



# William Harding School

## Harding Herald Newsletter



### House Points

**Rothschild 5627**

**Guttman 5799**

**Hampden 6119**

**Nightingale 5365**

### House Captains

This half term, for the inter-house competition, we did bench ball. We participated in our own year's game and helped the other year groups with their individual games. Everyone was extremely competitive and it was amazing to watch the players compete and come out victorious while having lots of fun. As well as this, we led an assembly to KS2 about perseverance (our current school value).

Overall, the winners for the bench ball inter-house competition are Rothschild – congratulations!!

House Captains

## Head Teacher News

Dear Parents and Families

As we arrive at the end of the first half of the Spring Term it's a great opportunity to look back at all the exciting things that have been happening in school since we returned after the Christmas break.

We were delighted to see Open Classrooms so well attended once again and to know that this is such a popular event with families. If you have not been able to attend one of these events before, Open Classroom gives you the opportunity to come into the classroom with your child/ren to look at their books and to see the fantastic work they have been doing. They're always so proud to share all their hard work with you!

Our wonderful FLO and SEN Teams held their popular drop in coffee meetings this week and it's pleasing to know that families find these a useful opportunity to meet with other families and share time with our knowledgeable staff.

We participated in NSPCC Number Day again this year, giving the children the opportunity to take part in lots of maths activities throughout the day whilst raising money for the charity. We were delighted to see the thought and creativity that had gone into the children's costumes! Thank you to the School Council for requesting that we support this charity once again and thank you to you as families for your continued support.

This half term's value has been PERSEVERANCE and the pupils have certainly demonstrated great determination in all aspects of their school life, making us all very proud of them.

Please be reminded that you can find dates and times of all our upcoming events on our school calendar <https://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/new-datesevents?view=calendar&month=01-2024>

I hope you all have a pleasurable and restful half term spending time with friends and families. I look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February; please note that we have an inset day on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February and school is not open to pupils. Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Miss Cotchin  
Head Teacher

## Governors

Dear Parents and Families,

It's hard to believe that we're halfway through another term. The festive break feels like a distant memory, and while the snow bypassed us, there have been some very wet and windy school runs over the last few weeks! Thank you for battling through the weather (and the traffic) to ensure your child(ren) get to school and trying with us, to maintain the overall attendance rates.

I'd like to focus on some staff achievements this half term, and to offer congratulations to those involved. Continuing professional development (CPD) is a key focus for the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and a great deal of effort goes into providing a range of opportunities for staff to learn, develop and implement new knowledge and skills. These activities benefit the staff members but also drive positive change and continually improve outcomes for our pupils. The SLT members also undertake CPD and I'm delighted to inform you of several notable achievements: Miss Cotchin passed the NPQEL (National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership), Mrs Fuller passed the NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship) and Mrs Skinner passed the NPQLBC (National Professional Qualification for Leading Behaviour and Culture). These significant awards are excellent news for the entire William Harding community, and I'm sure you will join me in offering sincere congratulations! I will end by saying thank you to each of you, for a successful half term. I hope you all enjoy the upcoming break.

**Deborah Sin – Parent Governor**

## Premises

**Emergency Landing** - We had an unexpected visit from the local air ambulance team who needed to attend a medical emergency on Hazlehurst Drive. Our field was the nearest empty space. The children that were still on site when it left, got to see it take off which was very exciting. We hope the person involved in the medical emergency made a speedy recovery.



**New class radios** - Each class now has a new radio to be able to contact others in an emergency. It's a great way for teachers to keep in touch in case of medical or behavioural help allowing them to provide the best support to their pupils.

**New interactive whiteboards** - We have had a number of our class interactive whiteboards replaced due to their age. This replacement rollout continues into next half term.

**Miss Judge – Business Support Manager**

## PE News

### PE & Sport

This term KS1 have been learning gymnastics and ball skills. The children have really enjoyed making a variety of different sequences and playing a variety of different games.

KS2 have also been learning gymnastics. They have really enjoyed getting all the gymnastics equipment out and learning a variety of different skills such as jumping, turning, rolling and making sequences. In outdoor PE the children have been learning a variety of different sports such as netball, hockey and tennis.

### Inter-House competition

This terms inter-house competition was bench ball. The children have really enjoyed the opportunity to compete against the rest of their year group in their house colours. Last terms winners were Rothschild. Who is going to be the champion this term?

### Festivals and Competitions

This term has seen some of our children take part in a variety of different festivals. Some of our Y5 pupils took part in a badminton festival, in which they finished 3<sup>rd</sup> place! Some of our Year 3/4s enjoyed taking part in multi-sport festivals.

Next term is really busy for our competitions and festivals. The football league is starting back up again and we have a variety of fun activities booked in for the children.



Mr Rayner – PE Department

## Pre-School News

At Pre-School we have been focusing on our topic “Kings and Queens”. We have been making crowns using gems and castles and carriages out of different types of junk modelling. We have used cloud dough, play dough, dyed spaghetti and oats for our sensory play. This week we have been preparing ahead for Valentine’s Day by making hand printed hearts; making heart collages. We have also been developing our fine motor skills by using toy cars attached to pens to draw. As well as mark making on tin foil and stamping with ink pads. The children have all been joining in with lots of turn taking games to develop their social and emotional skills. Finally, we have had lots of fun making bird feeders out of pine cones, lard and cereal.



“I’m making dinner, I need some cups,  
I need some bowls and cutlery” -  
Arabella

**Miss Parveen – Pre-School**

## Reception News

This half term, Reception have had a blast of a time learning about space. We started with a space dress up day – the costumes were out of this world! We then went on to make our own planets using a balloon and paper mache, we’ve enjoyed looking at the planets hanging in the classroom. In English, we have been learning , reading and writing words with digraphs. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting and using this to learn our number bonds. In topic we have been doing lots of activities based around space, including junk modelling rockets and colour mixing to paint the solar system. The children have loved learning about space, it has been great to see their imagination and curiosity during this topic.



“Wow! If I mix 2 colours together it changes to a  
completely different colour – that’s so cool!” -  
George

**Miss Beaney – Reception**

## Year 1 News

We've had another exciting half term in Year 1. In Maths, we have solved missing number problems, practiced counting in 2's, 5's and 10's, halves and quarters and doubled numbers. In English, we enjoyed reading and exploring the characters in 'Man On The Moon', 'Beegu' and 'The Aliens Are Coming'. In writing, children focused on understanding prefixes and suffixes, using a wide range of punctuation and understanding the components of a story. In Science, we have been learning about the weather and looking at different cloud names and their features. In Geography, we explored the traditions of the countries in the UK. Throughout our Art lessons, we have looked at the work of artists such as Joan Miro and Paul Klee and created our own masterpieces in their style. We have also enjoyed number day and comic book day!



"In winter it is really, really cold" - Luka

Miss Garner – Year 1

## Year 2 News

Although short, this half term has been another successful one in Year 2. We've been busy learning lots of new things in all subjects. In Maths, we have been focussing on how to find different fractions of shapes and amounts while also securing our multiplication and division knowledge. In English, we have been learning how to add details with adjectives and adverbs and have enjoyed writing narratives based on the different Roald Dahl texts we have been reading in SQUIRT. In Geography, it's been exciting to learn about the countries that make up the United Kingdom and we've enjoyed exploring their human and physical features. During our Art lessons, we've loved using our creativity to create portraits and self-portraits by different artists including Pablo Picasso!



"I've really enjoyed drawing and painting my self-portrait because it's fantastic" - Oli

Miss Wainwright – Year 2

## Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a great start to the Spring term. The children have really enjoyed reading the book 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' and have written some lovely adventure stories in English. In Maths, Year 3 have been learning how to find equivalent fractions, measure and find equivalent lengths and solve multiplication and division problems. In Geography, we have been focusing on Africa and have learnt about the human and physical features, the climate of Africa and the different languages spoken. During Art, we have been looking at 2 main artists, Turner and Constable and have created our own seascapes. We have been looking at different brush strokes to create a stormy background. Here is an example of the fantastic work below

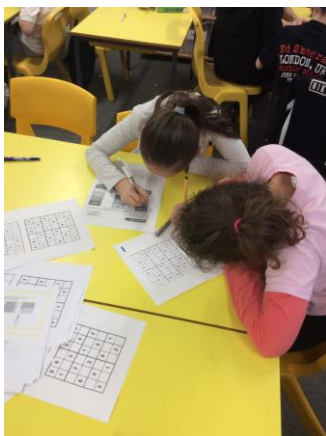


"I enjoyed English, we did extended writing and wrote our own adventure stories" - Tiffany

Miss Farid – Year 3

## Year 4 News

In English, we have been reading 'Journey to the River Sea' and have used it to inspire our writing across a range of genres including narratives from different characters' perspectives about: boats crashing and people getting lost, diaries about meeting new people and newspaper reports about finding long, lost relatives. In Maths, we have focused on equivalent fractions and how to simplify them. We have also been using our geometry skills whilst learning about properties of shapes. In addition to this, we had a great day raising money for charity on the NSPCC Number Day, when we enjoyed learning how to complete Sudoku. In Science, we have been studying Ecology and the effects of pollution on the environment. In Geography, we have been studying settlements and looking at the facilities and services that Aylesbury has and comparing the size of Aylesbury to surrounding hamlets, villages, towns and cities. In Art, we have been learning how to create a composition working at foreground, middle ground and background.

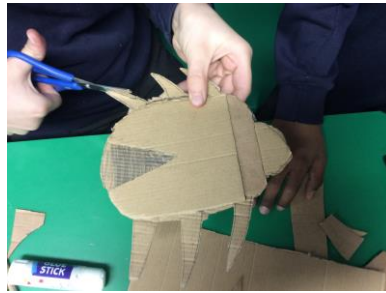


"Number Day was really fun. I enjoyed the tricky puzzles"  
- Noah

Mrs Valji – Year 4

## Year 5 News

Spring 1 has been another successful half term for Year 5! The children have been enjoying 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' and have created some fantastic pieces of writing inspired by the story. In Maths, we have focussed on fractions, with the children excelling at finding equivalent fractions, converting fractions to have common denominators and using this knowledge to add and subtract mixed numbers and improper fractions. Children have investigated both rivers and mountains as part of their Geography lessons and have considered how urbanisation has had an impact on these environments. The children have also enjoyed designing and creating their own 3D relief art in the form of insects and bugs. They used their knowledge of African Art as well as our current Science topic about living things to produce fantastic pieces!



"The higher you go up a mountain, the colder it gets because the air pressure drops" - Thomas

Mr Fuller – Year 5

## Year 6 News

Year 6 have continued their great start to the year and shown they are fantastic William Harding School trustee role models. We have just completed our assessment week where the children again worked extremely hard and all teachers were really impressed by their hard work. As usual, the children have been working hard in their daily Maths and English lessons and we have started to read 'Goodnight Mister Tom' in SQUIRT. We have had some fun in our foundation subjects. We explored electricity in our Science lessons and our final investigation was to explore what happens when you change components in a circuit. In Art, we looked at art in the Italian Renaissance where children got to look at the artwork of Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo and painting in the style on plaster. We had a whole History day learning about World War Two which was very enjoyable.



"I really enjoyed the history day learning about WW2. I found all of the different planes fascinating and we were able to look at some real gas masks" –

Josiah

Mr Irwin – Year 6