SQUIRT sessions we have been reading 'The Hobbit' by J.R.R Tolkien and we have been really enjoying it although some of the words and the way that it is written can be a bit strange because it is so old.

We have done some outstanding work in maths this half term, learning all about fractions, decimals and percentages.



"I have really enjoyed learning about how the British and James Cook were going to colonise Australia but they didn't know the Aboriginal people were already there, it was really interesting to talk about the history of Australia."

Yaw,
Year 6

Head Teachers News

Dear parents and families,

The first part of the Summer term seems to have whizzed by in a flash over these past 6 weeks. We continue to go from strength to strength seeing children able to take part in more and more activities, namely with the return of music lessons and swimming lessons.

As a school we have met with the PTA and discussed what we would like the support and fundraising efforts of the PTA to go towards. The role as a PTA is to not only bring our community together but to also support the school with fundraising. As we all know school budgets are very tight and meet the basics within a school. Below are items which are on our wish list which would enhance our offer for our pupils. We hope that as members of our school community you will be able to support our fundraising efforts.

- Trim trail - a multi surface path around the playing field with activity stations for pupils to use
- Astro turf - increased areas of astro turf to ensure all year-round pupils have more access to playing and sport spaces
- Playground equipment - toys and games for pupils to access during outdoor and wet lunchtimes
- Reading books - to extend each class reading area

In my previous newsletter, I shared the sad news that we lost Toffee, one of our gerbils back in February, and sadly this half term, we also lost his brother Waffle. Both gerbils had a friendly nature, and they will be greatly missed. As gerbils are great school pets we now have two more young gerbils which are brothers. As part of their induction they are currently residing in my office until they have settled into their new surroundings. They are yet to be named, but the pupils are working hard to come up with new names. As with all our animals, the children will be able to help take care of them which gives them a sense of responsibility as well as helping to reduce stress and anxiety.

As I shared with you at the time, the whole school from Reception to Year 6 practiced our lockdown procedures this half term. This went very smoothly. I'd like to reiterate how impressed I was with the pupils who remained calm, acted promptly and sensibly, showing our school values.

I am also delighted to announce that we have formally now set up translator support for our EAL families. We have a list of twenty-six staff members who are in place to support families of little or no English, in 16 different languages. If you would like support or know of a family who would benefit from this please contact the office.

Whole school attendance reached brilliant levels of up to 99% this half term and continues to remain at a high level which is a great indicator of how much pupils value and enjoy school life. Thank you for your support in bringing your children to school.

Thank you to those of you who have sent in positive praise for the school and staff, these kind words really do matter and are much appreciated.

Please take the time to relax, have fun and enjoy the final half term break before we return for the last term. We look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Monday 7th June.

Take care and keep safe,

Miss Cotchin

Head teacher