



# William Harding School

## Harding Herald Newsletter



### House Points

Here are the House Points results for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Spring term. It was very close, but a huge well done to **Nightingale!**

**Hampden: 3014 points**

**Rothschild: 3129 points**

**Nightingale: 3145 points**

**Guttman: 3024 points**

### House Captains

Our House Captains have been championing their teams this term. They have been making sure the house point totals are collected and shared each week. They have also been looking forward to the results of our first inter-house competition.

## School Council News

This half term, the School Council children were able to go on an exciting trip to the Houses of Parliament. This was a fantastic experience which has allowed the children to further understand their role within the school. The content was really interesting and pitched perfectly to our children. We went on a tour inside the Houses of Parliament; in the House of Commons we were able to ask interesting questions about Members of Parliament and their roles and then in the House of Lords we were even lucky enough to be able to watch part of an official meeting. After the tour, we had our own debate session in a workshop and met a current-standing Lord, having the opportunity to ask him questions about his role and his life.

All of our School Council members were beautifully behaved and role models for our school, they were polite, asked fabulous questions and were all very engaged and excited by the experience. It made us really proud to be their School Council leaders and to say that they represent our school!



**Miss Brown and Mrs Sharp**

## Animal Advocates

The animal advocates have had a wonderful term with the animals and they will be very sad when their time with the animals is over. I have been particularly impressed by their perseverance with our slightly unsociable hamster Bubbles.

Bubbles has never been a fan of being held or petted, though all the children agree she is lots of fun to watch climbing around her cage. All 3 teams of advocates have worked very closely with Bubbles and learned to be patient in their quest to help Bubbles become more sociable and their hard work has paid off! They are now able to pick Bubbles up freely and she can be held and petted for small periods of time. I look forward to welcoming the new Animal Advocates next term and watch them continue their predecessors work.

**Mrs Bazeley – Family Liaison Officer**



## William Harding Attendance Cup

Congratulations to Juniper and Windsor classes for winning the William Harding Attendance cup and a mufti day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March for having the highest attendance in the first half term of this year.

Letters will be sent after the Easter holidays advising who the winners are for this half term.

Good Luck! 🏆

**Mrs Bicknell – Family Liaison Officer**

## PE News

### PE

KS1 have been focusing on a variety of skills such as kicking, throwing, running, catching and jumping. Whilst KS2 have been focusing on dance, tag rugby, football and dodgeball.

### Clubs

This term the children have really enjoyed the variety of different clubs offered throughout both KS1 and KS2. With nearly all clubs being at capacity! We hope that the engagement levels continue for next term.

### Competitions

The children have competed in our first **inter-house competition** of the year. Everybody really enjoyed the opportunity to compete in bench ball against everybody in their year group. This was a great success and we are looking forward to doing this again next term. The girls and boys football teams have found great form with both teams winning comfortably in their recent fixtures. The girl's team have the opportunity to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in their league. Come on William Harding! Next term we will be starting weekly challenges on the William Harding PE Twitter for the children to complete at home.

**Mr Rayner – PE Team**



## Pre-School News

This half term Pre-school has been exploring! We have been exploring lots of different things such as the world around us and what we can see. We have created lots of resources like binoculars and maps to help us on our way. We have been looking at lots of different animals on our adventures like the Guinea Pigs, Rabbits and Hamsters as well as a sneaky look at Reception's ponies.

We have also been investigating the world around us by noticing the new changes around us like the weather being windy, cold and snowy but also that we are starting to get flowers and buds blossoming. We have gotten extra messy by creating beautiful paint works and trying some different foods to help us celebrate different festivals.



“I like playing games at school” - Cristian

## Reception News

In Reception this half term, the children have been learning about ‘The Wild West’. The children have learnt about the cowboys, Native Americans and what it is like to live in the Wild West! In English, we have been reading lots of themed books and have been writing sentences about the cowboys and Native Americans. In maths, we have been thinking about subitising, addition, subtraction and number bonds to 5. This half term we have been learning about animals and plants that would be found in the Wild West as well as considering where it is on the globe and looking at maps. We have also been thinking about our similarities and differences! We have had an exciting half term with World Book day and a visit from some ponies to support our understanding about animals that would be used in the Wild West.



“I speak Urdu and my Mum is from Pakistan” - Soha



## Year 1 News

It's been another fantastic half term in Year 1, with the children impressing us with their amazing work across the curriculum. Our English has focused on Fairy Tales, with the children learning about story language as we explored traditional stories such as Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel & Gretel and How to Catch a Star. In Maths we have practiced telling the time to the half hour, measured weight, and capacity and used mathematical vocabulary to describe order and position. In History the children have learnt about Parliament, planned the budget and taken part in an election, whilst in Science we discovered how we can help to preserve our environment through reusing, recycling and renewing. Finally, in DT the children developed their sewing skills by creating t-shirts for teddy bears!

"Trees give us the oxygen we need to breathe" - Brooke



## Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic half term. In Maths, we have learned about; strategies to solve different operations, fractions, how to tell the time and the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. In English, we have been reading 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark' and 'The Winter's Child' while working on our inference skills and expression when reading. We have explored the rich history of Aylesbury, creating timelines and discussing important historical figures and buildings to the area and have designed and built a bridge in our free-standing structures unit for DT. As we get closer to Easter, all the classes have had the opportunity to put their role-playing skills into practice as we explored the Christian Easter Story in RE. It has been a busy, but productive half term and the Year 2 team are all proud of the progress you have made. Well done. Enjoy your Easter break!



"Brick bonding makes structures strong" - Oliver

## Year 3 News

In English this half term we have studied Stig of the Dump, we have all loved hearing about Barney's adventures and how his friendship with Stig (a cave boy) has developed. We have looked at direct speech and how the characters talk to one another in the text. In DT we have looked at healthy eating including what calories are and how we use them. We had fantastic fun planning and then creating our own fruit salad. We learnt new skills including how to cut, peel and grate a variety of different fruits. In Maths we have looked at different investigations and then we presented our findings to the class. In Science, we learnt about plants and had some fantastic opportunities to carry out our own investigations, one that comes to mind is watching the celery absorb our coloured water.



“We have learnt to cut and make our own fruit salads. I can't wait to try it!” - Lilly

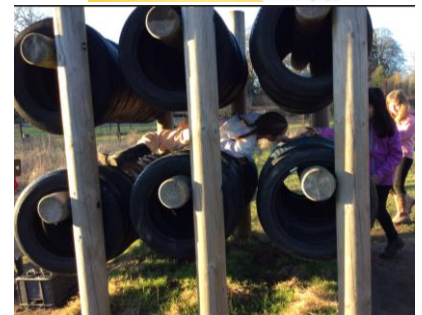
## Year 4 News

It's been another fun filled half term in Year 4. Many of us went on our residential trip to Woodrow House and had a fantastic, unforgettable time in the great, snowy outdoors. Whist those of us who stayed at school, took part in some fun and practical activities. Our English lessons have been based on 'Demon Dentist' and the children have produced some fantastic written pieces. Fractions and decimals have been our focus in Maths, with children deepening their knowledge of the relationship between the two. They also learnt about quadrilaterals and triangles. In Science, we learnt about the topic 'Sound'.

Who's King now? In History, the children learnt about the famous English Civil War known as 'The War of the Roses' and were amazed by the duel between The House of York and The House of Lancaster.

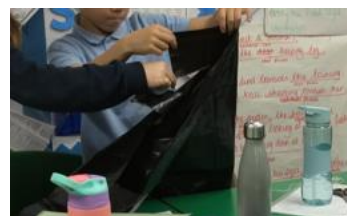
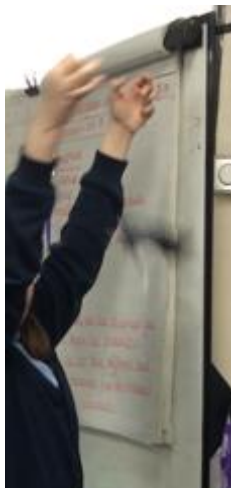
The 'Circuits' topic in D&T allowed us to build nets and create lanterns. This was challenging but we gave it a good try.

"Woodrow was so fun. I will remember it forever"- Thomas



## Year 5 News

Year 5 have had yet another fantastic half term! The children have continued to work hard and persevere through their challenges and really impressed us with their resilience and focus during assessment week. This last week has been incredibly busy. Making bread was a huge success and the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this activity. Our trip to the Odeon cinema was also a triumph and the children really impressed us by representing the school fantastically! The work the children have been producing in class has continued to impress us and they have written some great extended and cross-curricular writes based on The Highwayman and their Baghdad and Forces learning. In Science, the children got a chance to be creative and inquisitive while investigating the impact of air resistance on different size parachutes; they really enjoyed seeing their knowledge in action!



"I enjoyed the science investigation because we got to be creative and collaborate as a group" - Noah

## Year 6 News

Year 6 have had a fantastic half term! In Maths, we have been thinking about ratios and we've explored shape too; looking at how to calculate the area of 2D shapes and the volume of 3D shapes. As we begin to strengthen our knowledge, we have begun to tackle complex word problems too.

In English, we have been looking at consolidating all the knowledge we have been developing and now beginning to have more freedom with our extended writing. We have continued reading Goodnight Mr Tom, as well as watching the film during SATs week to provide a deeper understanding of the story. Some of our writing has also linked closely to our WW1 History topic, writing setting descriptions of trenches and a diary entry of life as a WW1 soldier. A highlight of this half term was our visit to the Imperial War Museum; the children had a brilliant time and deepened their knowledge.



"The Imperial War Museum was incredible! I loved how there were lots of interactive activities and we were able to see lots of weapons, machinery and clothing - I particularly liked going into the trench" - Mia



## Head Teacher News

Dear Parents and Families

Another very busy half term brings us to the end of the Spring Term which has been jam packed with lots of exciting and fun learning and activities such as the Wild West Pony visit, a trip to Bedgrove Park for Year 1, the Imperial War Museum for Year 6, a trip to the cinema for Year 5 and the Year 4 residential overnight trip.

It was lovely to see so many of you in school when you came to talk to your children's teachers at our parents evening meetings and I know lots of you welcomed the opportunity once again to speak with your children's teachers virtually too.

We celebrated World Book Day at the beginning of March with children and staff once again astounding us with their creativity in creating some spectacular costumes! There were lots of activities enjoyed throughout the day, all helping to celebrate our love of books, reading and the knowledge and enjoyment that sharing books together can bring.

We also enjoyed Red Nose day, where children and staff dressed in a riot of red clothing! Thank you to you all for your kind and generous donations for this worthy cause to help those most in need. Thank you also to the School Council for their work on fundraising this year so far.

A very welcome visitor to the school each week has been Belinda and her dog Ginny who come in to work with small groups of children as part of the Pets as Therapy 'Read 2 Dogs' programme. Ginny is a much-loved guest by our young readers who look forward to spending time with their four-legged friend each week as she helps them to improve their literacy skills and confidence as they read out loud to her.

We are delighted that we now have some 'Parent Friends' for our year groups. These have already been in to meet with Mr Thorpe and will be a great addition to our team and a great first point of call for yourselves.

Our PAWHS (Pals of William Harding School) events have been thoroughly enjoyed by our pupils and it has been nice to see events such as the disco back in place. As always, we learn from your feedback to improve further events.

The Governors annual Parent survey went out recently – please note that this is still live throughout the holidays. Please do take the time to complete this as I know the Governors wish to hear your voice. Here is the link again for your ease :-

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nJZ7rxRvMkSMhjkRLkXigCF9GJcHf0xKphWUfsRy\\_pDdUOEI4UkpXNUw2WFFFRUM4MTFNWUI4OUVBSyQIQCN0PWcu](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nJZ7rxRvMkSMhjkRLkXigCF9GJcHf0xKphWUfsRy_pDdUOEI4UkpXNUw2WFFFRUM4MTFNWUI4OUVBSyQIQCN0PWcu)

Whether you are heading off for a holiday or spending time at home, I wish you a restful Easter break. We very much look forward to seeing the children and staff refreshed when they return to school on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. A reminder that Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April is an inset day and we are closed to pupils.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school.

Miss Cotchin  
Head Teacher