

# 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)

We say thank you and goodbye to our wonderful House Captains. We will be voting in new Captains in September.

### House team and points

House points for Summer term;

**This terms' winners are  
Rothschild**

**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 **Collaboration** as our school value.

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

Our School Value was Inclusion, our new School Value for next half term is Respect

# A message from our Chair of Governors

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July the Governors hosted a lunch for staff as a small token of our appreciation for all of the hard work and dedication that has gone into the school over the past year. It was evident that William Harding has continued to develop and move forward on its improvement journey, despite the numerous restrictions in place due to the pandemic.

It was really encouraging for Governors to be able to engage with staff (in a Covid secure way of course) and have the opportunity to see some of the excellent work going on in and around the school. There was a lovely positive buzz from staff and pupils. It was also encouraging to see how the rigorous planning and measures that are required due to Covid have allowed the children to enjoy school in a secure and safe environment. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of governors to say a huge thank you to all staff and wish everyone a well-deserved, relaxing summer break.

Sally Perkins - Chair

## PTA AT WILLIAM HARDING

Dear Parents,

As you know last term, we held a mufti day, and we raised a total of £655.23. We tried a different option and used buckets to collect donations. Feedback we have received was also to pay via the gateway so we will try both these options on the next mufti day.

### The Committee



Natalie – Treasurer of the PTA



Jane – Chair of the PTA

We are looking for a new secretary to join the PTA, if you are interested, please email [pta@williamharding.school](mailto:pta@williamharding.school)

This term we have donated £300 towards the leaver's pizza party and £406.00 towards the end of term parties for preschool to year 5.

We hope to have a meeting at the beginning of the new term to discuss future events, if you have any suggestions, please contact us on the above email.

Hope you all enjoy the summer holidays.

Jane and Natalie.

## MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

As we have seen over the past year, there are times when we feel more resilient than others. We have seen that resilience is not simply about a person's ability to bounce back, but their capacity to adapt in the face of challenging circumstances while maintaining a healthy state of wellbeing.

I believe that children, more often than not, do know 'what is best for them', and have the potential to come up with their own solutions. As adults we don't have to be the experts, but we can become facilitators in this process. If we encourage children to focus on the good things in their life, acknowledge their achievements (no matter how big or small they may be) and get them to recognise their own strengths, a route to dealing with any problem often emerges.

I have noticed this school year all the amazing staff delivering helpful positive feedback, promoting self-esteem and self-praise and when supporting children facing problems, they will encourage them to think about own behaviours and actions. Your children are learning to ask for help and support and their needs are being met.

Listen to your children, their worries and concerns, remind them how wonderful they are, understand their needs and share fun moments together this Summer. You will be building on your child's existing strengths, developing their ability to find solutions and bolstering their resilience. For free resources check out [Activities from The Art Room](#) - you'll find creative activities for children to make at home during the Summer weeks with parents, families & carers.

Enjoy the holidays and have fun!

Yours faithfully

Mrs Pacelli

## WILLIAM HARDING ATTENDANCE CUP

Each half term the William Harding Cup is awarded to the class in each key stage with the highest attendance for the previous half term. In addition, the class will also have a mufti day to celebrate their achievements.

For this half term the winners are;

### Key Stage 1

New Harebell (Old Bluebell) with 97.09%

### Key Stage 2

New Warwick (old Cliveden) with 98.82%

Well done to both classes, especially Warwick (old Cliveden) as this is the second time they have been awarded the William Harding Attendance Cup and a mufti day.

The date of the mufti day will be shared by letter to the classes early in September.

## PE & Sport at William Harding

The Summer term has seen the school celebrating a number of amazing achievements.

Firstly, we welcomed Mr Morris (Chance to Shine cricket coach) who delivered curriculum PE to our Year 2, 3 and 5 and leadership lessons to our newly formed School Sports Committee.

William Harding had success, winning the National Cricket Week competition and being awarded with new cricket equipment.

In partnership with Bucks County Cricket, we've provided 29 places to our pupils in local cricket offerings.

Despite the restrictions, we celebrated our achievements through Sports Day activities for all children in the school, including our pre-school children. The field was full of our pupils pushing themselves to achieve their personal best.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that the school has been awarded a gold kitemark for recognition of our efforts in promoting sport within this difficult year.



**schoolhardingPE** @SchoolhardingPE · 24 Jun

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Well done everyone. Our school has been announced winners for Mondays Challenge. #nationalcricketweek @Chance2Shine @YorkshireTea @BucksCCC @SchoolHarding

**Chance to Shine** @Chance2Shine · 24 Jun

We've got #NationalCricketWeek winners to announce from our first three sets of daily challenges!

@SchoolhardingPE are our heads, shoulders knees and catch champions!

@SJS\_trips are the bat taps masters 🙌

@StMarksRC come out on top in 'hit the targets'

Congratulations! 🎉



## Pre-school News

This half term we have had a real focus on Maths, working on our numbers and shapes alongside our Rainforest theme. We have been exploring what animals we may find in the jungle and making comparisons, we have also been learning new songs, "Down in the Jungle" has now become a favourite, have they been singing it to you at home?

Towards the end of this term, we have been learning about Oral Hygiene and how to look after our teeth and exploring emotions through pictures and stories. Talking to those moving up about their new room and garden they will get to play in when we come back in September.

Poppy and Daisy

This term we have really worked hard on transitions and what that looks like for us, some of our friends are going up to Reception and some of us are staying. We have also looked at animals, their babies and the animals of the rainforest and learning lots of new interesting facts like a Flamingo is actually white!

We took part in our own sports day this term and could show off our physical abilities such as running, throwing and catching. We all got stickers for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place if we tried our hardest. We want to wish all of the children leaving us the best of luck on their new school adventure and have a lovely summer!

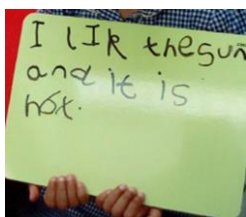


## Reception News

In Reception this half term, the children have been learning about 'pirates'. The children have learnt about pirate adventures, sea creatures and how to look after our environment. In English, we have been reading lots of pirate 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 map reading, looking at globes and going on pirate adventures!

We are so proud of how much the children have achieved this year and we know they will love it in Year 1! Thank you, Reception, for a brilliant year.



**"I like writing in school. I am proud of my sentence."**

*Reception Pupil*

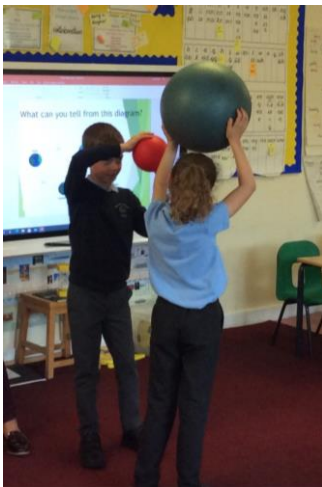
## Year 1 News

This half term, Year 1 have worked hard, developed new skills and made the big step up to Year 2 in Move Up Stay Up. In Maths, we have enjoyed using practical resources to measure height, mass and capacity. Using jugs to measure water was a particularly popular activity. In English, the children explored stories and practiced using adjectives, similes and story language to write in a lively and engaging manner. We also investigated historical explorers, plotting the adventures of Amelia Earheart on a map, and have carried out fascinating experiments with magnets in our Science lessons. The children have also had the opportunity to prepare delicious sandwiches in DT, choosing their fillings and enjoying eating the fruits of their labour. We hope the children have enjoyed working with their new teachers, and have a restful and stimulating Summer break!



***“The biggest jugs have the biggest capacity.”***

Tobey  
Year 1



***“The planets orbit the sun but it looks like the sun moves in the sky.”***

Callum  
Year 2

## Year 2 News

Year 2 had an excellent Summer 2. The children explored narratives in English, rewriting narratives as different characters. They enjoyed planning the beginning, middle and end of the story and did a really good job of including lots of detail to make their stories more interesting.

In Maths, the children began to learn to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes. We were exploring axles and mechanisms in DT and the children built their own car including an axle and axle holder. Space was the topic for Science, and the children learned all about the planets, their rotation and some more common constellations.

In History, we were learning about all the changes that occurred in the Victorian Age. The whole team were impressed with how well the children worked in Summer 2. Good luck to you all in Year 3!

### Year 3 News

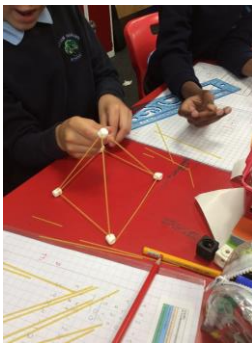
What a lovely final half term we have had! It is fantastic to see how much the children have grown and developed. We are incredibly proud of what the children have achieved this year.

The children have loved reading the BFG by Roald Dahl this half term, including learning new vocabulary that the BFG says. It has emphasized the passion Year 3 have for reading.

In History, we have looked at Ancient Egypt including pharaohs and hieroglyphics, which has been fascinating.

In Maths, we have studied 3D shapes including their properties. This included creating our own 3D shapes out of marshmallows and spaghetti. Have a look at the picture below to see one of our brilliant creations.

All in all, despite disruptions we have had a brilliant year in Year 3! Thank you for all your support.



**“I have loved reading the BFG because it was so funny and I really enjoyed Ancient Egypt because I like learning about the past.”**

Holly  
Year 3

### Year 4 News

We have had a superb end 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.

**“We had to give positional directions to guide our partners.”**

Niki  
Year 4



## Year 5 News

Year five have had another fantastic term. During our History lessons the children have really enjoyed learning about the French Revolution and have been fascinated by the facts. There are defiantly some budding young historians among us!!

Within in our English lessons the children have really enjoyed learning about the workhouses and what the conditions were like. There has been some amazing work including diary entries, recounts and narratives.

This half term saw children taking part in the cricket experience programme from Milton Keynes. This has truly been a pleasure to see, the children have enjoyed their experience, and the Year five team have taken great pleasure in seeing the children learning new skills and enjoying school life.

**" I have really enjoyed cricket,  
it has been nice to be out  
playing, and learning new skills  
with my friends."**

Year 5 Pupil



## Year 6 News

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the year already. Year 6 have had such a fantastic final term at William Harding and we will be so sorry to see them leave but we know that they are ready to begin their next adventure at secondary school. We have worked on lots of different things this half term and have particularly focused on increasing our resilience so that we are ready for whatever the future may throw at us!

As well as working incredibly hard (as always!) we have also had some time for fun. It was fantastic to see the children enjoying themselves at our pizza party and we would like to thank the parents and the PTA once again for their support. Good luck in Year 7!



**"My favourite thing at William Harding was PE and I'm really looking forward to doing basketball at secondary school."**

Teejay  
Year 6



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## Head Teachers News

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Dear parents and families,

As we come to a close for the Summer break, we should all feel proud of the achievements we have made individually and as a school, not just over the summer term, but across the academic year. As we all are aware this last year has continued to be a challenging time, however with support from school community, we have made it through, and I thank you all for your support. The pupils have continued to impress us with their resilience and perseverance towards school life.

Pupils have enjoyed taking part in sports day in their class bubbles safely and although we were unable to invite parents and carers to visit the school to support this, it was fantastic that the pupils could take part this year.

As Covid restrictions begin to ease, we have gradually been able to re-introduce more activities, such as individual music lessons, swimming, clubs and Pets as Therapy 'Read 2 Dogs' (more of which can be found on our School pets and animals page on the website) <http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/school-pets-and-animals> We now have a school cow, not a real one, but a model of the famous Milton Keynes Concrete Cows, which are an iconic work of sculpture, created in 1978. <https://www.theparkstrust.com/our-work/public-art-in-our-parks/concrete-cows/> The cow will be a focal point for pupils to celebrate their learning and themed weeks.

I have been very pleased with how successful our 'Move Up, Stay Up' has been. The pupils have adapted so well and have settled in well to their new year groups. Pupils have been well supported by the SEN and FLO team where support has been needed.

In the last Harding Herald, I shared with you how well we are doing as a school with attendance. I find it very gratifying that this continues to be the case and thank you all for support to keep your child/ren in school, particularly with some of you having to isolate. Last half term, the WH cup for attendance was restarted, with Lime class in KS1 achieving 98.22% and Cliveden in KS2 at 98.33% and both classes winning a Mufti Day which took place this half term. We have also had classes celebrating with the FLO team 100% attendance - well done to all these classes.

We have already shared with you in past communications about our optional summer homework, if you can I do recommend that you try to complete some of this, as the pupils have already missed out on so much vital education. It will also stand them in good stead for September.

Sadly, as always, we say goodbye and good luck to all our wonderful Year 6 pupils moving onto secondary school. They will be missed and have been such a large part of my time at WH – I have been impressed with their positive attitudes and how they have demonstrated the school values and motto. I am sure they will go on to have amazing experiences and I wish them all the best in their new adventures. It is also a goodbye to some of our Year 6 parents who will not be parents of pupils in September. Thank you for your support during your time at WH.

We also say goodbye to some staff members, and a friendly hello to new staff. I know that you will help to make our new teachers and staff feel welcome to WH.

We remain a school of choice and we only have a limited number of places remaining in each year group with 3 year groups which are completely full. There is also great excitement in school preparing for September when we can finally, hopefully get back to some normality.

To conclude, please enjoy the summer break, stay safe and enjoy your time together as families. For those that are returning to us, we will see you on Thursday 2nd September

Miss Cotchin

Head teacher