



William Harding School

HARDING HERALD NEWSLETTER



House Captains;

Our House Captains are responsible for keeping track of house points and sharing the totals with the rest of the school each week. They also support the teachers with inter-house competitions and encourage the children to cheer for and celebrate their house's achievements.

We have a democratic process where the children who would like to be House captains all apply for the position and the other pupils in the house vote for their captains and vice captains.

House team and points

Nightingale 4061

Guttman 3620

Rothschild 4082

Hampden 3753

Well done Rothschild!

School Values, SMSC & BV

In all parts of our learning the pupils reflect on BV and how it is shown, BV stands for **British Values** and the pupils have been learning about how Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect, Tolerance & Liberty link 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 **Honesty** as our school value.

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

PE & Sport at William Harding

First of all, I thought I'd introduce myself, my name is Mr Rayner and I am the new KS2 sports coach. I have really enjoyed sports from a young age and really want to share my passion with the children promoting a positive feeling towards sport in school. This term the children have enjoyed a variety of different PE lessons from dance to basketball and netball. The children have learnt a variety of different skills and applied these to different games.

Also, this term has seen the start-up of the lunch time personnel challenge! This is where the KS2 children have taken part in different activities trying to beat their scores from the previous day. The top 4 children who have put in the effort each week have been awarded certificates! This has seen on average the participation of over 125 different children per week! We definitely look to continue the high number of participation next term.

We look forward to another term of fun filled sports.
Mr Rayner – Sports Coach



MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

This will be my final 'message from school counsellor'. I have thoroughly enjoyed it, but it's time for me to move on. I acknowledge that I feel sad to be leaving this post at William Harding School. It has been a privilege to work alongside your children, and a pleasure to have been part of a community where both parents and teachers have the same objectives to inspire and motivate.

I will experience this ending as a loss, but it has also been an experience that has enriched my professional development and I am delighted to be able to internalise this and take it forwards in to my work.

I will leave you with this quote from the great Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

All the best!

Mrs Pacelli

Please note that our new School Counsellor is Nicola Wood and a full handover has been completed. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Skinner as our IPSL.

Animal Advocates

Our animal advocates have been working exceptionally hard this half term taking care of the furry friends of KS2. It has been lovely to see them spending time with Bilbo, Jeff, Elvis, Smudge, Caramel and taking care of the chickens.



WILLIAM HARDING ATTENDANCE CUP

The winners of the William Harding Attendance Cup for the last half of the Autumn term were:

Juniper in Key stage 1 with 95.62 % and Beech in Key Stage 2 with 99.11%

Congratulations to both of these classes, not only have they been awarded the William Harding Cup, which is in their class rooms, they also had their own mufti day on Friday 14th January.

Not long to go until we know who are the first winners of 2022!

Kind regards

Sarah Bicknell
Family Liaison Officer

Pre-school News

This half term Pre-school have welcomed some new families and have really enjoyed learning all about our new friends. We have been learning all about the Royal family, who is in the Royal family and what the Queens job is as well as all the beautiful places she lives!

We have been taking lots of care of animals around the Pre-school feeding the birds, the deer and making sure our minibeast friends make their way back to their homes in the grass. We have been taking time to learn how to share, take turns and how to make our friends feel special. We have celebrated a 2022 new year as well as the Luna new year of the Tiger by doing our best dragon dancing. As ever we have had so much fun getting messy and creative with our friends!



**"I like Pre-school
because I play with
everyone".**

Pre-School Pupil

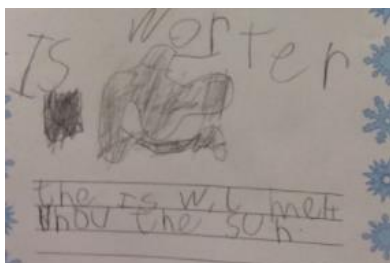
We also have a pre-school twitter page where we share photos of what we have been up to, so follow us [@PreschoolWH](#)

Reception News

In Reception this half term, the children have been learning about space. The children have learnt about the planets, the International Space Station and what it would be like to live with no gravity!

In English, we have been reading lots of space themed books and have been writing sentences about the planets and space aliens. In Maths, we have been thinking about finding more/less, addition, subtraction and number bonds to 5.

The children really loved making their own papier-mâché planets and dressing up as astronauts and aliens on our space dress up day! We have also learnt about forces, freezing and melting and how to keep our bodies healthy. The children are excited to continue their learning next half term through our topic of 'The Wild West'!



**"One of our school values is perseverance, that's
when we keep trying and trying".**

Reception Pupil

Year 1 News

We've had another exciting half term in Year 1. In Maths we have solved missing number problems, practised counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and investigated fractions.

In English we have enjoyed reading and exploring the characters in 'Man on the Moon', 'Beegu' and 'The Aliens are Coming'. In writing, children focused on understanding and identifying prefixes and suffixes, using a wide range of punctuation and understanding the components of a story.

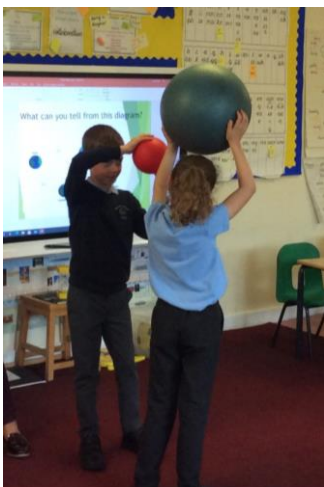
In Science we have been learning about weather, how its measured and recorded. In Geography we have explored the landscapes, landmarks and traditions of the countries of the UK.

Throughout our Art lessons we have been investigating the work of artists such as Joan Miro and Paul Klee and creating our own masterpieces in their style. We also created our own comics! Enjoy a well deserved break!



"Today there are cumulus clouds!"

Jamie
Year 1



"I really enjoyed drawing my self - portrait."

Year 2 pupil

Year 2 News

What a great half term we have had in Year 2! We have learned about statistics and measurements in Maths, read some incredible Roald Dahl books including 'The Enormous Crocodile', 'The magic Finger' and 'The Twits' and written some amazing character descriptions and past and present tense narratives.

In Science, we learned about electricity by building circuits and experimenting with materials to see if they were insulators or conductors.

In Art, we drew and painted self-portraits, using famous works to inspire us. Finally, in Geography, we explored the British Isles and learned about special landmarks.

After such a busy half term, I hope you all have a restful break.

Year 3 News

This term we have been blown away with the hard work of all of the year 3 students, they have continued to show Raj Resilience throughout. Here are some bits we have enjoyed this half term:

Our book this half term was "The Firework Maker's Daughter", which we have all really enjoyed reading, hearing about Lila's adventures to Mount Merapi. Children were frequently asking to read on.

During Art we have looked at 2 different artists, Turner and Constable, and have created our own seascapes. We created a boat in a stormy looking at different brush strokes. Here is an example of fantastic work below:

In Geography, we have looked at Africa, learning all about different human and physical features, the climate and different languages. Yea 3 have loved learning about a different culture, some children are now keen to visit Africa!



"We have done lots of collaborative activities this half term, my favourite is collaborating in Science to do our own science investigation about light."

Daniel
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 character's perspectives about: boats crashing and people getting lost; diaries about meeting new people and writing letters home. We also wrote a non-chronological report about whales and found some interesting facts.

In Maths, we are continuing to apply our recall skills to multiplication and division facts up to 12. This term, we have also worked on improper and mixed number fractions. In addition, we had a great day raising money for charity on the NSPCC number day, when we enjoyed learning how to complete sudoku and other logic problem games.

In Science, we learnt about food chains and created our own which included a source of energy, a producer, a consumer, a predator and a decomposer. In Geography, we have been studying settlements and looking at the facilities and services that Aylesbury have 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.

"I was very excited in English for comic book day when it started".

Harrison
Year 4



Year 5 News

Year 5 have had a great start to 2022! Although we have faced challenges with most of our classes going into bubbles, the children have been so resilient and positive.

This half-term, the children have been enjoying reading *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* and have created some fantastic pieces of writing inspired by the story.

One of this half-term's highlight was our Greek Day! The children had a great day learning about Greek myths, legends and history and had lots of fun playing ancient Greek games and puzzles. The day ended with a mini Olympics and the children showed excellent collaboration.

"I loved making my own comic book character and comic book strip because we got to use our imagination"

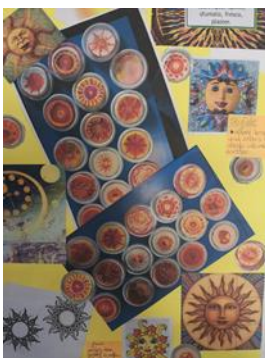
Lily
Year 5



Year 6 News

Year 6 have had a great half term and have been focusing on our writing skills in English lessons. We have been thinking about non-fiction writing and have been linking our writing to the novel we are reading in *SQUIRT, Goodnight Mr Tom* by Michelle Magorian. We have written autobiographies as if we were adults who were evacuated during the war, non-chronological reports with information about evacuees and letters to rural families persuading them to let us stay with them.

In maths, we have been thinking about geometry and we've even tackled some algebra; looking at how we can use letters and symbols to stand in for unknown values and how rules and formulae can be written to help us solve problems. We've also had some very contentious battles on Times Tables Rockstars and the teachers have been showing their competitive sides, getting very involved in the competition.



"I have enjoyed doing basketball in PE and I have enjoyed doing lots of different things in each lesson"

Amy E
Year 6

Head Teachers News

Dear parents and families,

For us as a school the Spring 1st half term was the most challenging. This was again due to COVID with high numbers of COVID cases within our school – both with pupils and staff. Running a school in normal times is always a logistical challenge however running with 32 staff off and 181 pupils off was a new challenge! I would like to personally thank our entire school community for all working together to keep the school and classes open. Thank you also for your support and understanding. I hope that as we now begin to ‘live with COVID’ we can enjoy some normality again.

As we come out of our COVID high absence, I am delighted to say that attendance rates are improving so thank you to parents/carers and everyone involved helping to encourage pupils to be in school. Our FLO team (Family Liaison Officers) who lead on attendance are so focused and have such an impact which benefits the education of the pupils. Our attendance is now back in the 90%.

Our Business Support Manager, Miss Judge has been working closely with Transport for Bucks about the pathway outside the front of the school. As you can see they have repaved it – Miss Judge has been in touch to ensure that these are completed to a safe standard. Further plans are in place to improve the pathway and Miss Judge has been liaising with local Councillors to try incorporate further improvements such as widening the path and removing the grass verges to avoid the muddy mess that is seen during rainy weather. This is yet to be confirmed but Miss Judge and the councilors are working hard to achieve this.

We have said goodbye to Mrs Wilkinson our School Administrator who is relocating to be near family. We also say goodbye to teaching assistants Mrs Brown and Miss Luders who are also relocating. We would like to thank them for all their hard work. We welcome Miss Hill who recently joined us and will be taking over as School Administrator, Mrs Albrighton has also joined us as Admissions Officer and Mrs Ridge is our new Bursar. Miss Wood has recently joined William Harding as our new School Counsellor.

We have taken on board your feedback about our website and updated the layout to make it more streamlined. One of the new features includes a search function on the main home page which allows you to search for information such as a word or a page. Thank you to parents and members of the community for sharing these ideas with us, as always, your feedback is appreciated and helps us to improve and maintain good communication between the school and families. Please refer this [letter](#) for further information.

I hope that you enjoyed the February half term with your family and friends and continue to keep well and safe. I look forward to the second half of this Spring term, where we are able to meet up again as a school community and enjoy the Spring weather.

Take care and be safe. Thank you as always for your support.

Miss Cotchin

Head teacher