



WILLIAM HARDING SCHOOL

Aim high... Work hard... Be kind...

## Community Praise 2020

This time of unprecedented change has affected us greatly in the way we educate, work and live. It has been a brave new world of reinvention and a time to remain hopeful and to share the positives around us.



I was working in A&E yesterday and walked under the bridge. The beautiful messages and wonderful rainbows made me smile and really helped me start my shift on a positive note.

Thank you, William Harding.

From Julie, Member of the community



As well as creating wonderful art for our classrooms and school environment, pupils and staff have also created art to inspire hope for our community as well as providing art to our local Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Our School Values are; Perseverance, Respect, Inclusion, Honesty, Responsibility and Collaboration

The Dony family brought in coffee, tea bags and cakes for staff. Dad asked us to provide some art work for the hospital patients on the wards.

Hi all

Hope everyone is well and safe.

This is a message my friend and parent

of WHS put in her FB page yesterday.

She also said how proud she felt to be part

of WH when she saw the display.

Take care everyone.

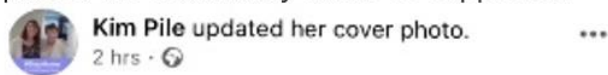
Nina Lewis



Hi all

A friend who lives on the estate has seen the display on the green fence and has changed her cover photo on her Facebook account.

She said she felt quite emotional to see what the children had done and very proud to be part of the community that is so supportive.



Nina Lewis

Hi all,

I thought I would share with you this tweet I saw this morning on twitter. It is so great to see positivity being spread by William Harding in these tough times! Jordan



Dear Miss Cotchin

Hope you are well. I must thank you for everything you and the school do for the children in this difficult time.

If the children could do some painting with the "keep smiling" theme when they do artwork during the school day. This was an ask to me from one of the ward managers in Stoke Mandeville Hospital. They would like to put this up on the windows for patients.

Keep well and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Dony, Programme Manager at Bucks Healthcare NHS Trust.

This fence work is all amazing!! Well done William Harding, you are going to be featured in the SEN newsletter next week.

Many thanks

Tia Sohi (SEN team BC)

## Staff Praise

Well done everyone!

Shows that all the hard work is paying off, I have heard nothing but praise from everyone I've spoken to!!

Kind Regards  
Steph Zannini

Hi  
I think you are doing amazing with the school in this current situation. Stay safe.  
Kindest Regards  
Cara Underwood

Dear Trudy,  
Thank you for that amazing gesture (LOA). That is very kind. I am proud to be part of the amazing William Harding team.  
Kind regards,  
Zoe Cookson

Well done and thank you Trudy on such a fantastic job, you and the rest of the SLT have worked so hard in ensuring that our school is a safe place for us all!

I have been making regular phone calls to my team of TA's WFH in KS1 to check on their wellbeing. I feel that I need to share with you that I have noticed recently that this is now needed more than ever as some of our TAs are beginning to struggle to remain optimistic and motivated as the lockdown continues especially for those that have been shielding since March. Some TAs are trying to home-school their own children alongside doing their own work which is a great juggling act and some are generally finding the whole lockdown procedure overbearing and isolating from either being a one parent family or just missing school/work routines, their family, friends and work colleagues. After speaking to some of my TAs, their comments were:

'Thank you for calling me, I feel better now that I have spoken to you today'  
'I feel more motivated now to get on with that idea you gave me'  
'So lovely to chat with you, I was so worried about .....

Kind regards,  
Angela F

The praise we are receiving from parents is well deserved as it has been such an incredibly difficult time for us all and you have pulled us through this and directed us to continue not only with our great teaching but to stay positive and focused on what we all need to do for ourselves as a school but also our wonderful children!

I feel very blessed and thankful to have you leading us at William Harding School.  
Thank you for your continued strength and drive.

I had many comments when I was on the playground yesterday from happy and appreciative parents. Good work all!  
Kind regards,  
Abi Brydon

There were lots of positive comments of social media too! Well done teachers for making the children feel so welcome. :)  
Kind regards,  
Daniela Willis

## Local Authority Praise

Dear Colleague,

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for the way you have responded in these unprecedented times. Keeping our schools and early years settings open to those pupils who need to be there for the reasons that we all know, despite the fear that everyone is experiencing right now, takes an altogether different type of leader, if not a superhero. Being brave, kind and disciplined every single day whilst managing uncertainty is not easy and I want you to know that this is appreciated beyond measure. Equally, I do not underestimate the impact that this is having on you personally and your families.

Tolis Vouyioukas, Corporate Director, Children's Services

I want to say how grateful we are to all our schools, early years and childcare settings across Buckinghamshire. Our dedicated staff have gone above and beyond in so many ways to support our children; staying open where possible throughout the lockdown period to continue to provide care and learning to our vulnerable children and children of key workers, as well as offering alternative learning options for most other children who have stayed at home. We thank all school and early years leaders, staff, nursery owners, committees, governors and trustees for their monumental efforts.  
Simon James, Service Director: Education

I am very impressed with what you are achieving at WH and how well the re-opening has gone and what you have put in place to support pupils and staff. It is impressive that the offer to pupils is for 5 days and the speed to which you, as a large school have reopened safely. You have also reopened to Pre-school when many other settings are not reopening at all and reopening to Reception when many others have not reopened yet. You have been ambitious in the high numbers of pupils you are open for, which is much more than other schools, as well as your Home learning continued offer.

You all deserve a well-earned break but especially how you have managed a large school with such diverse families – you have done a great job, exceptional!

Yvette Thomas, Equalities and School Improvement Manager

I continue to be proud to be part of the community of Bucks headteachers and our collective effort to run our schools and support our children and the wider community. Another headteacher reminded me that we have had almost 200 pieces of guidance issued since we went into lockdown. We have each managed to process this level of information while keeping our staff and children safe and well. You are all amazing.

Rebecca, Chair of Primary Executive Board

## Government Praise

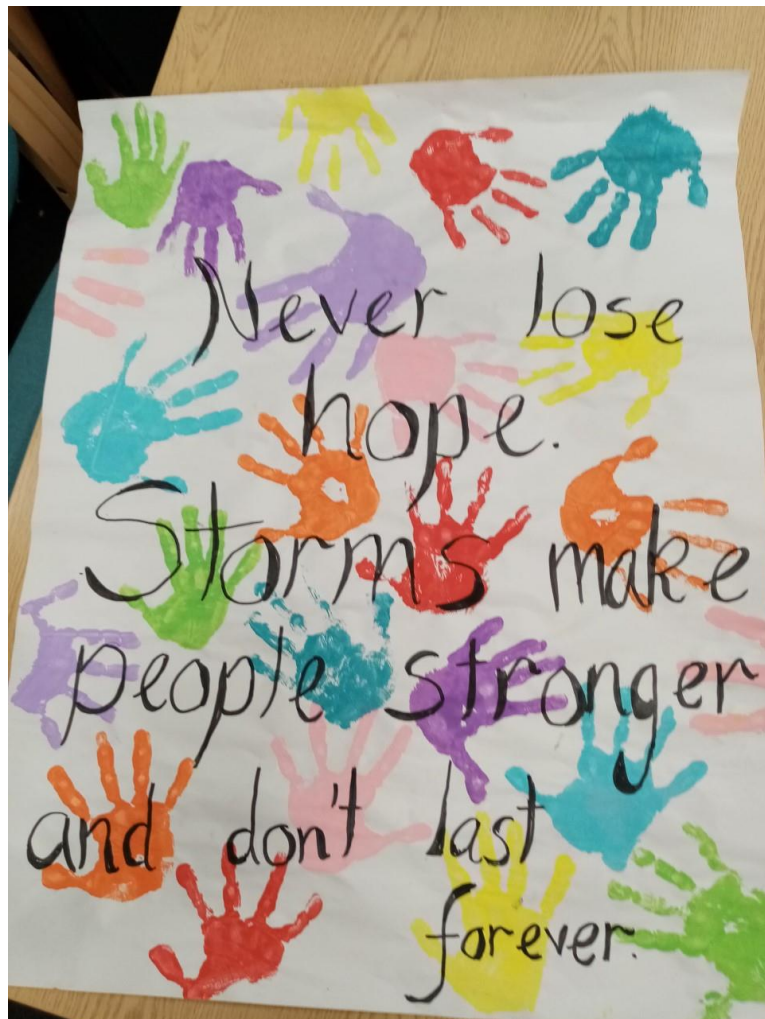
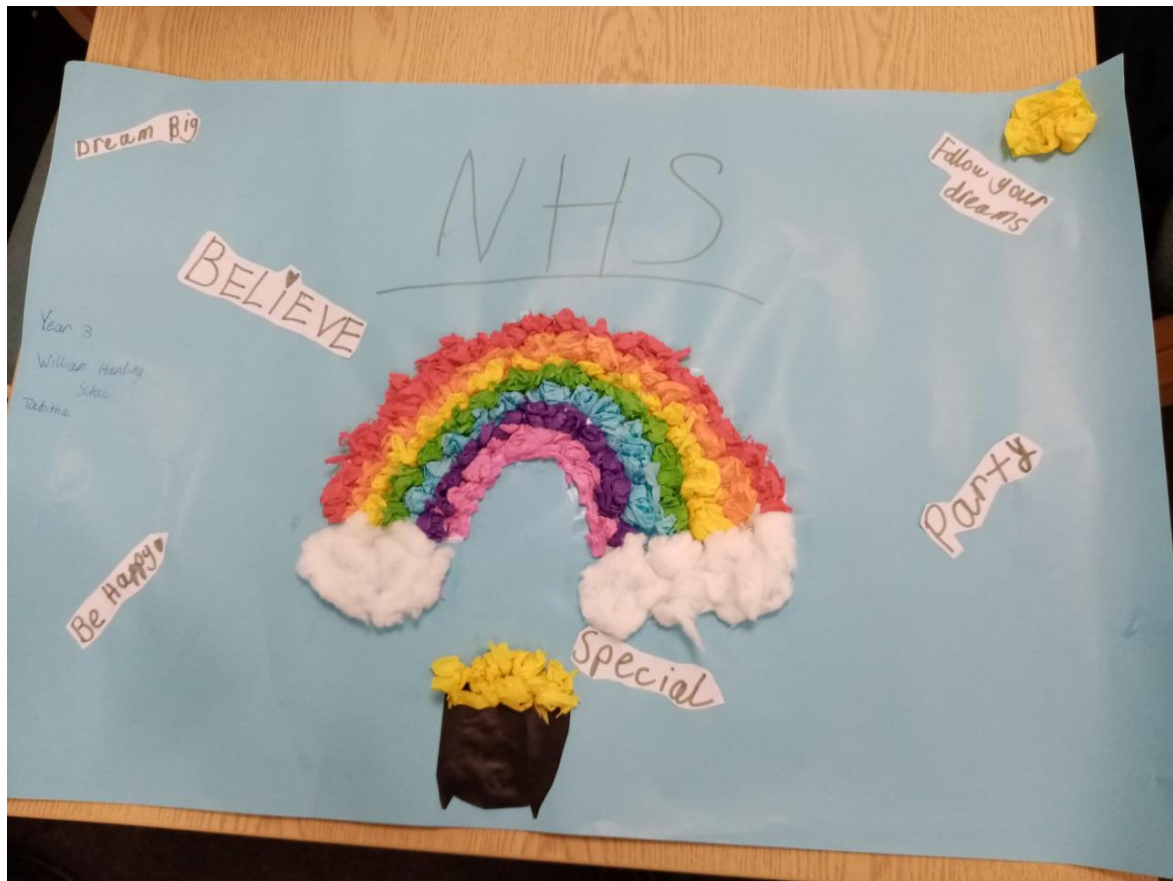
'Thank you for stepping up to this challenge with such dedication and determination. I know that you have moved quickly to implement last week's announcement. Over the last few days, I have heard extraordinary examples of school leaders and teachers responding with flexibility, pragmatism and creativity – demonstrating true civic spirit in unparalleled circumstances. On behalf of the prime minister and the entire government, thank you once again for all your hard work.'

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education

As you start to look towards your summer break, I hope you are able to recognise the scale of your achievement in ensuring pupils have continued to learn during this period. I know that schools have been working tirelessly since 23 March to support the most vulnerable children and the children of critical workers in school, alongside providing remote education for those children and young people who have remained at home. Since 1 June, you have opened your doors to increasing numbers of children and young people and I am very pleased to see that 1.6 million pupils are already back in school. I am deeply grateful for your efforts.

On behalf of my colleagues across Government, I offer my sincere thanks for everything you have done and are continuing to do as we respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education



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