

William Harding School

HARDING HERALD NEWSLETTER



Attendance

Our attendance for the Autumn Term is 96.4% It is lovely to see that pupils and families feel safe and are happy coming to school. Next term will see the start of the William Harding Cup and Mrs Bones 'Attendance Bingo'!

Positive Vibes...

At William Harding it's been wonderful to see how positive our community has been with smiles on our faces.

Thank you for your support and help in ensuring this term has been a happy one!

House team and points

House points for Autumn term;

Nightingale 4744

Guttman 4484

Rothschild 4327

Hampden 4124

Well done Nightingale!

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 read about the pupils thoughts on BV when they spoke to the Headteacher, please follow the link <http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/pupil-voice> 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 looking at **HONESTY** as our school value.

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

PE

We've had a wonderful term of developing our footwork and balance through real PE and athletics this term. On the playground, we have launched our Active Globe challenge, where many children have been running for a solid 10 minutes across break and lunchtime. We're proud to have officially launched our real PE at home offering so why not explore this award-winning resource, [EYFS&KS1 letter](#) and [KS2 letter](#).

During the Christmas period, why not be active and play with all your families and friends in the WHS Winter Virtual School Games, which can be accessed here [Final Winter Virtual School Games \(1\).pptx](#)

Nut free school

Please remember we are a nut free school.

Please do not send in Nutella or similar products.

If in doubt please ask Matron.

Thank you.

Pupil leaders and Pupil Voice

Across this half term, Ellie, Isla, Lily, Jia, Amy and Jessica have done an excellent job of representing Cliveden class during their time as lunchtime monitors. The girls have shown the school value of responsibility by ensuring all children are moving around the school appropriately, checking children have received their lunches and relaying messages from the lunch hall to various classes. They have been fantastic role models for Key Stage 2 - well done and thank you for your work this half term!

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)

MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

It is a pleasure to write to you all at the end of a very successful first term at The William Harding School. While it has been a challenging time for everyone in our school community, parents/carers and families have rallied together and can be incredibly proud of the understanding and support you have shown the school. Your support ensures your children keep learning, remain active, show kindness and connect with their peers, all so vital to your child's health and wellbeing.

As parents, finding time for yourself can be challenging as you juggle family, relationships, home, work and other outside pressures. If I may give you one piece of advice, it would be to factor in regular time or activities for yourself and enjoy these moments in life to restore a sense of balance when facing more difficult times.

It never ceases to amaze me as school counsellor that your children's mental health thrives when they are encouraged to express themselves through play as well as words. I realise that starting a conversation with your child about how they're feeling can be hard, but taking 20 minutes with them to do an activity you both enjoy; you'll create a more relaxed space in which to start such conversations.

Here are lots of fun activity ideas, conversation starters and advice to make talking easier and simultaneously meet the wellbeing needs of both you and your child.

https://youngminds.org.uk/media/1712/young-minds-conversation-starters_final-003.pdf

<https://youngminds.org.uk/starting-a-conversation-with-your-child/20-activities-for-20-minutes/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/talking-to-children-about-feelings/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/christmas/Activities.aspx>

PTA at William Harding

As you all know it has been a difficult year for the PTA to raise funds to benefit our children. The last event that we have been able to hold was The Christmas mufti dress up. Unfortunately, we only raised £307 which is a little disappointing as we have over 750 families who attend the school. We are unsure if this is because we used the gateway system and any feedback would be greatly received.

Hopefully in 2021 we will be able to start fundraising again, we have a meeting scheduled in for the new year to discuss possible Covid secure events and if anyone has any suggestions please contact the William Harding School PTA Facebook page.

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. There is also a page on the school website, which has more details about the PTA. www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/pta.

Thank you for your continued support Merry Christmas from the PTA.

Lyn, Natalie and Jane



Pre-school News

The Violet Children have had a great term settling in, we have gotten to know them all really well and have enjoyed watching new friendships blossom.

This term we have been focusing on Me and My World and Journeys, exploring this topic using playdough, shaving foam, paint and making marks. More recently we have been doing activities to help prepare for Christmas, look out on your child's Tapestry for some Christmassy pictures.

To our Violets that are moving up we will miss you!!

Poppies and Daisies have been working hard all term and shown off how much they have learnt. This term Poppies and Daisies have been learning all about transport, how we get to school, how we would travel to London and what we can spot in the sky!

We have focused on transport from the past and the present, and what life was like years ago. We have begun to learn about the Queen, The Royal Family and Buckingham Palace and what it means to us. We have celebrated Diwali and Christmas and got ourselves into all sorts of sticky, gloopy messes in the meantime.

We hope that all of Pre-school has a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year!

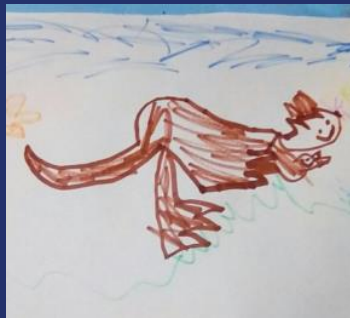
We also have a pre-school twitter page where we share photos of what we have been up to, give us a follow [@PreschoolWH](https://twitter.com/PreschoolWH)



Reception News

This half term we have had so much fun learning about Australia! We learnt about Australian animals and plants as well as the weather and environment compared to England. We talked about where we live and the 4 countries of the UK. We spoke about how to look after our world including litter picking and recycling our rubbish. In RWI, we have worked hard to develop our reading and writing skills. The teachers are so proud of how hard the children have worked!

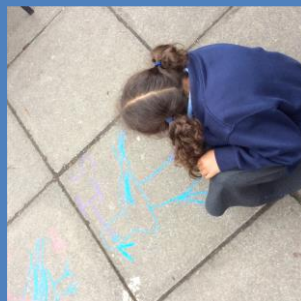
We have also enjoyed taking part in our outdoor music lesson where we learnt lots of new songs and actions. This helped us to start learning some Christmas songs. We have been very excited about Christmas and have learnt a lot about the Christmas story as well as making Christmas decorations and pictures to up in our classrooms.



Year 1 News

Year 1 have had a brilliant but very busy half term! The children have learnt so much and have been keen to show all of our school values.

In English, we have been writing sentences using adjectives. During Maths, we have been learning how to add and subtract in a range of different ways. In history, we have learnt about Kings and Queens, have even done some role play about what happened in the past. The children have loved creating their own sliders in DT. The children enjoyed learning about animals and which group they belong to in Science. We have ended the half term with some wonderful Christmas activities and we are really looking forward to more fantastic learning in Spring 1.



Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic half term. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about the events of The Great Fire of London.

They have also had a great time learning how to make smoothies and creating a product based on a success criteria. Zara said 'I like my smoothie but I didn't like the apple juice, so next time I will put milk instead.'

For Science, we have been learning about fractions and their link to division. We have been reminding ourselves each lesson to 'divide by the denominator'.

Learning how to write in past and present tense was tricky at first, however they all worked very hard and wrote some excellent pieces.

Have a great break and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Year 3 News

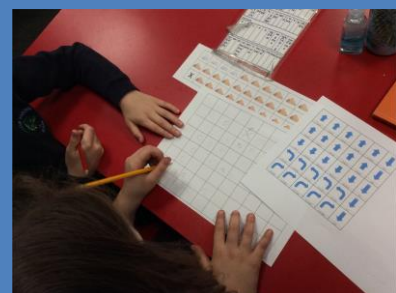
This term we have been reading a variety of Greek Myths. We have all loved learning about the different creatures especially the minotaur from Theseus and the Minotaur.

During DT, we have enjoyed designing and creating our Christmas boxes following our design brief, this involved drawing and creating our own nets.

'I really enjoyed getting to design and create my own Christmas boxes because it was really fun and I could be creative' from Daisy.

We have enjoyed looking at prehistoric Britain from the Ice Age to the Bronze Age. 'I liked learning about the Stone Age, especially looking at how stone was used to make tools' A quote from Adam.

During Computing, we have looked at following and creating our own algorithms (like computers do). Here is a picture of us creating our own algorithm to follow, trying to avoid the 'mines'.



Teachers and teaching assistants help me, we have lots of friends. There are gates locked and keep people out – no one comes in the gates.

Year 2 Pupil Voice 2020

As we are more smart, we learn more and we love learning.

Year 3 Pupil Voice 2020

Year 4 News

This term, Year 4 have been busy bees. We explored the Amazon in our novel 'Journey to the River Sea', wrote diaries as a fearless Viking and a character description about Ananse the spider from the African short story book 'The Pot of Wisdom'.

In Maths, we revised our multiplication and division facts up to 12 and have looked at the perimeter of rectilinear shapes including drawing our own.

In Science, we learnt how to classify living things based on their characteristics including vertebrates, invertebrates and even plants. Check out the picture!



In History, we went back in time to explore the power struggle between Vikings and Anglo-Saxons including a humorous story about Alfred the Great burning some cakes. In DT, we designed, created and evaluated our own greeting cards with a sneaky surprise inside.

Here's to more awesome adventures!

Year 5 News

Year 5 have had another successful half term and have enjoyed developing their knowledge across the curriculum.

A highlight of the half term has been our Science lessons. We have had great fun engaging in lots of different investigations to understand changing materials; we've blown balloons up with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda; separated mixtures using different methods and; set paper alight!



In addition, the children have relished the challenge of creating their own cam mechanisms and have use these to make products with actual moving parts.

Furthermore, they have been extremely interested with the life of Alexander the Great and have had some excellent debates about his leadership skills.

Finally, Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Who Let the Gods Out' during their SQUIRT sessions and have written some fantastic narratives, newspaper reports and persuasive texts inspired by the events of the story.

Year 6 news

As always, Year 6 have been extremely busy this half term. We have been reading *The Clockwork Sparrow* by Katherine Woodfine and have really enjoyed using it as inspiration to write our own stories.

In Maths, we have focused a lot on using fractions, decimals and percentages and on using facts which we already know to help us answer questions.

Even though we haven't been able to get together as a whole year group this year, Year 6 have really enjoyed learning to sing the Shakin' Stevens' Christmas classic *Merry Christmas Everyone*. Each class practiced separately in the hall and we had a fantastic time singing together. When we were ready, we recorded the three classes singing separately and then we have mixed the recordings into one so that we can all sing together to wish you a very Merry Christmas!



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Over the last few weeks, we have managed to get into the Christmas spirit across the school by learning Christmas poems and songs and practising them to share with our families on the class pages of the website. The children have been preparing for their Christmas parties by making decorations and party hats too.

In EYFS and KS1 the children have been creative making Christmas artwork, Christmas cards to share with their friends (including pop-up cards!) and calendars to prepare for the new year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Head Teachers News

Dear parents and families,

It seems impossible to believe that we already at the end of the Autumn term, certainly having had our challenges along the way!

I am amazed at how well the pupils continue to cope and astonish us all with their positivity. We've had another super half term, with great learning behaviours from pupils. They have continually showed how resilient they are, working hard to catch up on the months of missed learning.

It is important in these strange times that we continue celebrating success with our Star of the Week Certificates, Be Kind awards and our Star of the Half term. Our pupils consistently make us proud and I am pleased that we continue to rightly celebrate them.

Thank you to you and the staff for our first virtual parents' evenings, which took place early in the term. We were pleased that we were able to continue with this important event between parents/carers and teachers. Thank you for all the positive feedback. Please note that currently this will be the method for the next parents evening.

The FLO (family Liaison Team) planned for us as a school to acknowledge anti-bullying week, which was highlighted by pupils coming to school in odd socks. It was great to see children involved and the fun choices they made of which odd socks to wear! I think it will become an annual well loved event. Another important event that we took part in was Road Safety Week. The pupils enjoyed their learning sessions and there are some wonderful, colourful posters produced for by some of our children, which are proudly displayed around the school.

A William Harding first has been our class birthday parties taking place. I have witnessed the birthday pupils celebrating their birthdays today with friends and peers. I know these special birthday pupils received and enjoyed their own tasty birthday cake!

Finally, in the lead up to the end of term, classrooms have been full of festive joy and laughter. It has brought a smile to my face walking past classrooms, listening to the children singing Christmas songs and seeing them having so much fun. Thank you to all the staff at William Harding for their continued positivity and ensuring all pupils have the best experiences.

As always, a reminder about who you can speak with, the 'Who to Contact sheet' is on our website at the top of the 'Communications and Letters' page for your ease. <http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/communications-letters> If it important that you speak with the class teacher in the first instance as they know your child.

Wishing you a very merry and safe Christmas and a very Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

We have School Values so we can respect our school, to make us better people, so we know what we have to do. Honesty is the new term School Value.

Year 4 Pupil Voice 2020

Honesty is sharing what happened, telling someone when we have done something, not lying.

Year 5 Pupil Voice 2020