



# William Harding School

## Harding Herald Newsletter



### House Points

**Rothschild 638**

**Guttman 774**

**Hampden 661**

**Nightingale 682**

### House Captains

This half term, we have appointed our house captains and vice captains for the year:

#### **Rothschild**

Captain - Aditya

Vice captains - JJ and Josiah

#### **Hampden**

Captain - Riley

Vice captains - Suriya and Shanvitha

#### **Guttman**

Captain - Aryan

Vice captains - Ajat and Sherwin

#### **Nightingale**

Captain - Milana

Vice captains - Amira and Lucy

*"We are very proud to be appointed as the house captains for this year and excited to be able to represent our houses. We will have lots of different jobs such as helping at the inter-house competitions throughout the year; representing our houses at sports day; and counting the house points on a weekly basis and announcing the results in celebration assembly. Hopefully, we will represent our houses well and make you all proud." - Aditya, Aryan, Riley and Milana*

## Head Teacher News

Dear parents and families,

We have had a fantastic start to the new term, welcoming new families to William Harding as well as those returning to us. Everyone has settled in quickly and smoothly to school life, which we can attribute partially to our MUSU (Move Up, Stay Up) programme in July. As I go around the classrooms I am lucky to see lots of positive learning behaviours and eagerness in the pupil's learning and a keenness towards the school day.

As always, it was lovely to see so many families join us for our Open Classrooms and for the Pre-School and Reception's Stay and Play session this week. The pupils love to share all the wonderful work they have been doing since their return to school in September. We hope that you as families enjoyed the opportunity to spend this time with them in the classroom looking over their work and seeing how proud they are of their work and school.

To celebrate the end of Careers Week, the Reception children had a wonderful day in their 'What I want to be when I grow up' costumes. Our pupils live our school motto of 'Aim high' as we had some dressed up as artists, nurses, teachers, vets and chefs, to name but a few of the career aspirations on show.

The Year 6 pupils left bright and early on Monday morning as they headed off for their residential trip to River Dart, it was our biggest cohort attending this year. We had fantastic reports throughout the week of all the activities they have been taking part in including kayaking, canoeing, mountain climbing, crate stacking, caving, high ropes and zip wires. We know they will have made some wonderful memories during their stay and as always have been great advocates of William Harding.

There have been lots of improvements made to the school over the summer break and significant work done to the outer parts of the school to revive and regenerate these areas. Please do read Ms Judge's premises section to see all the details. A very big thank you to our Premises Team for all their hard work and continued efforts to ensure our school community have the best premises.

I am delighted to announce that this term we have retained our Inclusion Quality Mark, Centre of Excellence, following an intensive external review. I will of course share the report with you when it is released.

Please enjoy the half term break with your family and friends whilst keeping well and staying safe. Please note that Monday 30th is an Inset day so we expect to see pupils return to school on Tuesday 31st October.

Best wishes

Miss Cotchin  
Head Teacher

## Governors

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Where has the time gone! We are already nearing the end of the first half of this autumn term, and it feels like the children came back to school only yesterday after the summer holidays. I am pleased that they have settled well and are making astonishing progress in all areas especially in maths, English and reading. This is down to their hard work and unwavering commitment from the teachers and support staff in ensuring pupils get the environment within which they can learn, grow and nurture in both academic as well as personal development.

However, I would like to acknowledge the huge contribution you as a parent make in all of this. Even though pupils spend most of their week in the school, I firmly believe that their academic development does not stop when they leave school, it continues well into the evening and over the weekends. They learn and adapt from their families, friends and neighbourhood. It is the partnership between the school and parents that can give them the right environment and help them to go through one of the most challenging parts of their young lives. Your commitment to your children's education, as well as your active involvement in our school community, has not gone unnoticed. Your contributions have been instrumental in making our school a better place for all. This is evident from the stats that us governors have seen, which demonstrates the strong footing in almost of the areas. I am especially impressed by the progress they have made in maths and reading.

I also welcome your involvement in making William Harding Community much stronger than previously and I hope we continue to build on this through this school year. We the governors and the Senior Leadership Team are grateful for your support and this partnership is invaluable, playing a vital role in creating a nurturing and enriching environment for our pupils to learn and grow. Your dedication and hard work continue to make a significant difference in the lives of our children. We encourage you to keep up the excellent work and know that your efforts are deeply appreciated by the entire school community. Should you have any suggestions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your input is essential as we work together to provide the best possible educational experience for our pupils. Once again, thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment. We look forward to our continued partnership in shaping a bright future for the young minds at William Harding School.

**Gaurav Shrivastava – Chair of Governors**

## Premises

It's been a very busy time for the Premises team with so much work taking place. Here's a brief run down;

- In KS1 we have a gorgeous new ceiling in the hall along with a brand new huge interactive whiteboard and sound system which will make assemblies and PE even better for our pupils.
- Both the year 1 and reception staff toilets have had a bit of a refurb and the skylights in Year 1 have been replaced. It is looking much nicer.
- The KS1 heating system has been completely overhauled with lots of pipe work replaced to resolve those heating issues from last year.
- Preschool drains have been sorted and the horrid smell has gone!
- The old art and practical room is now a larger space for the KS2 Booster room with a new IWB and brand new furniture. A much nicer teaching space for our pupils to use.
- The pathway along the front of the building and Year 4 classrooms has been resurfaced for safety and the pedestrian gate has been fixed. This is now much safer for our pupils.
- The main office has had a facelift - which is a nicer environment for you and our office staff.
- We also have a brand new building! Next to the Year 6 block we now have an external pod that will become the changing rooms for the KS2 pupils - a much nicer and brighter space.
- The current changing rooms are being converted in toilets with 5 or 6 cubicles providing better facilities for the pupils.
- The room at the back of Windsor has been renovated for accessibility and Windsor, Rowan and Hawthorn all have new lockers.
- We have planted lots of Spring bulbs ready to brighten everywhere up next year.
- The old kitchen is now an additional booster/intervention room.
- The Year 5 toilets are currently being refurbished completely so they will be a much nicer environment for our pupils.

It is lovely to see how we are improving the environment for our community.



Miss Judge – Business Support Manager

## PE News

This term has been really exciting for PE - both KS1 and KS2 have really enjoyed learning gymnastics. They have learnt a variety of different skills and have put their movements together to create some brilliant routines.

The children have enjoyed a variety of different clubs such as basketball, football and dodgeball. Please remember you will need to re-sign up your child for next half term.

This term saw the boys and girls A football team, take part in the district football competition. Both teams performed brilliantly and saw the boys team qualify for county.

We have also started our weekly PE challenges, this will happen every Friday.

*"I had a great time at the football tournament. We worked together, we preserved. Even though we didn't win, we tried our best and had a great time." - Milana*

Mr Rayner – PE Department

## Pre-School News

During our first half term at Preschool, we have all been focusing on the topic of 'All about me'. In Poppy and Daisy room we have explored body flash cards hidden in the sand. We have celebrated grandparent's day by making cards and doing hand prints. The children took their first visit to the KS1 Playground to play games and try out the climbing equipment. All the new children have settled well into Preschool and lots of new friendships have been built. Over in Violet room we have explored our emotions. We've done activities to support this such as drawing our own faces with lots of expressions and completing emotion puzzles as a group. We have had lots of fun doing artistic autumn activities. We have done Conker painting and making hedgehogs using different materials. We have also explored minibeasts using magnifying glasses outdoors.



*"I'm walking on the climbing frame." - Raisha*

Miss Parveen – Pre-School

## Reception News

Reception have had a great first half term, all of the children have settled in well and our working well with the new routines. We have enjoyed lots of focused learning days and even had our picture taken for the Bucks Herald. We have enjoyed learning 'Big red combine harvester' and we loved singing it in the Harvest assembly. We are looking forward to next half term!



*"Wow, the dots make a pattern and the picture." - Avi*

## Year 1 News

Year One have had a fantastic and very busy first half term back at school! The children have learnt so much across the curriculum and have loved being back with their friends. In English, we have been practicing how to write sentences using capital letters, full stops and our sounds. We have read a variety of stories and have been answering questions about each story. During maths we have been learning about numbers and how to represent them as well as addition and subtraction where we used objects and number lines. In Geography, we have learnt about maps and what they are used for. The children have loved experimenting with paint in Art and have produced some amazing work! In Science, we have been learning about the human body and exploring our senses, we even went on a sound walk!



*"We have learnt about different colours, shades and tints. It is fun to mix colours." - Alice in Snowdrop*

Miss Garner – Year 1

## Year 2 News

It's been a successful start for Year 2 and they've already shown they're great role models for the rest of KS1. The children have got stuck into their learning and developed their knowledge of words and phrases they can use in their writing, including expanded noun phrases and both coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. We've seen some great writing from them and can't wait to see more!

During our Maths lessons, we have been focusing on the column methods of addition and subtraction and the children are getting to grips with how to use these to solve different problems.

We've been busy in our afternoon lessons learning about the different systems in our body in Science, kindness in Christianity in RE and how to use different shapes, tints and shades in Art. Here are some of our creations using primary and secondary colours. Year 2 ended the term by winning their gem reward – well done!



*"I enjoyed doing the dots on dot day and learning about tints and shades in art." - Oli*

Miss Wainwright – Year 2

## Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a good start to the term. They have been learning place value and addition and subtraction up to 3 digits in maths. They have been using concrete resources to work out calculations that require bridging and exchanging. In English, we have been looking at using conjunctions, speech and points of view in our writing. In Science, the children have been learning about the different types of body systems such as the nervous system, the digestive system and the muscular system and why these are important. In Geography, we have been looking at Aylesbury and Cartagena and finding similarities and difference between them. In Reading, the children have enjoyed reading Charlotte's Webb and answering inference and retrieval questions. The children have enjoyed learning about the artist Katsushika Hokusai who used lines and block printing to create art. The children then had a go at creating their own art piece using printing.



*"In maths, we were exchanging 10 tens for one hundred and bridging so when the number is over 9 you have to carry it to the tens or hundreds."* -

Charlie

Miss Farid – Year 3

## Year 4 News

It's been a fantastic start to the school year in Year 4. This term, in English, our lessons have been based on the novel 'Bill's New Frock' and the picture book 'Voices in the Park'. The children have produced fantastic work including diary entries in character, formal persuasive letters and newspaper reports.

In maths, the children have been developing their knowledge on place value, addition and subtraction. We have also been practicing our arithmetic skills and learning our times tables. 'The Digestive System' has been our focus in Science this term. The children were excited to learn about where their food goes and how they can eat more healthily to gain essential nutrients.

In Geography, we have been studying maps and looking carefully at how Aylesbury has changed over the last 100 years. During Art lessons, the children have experimented with charcoal and practiced different techniques within shading.

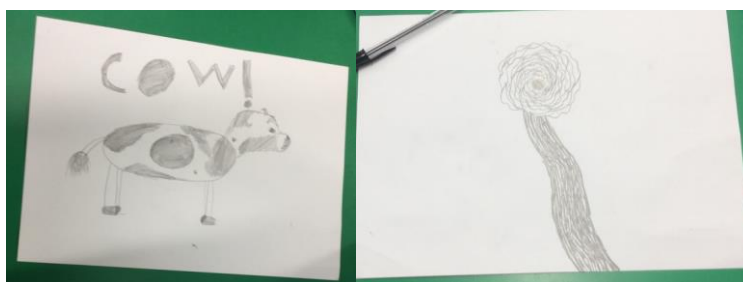


*"It's been really interesting to learn how Aylesbury has changed. We are lucky now."* - James

Mrs Valji – Year 4

## Year 5 News

Year 5 have had a successful start to the year – we've all been so impressed with the way everyone has settled back in and how hard everyone has been working! The children have got stuck into their learning and have particularly enjoyed some of the SQUIRT texts we have read this half term – most notably 'The Travel Book' and 'Who Let The Gods Out'. They've produced some excellent work inspired by these texts and we can't wait to see what they do next. During our maths lessons, the children have secured their knowledge of place value and have been working hard to develop their written and mental addition and subtraction strategies. A highlight of the half term has been seeing the amazing artwork the children have created based around the book 'The Dot'. Below are some of their creations.



*"Elderly people can still be strong, fit and healthy if they continue to exercise and stay active." - Jovita*

## Year 6 News

This half term, the year 6's started off with their focus entirely on the 11+. Well done to all children during this tough week. Throughout the half term, the children have been working on their maths skills, looking at the four operations, fractions, and place value. In English, the children have started their first SQUIRT text of the year, 'The Clockwork Sparrow', and the children have thoroughly enjoyed the start of the book.

In our afternoon sessions, the children have been learning about the Earth and its geography, focusing on time zones and lines of latitude and longitude. In PE, the children have been creating their own gymnastics routines in indoor PE and practicing their football skills in outdoor PE. Last week, the children completed their first assessment week of the year and all the staff were incredibly impressed with their focus and hard work during the week.

This week, a total of 84 children joined us at River Dart for an exciting week full of team building activities and the children have had a great time! The children in school have spent the week completing investigations, baking, topic afternoons and craft and drama activities.



*"River Dart has been amazing! At first it was scary to be away from home but it has been the best week of my life!" - Deanna*