

# William Harding School

## HARDING HERALD NEWSLETTER



### Attendance

As a school we aim for class attendance to be at **96%**.

**Well done to Years 1, 3, & 6 for being above 96%**

We look forward to seeing which class will be awarded the Attendance Cup and awards!

### NSPCC

We are pleased to advise you that we raised **£519.05**

Thank you for supporting this wonderful charity

### House team and points

House points for this half term;

**Rothschild 2132**

**Guttman 1905**

**Hampden 1298**

**Nightingale 779**

**Well done Rothschild!**

### School Values, SMSC & BV

Pupils are beginning to articulate SMSC are now able to reflect on their learning in Art, DT, RE and PSHE as these subjects are great opportunities for pupils to show their understanding.


<http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/british-values-and-smsc>

**School Value;** our pupils have been fantastic at showing **PERSEVERANCE** as our School Value.  
Next half term our School Value will be **RESPONSIBILITY**.

## Headteacher News

Dear parents and families,

What a busy and awesome half term we have had.

This term I have continued working with pupils for the Pupil Voice meetings and listening to their views. What has come across very clearly is how they love William Harding and how happy they are. As a result the pupils have created a 'Why we  Love William Harding' book with all their reasons why they love our school. All of the Pupil Voice comments are on our website <http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/pupil-voice>

Our half term School Value has been **PERSEVERANCE** and the pupils have shown this through their approach to daily school life. They are keen to work hard and challenge themselves in all lessons.

We have had great success with our sporting successes as well as our pupils talking part in activities at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. This week alone has seen the Girls football team, Boys A and Boys B team all winning their matches. Well done and thank you to the teams and staff for their dedication.

The Animal Advocates have been busy with the introduction of new animals to our school, we have two new hamsters and two new guinea pigs. The pupils are excited to have more pets to interact with and the animals are settling in well. Information about our school pets can be found on our website <http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/school-pets-and-animals>

I hope you have an enjoyable half term with lighter evenings and we all look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Best wishes, Miss Cotchin - Headteacher



## School Website

Our website is developing with new additional pages and tabs including a **WH Voice** section. Here pupils can be reminded or find out about;

- Pupil Voice
- Parent Voice
- Governor Voice
- External Community Voice
- You asked... We did...

We hope you find the website useful and that it will support you and your child whilst at William Harding.

Do not forget to check the website for letters that are uploaded each Friday.  
<http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/communications-letters>

*'We all feel safe because we have lots of teachers, lockdowns, the office staff check visitors, secure fences, Peer Mentors, friends, alarms and we all know what to do in a fire alarm.'*

**Year 6 pupils January 2020**

### School Council News

The School Council have been meeting every Friday lunchtime after meeting with their classes, to discuss ideas and to talk about ways they can support our charity of the term: The Florence Nightingale Hospice. This is a wonderful charity which has, and is, supporting many of the families in our school and local community.

'We are working with a representative called Vicky, from the charity, who comes in to work with us to help us raise money. Next half term there will be a cake sale or a class event (more details to follow) and we are encouraging as many people as possible to take part in the MINI NIGHT WALK which is taking place on the 7th March at 6.30pm. The walk starts and finishes at the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity at Walton Lodge, Aylesbury. School Councillors have been speaking to their classes (details on the School Council board) but for any further information please ask Miss Robinson or School Councillors.



*Jolene, School Councillor - Yr 5*

### Pupil leaders and Pupil Voice

We have lots of opportunities at WH for pupils to be Pupil Leaders and be involved in school life. This half term the Attendance Monitors, Ollie, Isabella & Russell, have been working hard with the FLO team to promote attendance and have been completing the attendance posters around the school. You can find out more on our website <http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/school-pets-and-animals>

*'It is fun but you have to miss some of lunch doing it.*

*Attendance Rocks!'* **Russell**

### House Captains;

**Nightingale:** George (Lead), Gracie (vice), Charlotte (vice)

**Guttman:** Jess (Lead), Madi (vice), Amina (vice)

**Hampden:** Sami (Lead), Ayla (vice), Isla (vice)

**Rothschild:** Seth (Lead), Cara (vice), Divya (vice)

**House Point Collectors** - Chenai, Ethan, Nakshatra & Daniel

### PE & Sport at William Harding

Both Bluebell and Daffodil took part in a multi-sport event, involving running, throwing, kicking, striking and lots of high fives! It was brilliant to see so many children being active and trying their hardest throughout. Our 5/6 girls football team visited Buckingham Park for their first league fixture of the season. William Harding girls won the match 1-0 after an amazing team effort.



Several Year 5 children went to a leadership camp where they learnt games and activities that they can bring to William Harding. We look forward to supporting them in their role and we are sure they will make a positive impact. The school have begun our real legacy journey, with staff receiving real PE teacher training to improve our PE provision. We are delighted that we will be supporting families within the school community through the launch of real play. <https://jasmineactive.com/solutions/real-play/>

### PTA at William Harding

The PTA have had a busy few weeks setting up the School disco, hope everyone had a good time. Thank you so much to the volunteers, we couldn't run these events without you.



The next PTA event will be a Coin Challenge between classes! Each classroom will have an empty bottle that is waiting to be filled with loose change, 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p or larger if you want! The children just need to bring the change into class and put it in their class bottle. The challenge will start 25<sup>th</sup> February and will run until 27<sup>th</sup> March. There will be 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes for most money raised by classes in Reception/KS1 and in KS2.

We also have our first **AGM** on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm at the school. Please come along to find out more and to support the School and the PTA.

**BIG NEWS** – there will be a **Summer Fete** on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 11am to 2pm, so make a note of the date. It would be great to see a large turn out from the school. If you are able to help run a stall, or arrange raffle prizes, please do get in touch [pta@williamharding.school](mailto:pta@williamharding.school)

The money raised so far has helped buy new reading books for the whole school and new sport kits. We will be discussing more ideas of what the fundraising could be used for with the school.

#### School Office

Opening times 8.30am – 4pm

Communication – Please advise pupils full name and class when leaving messages and sending emails. Listening to voicemail messages before calling the school back will greatly assist the office staff.

Payments - Cash/cheques are no longer accepted for school trips, all payments to be made on the school Gateway please. Please be aware that parents are not allowed to drive on site during school hours.

#### REMINDER

Please note there is no parent vehicle access on the school site during school hours unless in possession of a Blue badge (logged with the school office).

#### Matron's Message

Winter is in full swing and as you are aware Norovirus and other bugs are prevalent in the school. Please remember that we operate a **48 hour rule** from the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea.

Unfortunately we are still having parents sending their children in without adhering to our policy. Can I also remind parents to notify myself of any changes to your child's medical needs or medication in school.

#### Staffing

We say goodbye to Mr Archer, Ms Thompson, Mrs Roy as EYFS practitioners & TAs this half term. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for all their hard work and wish them well in their new adventures.

## 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 writing sentences about the planets and space aliens. In maths, we have been thinking about finding more/less, addition, subtraction and capacity. This half term has been full of learning but the children really loved making their own papier-mâché planets and dressing up as astronauts and aliens on our space dress up day! Bluebell and Daffodil classes really loved their Multi-skills sports event. They walked beautifully there and took part in some exciting activities involving throwing, catching, jumping and crawling. Honeysuckle and Buttercup classes are excited for their turn next!



The children are excited to continue their learning next half term through our topic of Knights, Castles and Dragons!

## Year 1 News

In Year 1 this half term we have been learning about lots of different things and impressed our teachers with our new knowledge.

In English the children have developed their writing by learning about adjectives and conjunctions to make their writing more interesting. In Maths we have been developing knowledge of number facts, using multiple resources to discover our thinking.



In Geography we have been learning about the UK and how it formed as a Union. We were able to relate to some of their family holidays with this topic.

In Science we have been learning about different animals. We have explored different groups of animals and used this knowledge to categorise the animals into their families.

In Art we have been focusing on Miro and Klee's painting styles and using these styles to create our own masterpieces. We have focused on the methods of line, shapes and paint.



## Year 2 News

What fun we've had! We have read *The Enormous Crocodile*, *The Magic Finger* and *The Twits* by Roald Dahl and have enjoyed extending writing to include detail for effect. 'My favourite part is when she turns her teacher into a cat,' Connor.

The children have also been learning a new method to solve addition and subtraction calculations. The column method proved tricky but they persevered and their hard work is paying off. They have also been looking at charts and graphs to answer questions about data and have started to identify the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

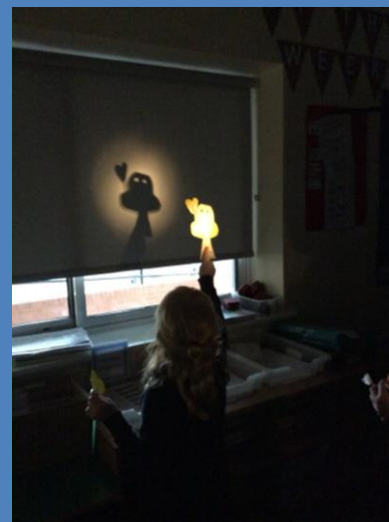


In Art, the children have been learning to draw and paint portraits. In Geography, we have been exploring the British Isles and writing about all the places we would like to visit whilst in Computing, they have started to learn about basic programming and created map grids to use with their Bee Bots.

## Year 3 News

This term the children have enjoyed reading and discussing "The Firework-Maker's Daughter" by Philip Pullman. This has fed into the children writing their own narratives using some of the ideas. Several of the children said that they now want to read more of Philip Pullman's work.

In Science the children have been learning about light sources and have had great fun looking at shadows and making shadow puppets. They now know how powerful the sun is and have learnt about the dangers of the sun and how we can protect ourselves from it.



During P.E we have been focusing on developing our fielding and striking skills through some fun games as well as developing our core strength through seated balances.

**91% of KS2 pupils said they enjoyed play and lunch times**

Pupil Questionnaire 2019

## Year 4 News

In English this term, Year 4 studied the novel, Kensuke's Kingdom. We delved into sailing across countries and oceans, and wrote imaginative character descriptions to match our main protagonist. In maths this term, we revised our multiplication and division number facts, and looked at various ways to partition number to help us solve these questions. In geography, we learned about the earth in terms of imaginary lines like the equator, lines of longitude and latitude, the tropic of Cancer, and the tropic of Capricorn. In science, we explored sound. We experimented and investigated concepts such as how sound travels and the intensity of vibrations by tapping metal spoons against a bow. In art, we constructed models of the Ancient Roman Pantheon using cardboard and paper mache. One child quoted, "I enjoyed watching and listening to the balloon in the paper mache deflating."



## Year 5 News

What a busy start to the New Year it has been! Year 5 are continuing to enjoy their SQUIRT lessons with a new novel to get their teeth stuck into - 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. This text has been hugely engaging and has led the children to write in a variety of genres including persuasive travel brochures, character descriptions and letters. "I love SQUIRT because it helps build my confidence in reading," Ava.



During PE, the children have been exploring different throwing techniques in order to play a game of 'seated volleyball.' "I like P.E. because it helps you to keep healthy," Ajay.

Lastly, in art the children have been learning about the Benin culture and have enjoyed designing and making their own Benin plaque. In science they have enjoyed learning about different materials and have used their mathematical skills to produce line graphs.

## Year 6 News

Year 6 have had another successful half-term.

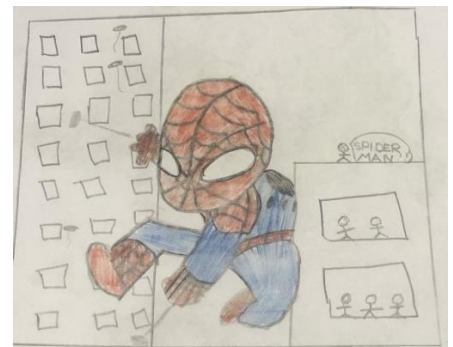
This half-term the children have learnt about a range of topics including:

- answering longer inference questions;
- using a range of grammatical features including the active and passive tense and relative clauses;
- expressing algebraic equations;
- classifying living things;
- countries on the continents of North and South America
- Italian Renaissance artists

We had the opportunity of creating our own superhero during Comic Book Day as well as having a go at drawing some well-known superheroes (with the help of YouTube of course!);

“I thought that Comic Book Day was amazing – we got to do drawings of superheroes and best of all, we got to come up with our own ones!” – Isabella

“I really enjoyed Comic Book Day and doing all of the fun activities as well as creating my own superhero.” – Holly



‘Strengths of WH school; very hygienic, role models, jobs for pupils such as peer mentoring, school shop, very safe, good field, learning is useful, astro turf, school pets, pupil voice & volunteers, WH is unique, the Knowledge Organisers, the Knowledge Curriculum timeline, clean and tidy now, ramps, hand sanitizers.’

**Year 6 Pupil Voice January 2020**



## Pre-school News

The **VIOLET ROOM** has had a busy start to 2020 welcoming some new children and families to William Harding. They are all settling in very well and it's great to see how happy they are to come to Pre School.

The children have been busy exploring their environment and accessing the new Literacy and ICT areas we have been working on as well as the new home corner resources.

We have some exciting trips planned for the children over the next few weeks including posting a letter, visiting the school Guinea Pigs and enjoying a story in the school library, look out for these on Tapestry and don't forget you can upload your own photos for us to see.

There is also a parental involvement sheet for activity ideas for you to do at home and you can find this on our school website.

<http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/preschool-2-year-old-provision>

**POPPY** and **DAISY** room have had a great start to the Spring Term. We have been focusing on Fairy tales, enjoying lots of stories and rhymes as well as rein acting different stories.

The children have tried the 3 bears porridge, discussing how it tastes and how it was made, they have been using playdough to make gingerbread men and a role play for The Three Little Pigs has been added to the Daisy room Role Play Area.

Next term our focus will be Growth and Change so we will be looking forward to doing some planting with the children as well as other exciting activities.

‘To be a pupil at WH is fun, happy, brilliant and exciting.’

‘Lots of learning, lots of maths, it is fun, lots of toys, lots of reading, learning new things everyday’

**Year 1 Pupil Voice January 2020**

‘LO tells you what you are doing and the SC ‘tells us which table is doing which, we use green and orange pencils to dot what we can do’.

‘We feel safe; people, friends, teachers who help us and no unkind people.’

**Year 2 Pupil Voice December 2019**

*'As a new parent I am really pleased with the communication around my child starting school - I felt the school really wanted us to be happy.'*

**Parent September 2019**

### Message from our School Counsellor

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week was Children's Mental Health Week to focus on the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme was **'FIND YOUR BRAVE'**.

I ran a **'FIND YOUR BRAVE'** assembly with the help of our fantastic 22, Year 6 Peer Mentors. The aim of the assembly was to explore and support bravery in all shapes and sizes. To understand that life is full of small brave steps. To understand that sharing your worries with an adult you trust is a brave thing to do and to develop ways to **'FIND YOUR BRAVE'**

I had images, video's, songs and stories about bravery, our peer mentors sang 'This is Me' from 'The Greatest Showman' and acted a short sketch telling the story of a pupils first day at William Harding School, we had a few feely bags with various items inside for children to put their hands in, we built up a bit of tension and uncertainty about what was in the bags, we ask them what emotions and feelings they had about putting their hand into the bag.

I spoke about **'Finding Your Brave'** can build your confidence, self-esteem and make you feel good about yourself. Life often throws challenges our way. Bravery isn't about coping alone or holding things in. It's about finding positive ways to deal with things that might be difficult, overcoming physical and mental challenges and looking after yourself. We all have times when we need to **'FIND OUR BRAVE'**.

Sarah Pacelli, School Counsellor

### Reminder of who to contact

A reminder of who to contact in line with our updated complaints policy;

1. **Class teacher** – they always aim to build strong relationships and they know your child best
2. **Year Leader** – they will have an overview of the Year group and may be able to offer a greater insight over the year group
3. **Key Stage Leader** – they will have an overview of the Key Stage and staff
4. **Deputy Head teacher** – they line manage and strategically oversee all staff in the Key Stage
5. **Head teacher** – strategic overview of the entire school
6. **Chair of Governors** – who works to support and challenge the work in the school

Please note that the office will always follow this structure and may ask you who you have already spoken to in order to put you through to the right person without delay.

*'I have to share how happy I am with all the new changes the school has made - I know you're all working really hard to make the school great!'*

**Parent Questionnaire July 2019**