



WILLIAM HARDING SCHOOL
Aim high... Work hard... Be kind...

Praise for William Harding School

2022- 2023

Dear all,

Please take time to read some of the lovely comments we have had this year from our entire community praising our wonderful school.

The comments are from you as parents, staff, external professionals that we work with as well as other visitors.

Thank you to all those who have sent in such kind and supportive words of praise - it does mean so much to us all here in school to know we have your support and appreciation.

Thank you as always for your support, especially during another challenging year.

I look forward to another happy and praiseful year in 2023 - 2024.

Best wishes,

*Miss Cotchin
Head teacher*

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Parents praise

Mrs Steph Keys has been an excellent and warm pre-school teacher to Georgina. Mrs Keys clearly has an outstanding interaction with the pre-schoolers and approaches each one with incomparable warmth; we will most definitely miss her pastoral care – Preschool Parent

I am really impressed with how you do MUSU at William Harding and how you manage to make it work so well with an extra year group – New Year 5 Parent

I wanted to send a quick email to say thank you to Miss Bone, Mr Stallwood, Mr Irwin and all the other staff involved in the year 6 leavers prom on Friday. The boys had the best night and the effort put in by all the staff was clearly evident. You gave them a great send off and a night I'm sure they will all remember forever! They all deserve recognition for going above and beyond and what an amazing team they are. Thank you again - Year 6 Parent

Year 6 team thank you!!! Last night was a massive success you really have gone above & beyond with this event; we thank you very much! My daughter & her friends had the best time! Roll on more fun for their last week! - Year 6 Parent

First and foremost, my husband and I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for the wonderful work you have done with our eldest son this year during year 2. Honestly, I had never imagined he'd even come home with a reader of the week certificate let alone two in one year! The difference in his reading and confidence is huge from last year and he's definitely a much happier boy with his school work. For this no gift or thank you card could ever explain how grateful we are. Personally, as a mother I couldn't have hoped for a better year 2 teacher for Daniel than you. Secondly, I wanted to say a huge thank you for your kindness and help with my youngest son when he decided he did not want to come into school at the gates on Thursday morning! Just knowing he was walking with his brother and you safely into school made my stressful morning a lot easier. Your new class are lucky bunch to have you! Wishing you a lovely and relaxed summer (although as a fellow teacher I know that school is never too far from your thoughts!) - Parent

We would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of our appreciation for Mr Monaghan and all of his hard work with Waddesdon Class. L clearly holds Mr M in extremely high regard and we hope he takes his positive experience further into teaching. - Parent

Wow! What great work from all the kids; please pass on our thanks to all staff involved making that so successful. All children knew their place they all conducted themselves with such professionalism. Soo good!! Well done Mr Irwin & team Year 6! Year 6 Parent - leavers production

Dear Mr Rayner - an early thank you for being the best PE Teacher we've had at WH. The boys love the clubs and playing football at WOW Club with you. Parent

Yesterday I attended the Year 3 sports day and I just wanted to say a big thank you, and congratulations, to Mr Rayner and all the other staff members involved. It was a lovely

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event and despite the need for last minute rearranging, it ran very smoothly - in fact, you'd never have known that the team had to completely rethink it at short notice! Although I appreciate the extra work created by running it in year groups, from my perspective it was ideal. We were able to see our children, cheer them on, interact with the activities and staff and it made for a really fun atmosphere. My son also enjoyed it which is even more important. Please do pass on my thanks to all involved, for putting on a really successful event. I hope that other parents will also feed back to you as I heard many positive comments on the day and also at school drop off and pick up since. I hope the weather holds for the remaining events 😊 Year 3 Parent

Having attended the Year 4 Sports Day yesterday and the Year 2 Sports Day today, you really need to be very proud of Mr Rayner and Miss Bagshaw for delivering the best Sports Day I have ever attended at William Harding. Despite the changing of dates, the one year group only format really worked as you could stand by the playground and the astro and actually see your child taking part. Please, please keep this format going forward and give everyone involved a huge amount of praise. The children were engaged and enjoyed it and as a parent I felt involved as opposed to last year where I didn't see one of my children and they came home complaining that they only did one station of the carousel. Well done Mr Rayner & Miss Bagshaw. Parent

Huge thank you to Mr Rayner & all the teachers for their efforts with this years' sports days, we thoroughly enjoyed it & I can only imagine what efforts Mr Rayner & team had to go to make this event happen this year. Mr Rayner was engaging & welcoming to all us parents & kept us informed of what was going on & you can see how popular & inspiring he is with the kids, a joy to see. Thanks again! Pat on the back to all concerned. Parent

We have received wonderful feedback regarding the sports days. Parents commented on the fact that they could see their children take part in activities as there was a smaller number of parents watching. They commented on how much fun the children and staff were having and the children were not outside for long in the heat. Parent

To all the teachers involved in the year 3 sports day today. It was brilliant. Very well organised. You could see all the activities and the kids seem to thoroughly enjoy themselves even in the heat. Thank you. Year 3 Parent

I just wanted to thank your wonderful staff especially Miss Wainwright and Mrs Lewis for the care they gave my child in class today. I'm sure it's not easy managing an entire class whilst trying to give my child the care they needed at that time. They are a credit to the school. Also to the staff on the front gate who didn't hesitate when I asked them if I could get to the office quickly in my initial panic and the office staff themselves who acted professionally and with kindness.' Upper KS2 parent

I just wanted to say thank you for organising the camp activity day today. Joshua had a fantastic time! Apparently, he enjoyed every activity and has not stopped talking about it. I definitely think that the school should look into offering some forest school activities. Year 3 Parent

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Could you please pass on my thanks to year 3 pupils and teachers. It was so nice to be able to go and see my children in an assembly today (haven't seen them since reception) and the turnout of parents was amazing. Year 3 Parent

Thanks for your cooperation and all the help, our son really enjoyed his short tenure in the school and will miss his class. Parent

I wanted to pass on my thanks to Mr Raynor & the year 6 team for the great work providing the girls with so many enjoyable matches this season; they've had a great time & have played some great football too. Mr Raynor is always so encouraging in his coaching style & you can see how well the girls react to that encouragement. Please pass on my thanks to Mr Raynor & the Year 6 team. Parent

I would like to take this opportunity to say how nice it was to meet the new Monday and Tuesday teacher for Rowan class yesterday at come read. Really approachable and friendly. Parent

I was speaking to the mum of the child who hurt her fingers yesterday on the gate. She said the doctor asked who had dressed her fingers because it had been done 'perfectly'. I said to mum that I would pass this on. Well done Mrs Lewis! 😊 Parent

Thank you to Miss Valji, Mr Raynor & everyone else for giving up their time to make Woodrow such a success...Jasmine had a brilliant time; thank you so so much! Hope all can soon have a nice long bath & get warm! Thank you again 😊 Parent

I would like to say thanks for the whole Team in William Harding especially to all the Teachers for putting so much effort. She had a great time and made very good friends in school over the last year. Parent

During half term I met a parent of a child who has recently been bereaved. She said that she cannot thank two particular areas of the school enough for their help, support and absolute professionalism during this unbelievably difficult time - those being the FLO Team and in particular Mrs Bicknell and the Front Office for always being so kind, caring and patient with her when the phone was answered and she was overcome with grief. Parent

I just wanted to pass on my thanks for the open classroom session yesterday. It was so lovely to spend some time with my daughter and see her class work and chat with her teacher. It was well organised and I felt very welcome. I thought it was a great idea that you were selling refreshments - I certainly like to feel I'm contributing and I think many other parents feel the same way. We also understand the financial constraints you are under. Parent

We were really happy that he has been taken care of well and he learnt good values from you. We are very thankful to you always. Parent

I just wanted to drop you a note to say how lovely it was to be part of the year 3 trip to Waddesdon Manor yesterday. The children truly showed our school values throughout and I saw members of the public smiling and commenting on how lovely they were. The

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children showed a keen interest whilst walking around the house, asking many questions and looking out for the items the staff members had asked them to look out for. One of the children in my group said 'This is the best thing ever!' Well done to all the team who organised the trip and to all the staff members who helped support the children in this wonderful learning opportunity. Parent

Good evening, I just want to say well done on your Ofsted result and thank you so much for the way you've welcomed and nurtured her. I would like to thank you for all the love and support and excellent education she receives from attending your school.
Year 3 parent

I wanted to formally give my thanks for Mr Raynor who was wonderful looking after the Girls' team last Saturday.

They played really well & I was particularly impressed with Mr Raynor's direction, encouragement & support.

It's no wonder that my daughters talk highly of him, I can see why first hand!

Year 4 parent

Just wanted to thank you for the positive detailed homework comments you have been leaving, he has been enjoying reading them. I know the other parents have also been very happy about them too. It really helps keep kids motivated and feel like their work is appreciated.

The kids are also very into these times tables competitions so well done for making learning fun.

Thanks for all your hard work

Year 3 parent

It's hard to find the words to speak highly enough of them all! Pre-school Parent

Thank you for having a positive input towards my son's upbringing. I and my wife will be there to celebrate him. Thank you.

I am writing to thank you all for doing an amazing job! The help support and enthusiasm you have given my child has changed their attitude profoundly to the point of waking me up on a school morning because they want to come to school. The reasons are that school is fun, exciting and positively challenging. Their confidence and behaviour has improved tenfold since starting at William Harding not only towards schooling but also in general at home and out and about. I genuinely cannot thank you enough for everything you have done and are continuing to do.

Please pass onto the Year 6 team & all involved with our gratification for all the hard work that went into making the River Dart such a success.

(my daughter) simply had 'THE BEST TIME EVER'!! Her words.... She didn't stop talking about it for days after coming home; memories truly made for a lifetime.

Thanks again; your staff have been incredible; that goes for the coach drivers & all the River Dart staff too; they all played their part into making it such a success.

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Year 3 parent

External praise

The Children were great; they are a real credit to you and did brilliantly during the talk. Mr Robinson (Head of Year 7 at John Colet School)

Fantastic results that you should be immensely proud of. Thank you for sharing with me. I am so proud of what you have all achieved - PIXI consultant on our KS2 SATs results

It has been a pleasure to welcome William Harding Year 6 students along to our transition activities at John Colet School. They are a credit to your school and we look forward to welcoming them full time in September. Head of Year 6 - John Colet school

I am writing to thank you for your kind welcome and amazing staff who made me feel so included and safe during my placement. I loved every single minute of it. Ryan was an incredible mentor and I learnt so much from him. He genuinely made me feel so secure in teaching and he made me feel so proud of myself. The class made me fall in love with teaching even more every single day and I wish I could have stayed there longer. They were amazing and so full of personality... Just such wonderful children.

The team made me feel so welcome and gave me so much support and help whenever I needed it. From going through lesson plans to helping me with resources, they made my placement experience one of a kind.

I'm truly so very grateful for this opportunity I was given and I'm proud I was able to represent the school during my placement. I just wanted to share my positive experience and how it changed my perspective on a lot of things. Thank you to you and your staff for my wonderful 6 weeks. - Student placement teacher in KS2

Well done Year 6 for your excellent listening during your transition talk. You have been respectful, listened carefully, and been focused throughout the whole talk. You have asked some brilliant questions and have made a really positive first impression on us. - Mr Murray (Headteacher at the Grange), Miss Glenister (Assistant Headteacher at the Grange), Miss Daulton and Mr Hains (Heads of Year 7)

Thank you so much for having us over to visit the WH children - they really are an absolute credit to you! - Miss Glenister (Assistant Headteacher at The Grange)

You and your staff never fail to impress me with their professionalism and how they conduct themselves in each of the tasks I've been lucky enough to observe them as a team. - Governor on monitoring the administration of the KS2 SATs

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Just to say I saw on my arrival some amazingly skilled staff working with children struggling to start their day or come in to the building. It was a masterclass! Behaviour support

I spoke to Hannah from Ashmead on Friday and she wanted me to pass on the thanks and praise from the visiting students during their phonics bundle. They were very complimentary of WH! This is great and shows how passionate and dedicated everyone is to the teaching of phonics. Teacher Training school

IQM Centre of Excellence Status for WH

Please see the link [William Harding School Achieves Centre of Excellence Status | IQM \(iqmaward.com\)](https://iqmaward.com) which is now on social media regarding our successes.

William Harding is a school where everyone is valued and has a voice. It is not easy for any school to have such a consistent supportive approach to inclusion, let alone for a school as large as William Harding.

Staff our Assessor spoke to felt that the work they do is normal, but it is evident that they go over and beyond what is needed.

The Headteacher and her team should be congratulated on what they have achieved; the needs of the pupils and their families are at the heart of everything.

The Headteacher has a clear vision for inclusion which is shared by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), the Extended Leadership Team (ELT), staff and Governors.

There is a positive atmosphere to the school. Work in the classrooms is purposeful, with an emphasis on language. The use of phrases like, I do, you do, we do and my turn your turn, help the development of language.

Around the school are a range of school pets and our Assessor saw how these were used motivationally and how they gave calming and time out opportunities for some pupils as well as opportunities for taking on the responsibility for caring for them as Animal Advocates.

The pupils spoke enthusiastically about the school. They enjoy learning and were really proud to share examples of their work. Pupils from across the ability range spoke about their work. The Learning Objective stickers in their books are clearly understood by them

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and helped them to explain the work to our Assessor.
Pupils feel safe in the school and were clear about who to go to for help as well as telling our Assessor that they help each other.
The range of opportunities for them to show leadership is extensive.
The school works hard to include parents and recognising the difficulties that many parents have, ensure the Open Classroom opportunities for example, take place just before the end of the day so that additional journeys do not need to be made.
The parents recognise the support that they are given and are full of praise for the work of the Family Liaison Team.
Parents said that there was always someone there to speak to and the school has produced a very clear chart explaining who to approach over what concern.

‘Congratulations on achieving so much for your school and for your pupils and their families’
- Equaliteach for our anti-bullying programme

Staff praise

I just wanted to tell you how proud of our year 4 children I was during our trip to the cinema today. The children all enjoyed the film and their treats and could be heard giggling throughout the film. Massive thanks to the team for organising and the team who supported the children on their trip. One of the children I was talking to told me they would rate their trip 10/10!

Staff member

I just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to join the Year 3 trip to Waddesdon Manor this week, as a parent volunteer. It was a lovely day and I really enjoyed seeing all the children so happy and excited together.

I was also really impressed with the behaviour of Beech class (the group I was with). They were a pleasure to be with and even the volunteers inside the Manor commented on how well behaved they were. Please pass on my thanks to Mr Dinham, Miss Turner, Miss Garner and the rest of the Year 3 team.

At the heart is the needs of the pupils and adaptations are made as and when necessary.

I just wanted to say what a pleasure it was to have the Year 6 pupils coming down to read us their stories today. The children I had were so polite, they read the stories to my children and they even supported my children in reading them. They had small groups each and swapped around, and then read their stories to the whole class. They were so polite and well-mannered and they really were a credit to the year 6 team. My children really enjoyed having them and they were telling their parents about it on the way home. Thank you for giving my children a lovely experience.

I just wanted to pop a quick email to say thank you. I cannot express how much I appreciate the IPM being so accurate and for Miss Laugie knowing and understanding her so

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thoroughly. I left parents evening feeling like she is going to continue to make progress this year and grow in confidence and as a person. Thank you both for your hard work, our family really appreciate it.

I would just like to say thank you for the amazing updates regarding the delays to the return journey. I truly appreciate it and know a lot of the other parents are grateful too.

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Brilliant school. Best school any of my children have been to including secondary schools. This school has changed my little boys school life around since we moved to the area. Previously due to medical issues he found school very stressful and would worry every day before he entered the classroom but since he started William Harding he literally drags me to the door each morning. Looking forward to his school day. Couldn't be more impressed by William Harding. I know a lot of the parents complain about communication from the school. I personally have never had a problem with this and I would go far as saying they exceed my expectations in this area. This School is a brilliant asset to our community.

I know at WH we communicate with the parents for all matters very quickly and the parents don't actually realise how great we are at this. Staff member and parent at another school

I've just listened to a lovely phone message from a Year 3 parent who wanted to send an enormous thank you to Mrs Fuller for all the help she is giving her daughter - Mum really appreciates it.

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who worked with me and the children this year and last year. WHS had become my second home and I will miss everything. I wish you all the best and the school every success for the future. Staff member

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