



William Harding School

Harding Herald Newsletter



House Points

Here are the House Points results for Spring 1st half term. It was very close, well done to **Rothschild!**

Hampden: 2012 points

Rothschild: 2749 points

Nightingale: 2745 points

Guttman: 2409 points

Premises Update

I'm pleased to share that the second phase of the window replacement and light fittings in KS2 is all now complete and the ICT Infrastructure upgrade means that we have moved all our servers onto the Cloud now. We are so pleased that our new trim trail is finished and being used on a daily basis by the children. There are a few snagging issues that are being addressed but we hope to have these rectified as soon as possible.

Next projects include -

- Roof repairs
- Final phase of window replacements KS2
- ICT Hardware upgrade
- Renovate and improve KS2 kitchen/food tech room
- Smartboard replacements across the school
- Phones to new VOIP system
- Additional Cameras for the CCTV
- Storage solutions across the school

Miss Judge – Business Support Manager

PAWHS Update

We will be running PAWHS events in the spring term. These events are fantastic to help us raise additional funds for the school. Last term we raised over £1000. We have therefore been able to purchase equipment for the children to use at playtimes.

Upcoming Events

- We are organising coronation merchandise, designed by the pupils
- We are very pleased to be able to run another movie night. This time one for each Key Stage, KS1 Tues 14th and KS2 Tues 21st March 3:30-5:30
- Following the success of the Christmas Craft Afternoon, we have planned an Easter craft afternoon on the 31st March
- We are also going to trial discos during the day on the 3rd March
- To try to raise funds we are also going to have a competition to see which class can raise the most by saving pennies and 5ps in a bottle

We will also have refreshments at all events so please bring your pennies

Summer Term

We will plan the summer term events during the spring term. We are planning to run another movie night and another disco. We are also looking at the possibility of stalls at the family event. We will continue to sell refreshments at all events too.

William Harding Attendance Cup

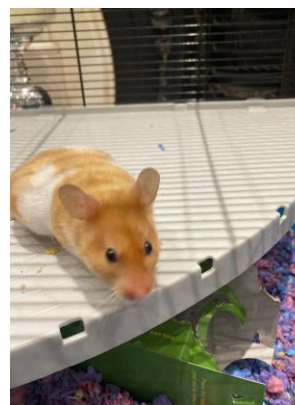
Congratulations to Cherry and Lime in KS1 and Waddesdon and Cardiff in KS2 for winning the William Harding Attendance Cup during the Autumn term, they had a mufti day on Friday 13th January. We wonder who will be the first winners in 2023? Congratulations also go to Year 2 Elder class as they achieved 100% attendance for week ending 27th January 🎉

Mrs Bicknell – Family Liaison Officer

Animal Advocates

It's a new term, so a new set of Year 6 pupils have taken over the role from the previous Animal Advocates. They are currently taking care of Smudge the gerbil and Poppy and Bubbles, our two Syrian hamsters. The children work on rotation, so they get a turn with each animal. They are all very enthusiastic and doing a wonderful job.

I have been very impressed by their ability to co-ordinate and work as a team, taking it in turns to do jobs such as feeding, cleaning and exercising. Many times, I have seen them showing the animals to other pupils passing by and talking to them about the animals. Some of the children have had previous experience with animals and it is brilliant to see them sharing their knowledge with the children who haven't had any experience.



Mrs Bazeley – Family Liaison Officer

PE and Sport at William Harding

PE

In KS1 the children have been learning gymnastics and been playing a variety of different games. The children have really enjoyed learning lots of different skills, whilst playing lots of exciting games. In KS2 there has been a focus on gymnastics too where we have been using a variety of different apparatus including the springboard, balance benches, crash mats and the vault. During outdoor PE we have been doing a variety of invasion games such as football, hockey, netball and basketball. The children have really enjoyed this and showed determination throughout.

Clubs

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

Competitions

This term has been a quiet one for competitions due to the lack of the light and the freezing weather. However next term we have plenty of competitions arranged and look forward to competing in a variety of different sports. We are planning to take part in a range of competitions and festivals this year. The following competitions will take place during the day. Please look for letters coming out with additional information. As the evenings are becoming lighter again, we will start to look at taking part in football matches after school again. We will send additional letters once these have been arranged.

Upcoming events

Year 2 multi skills - AGS, 20/06

Year 4 multi skills - AHS, 29/06

Year 5 and 6 Benchball - AHS, 20/0

Handball - AGS, Date/Time TBC

Year 6 Transition games - Grange, 12/07

Year 3 and 4 girl's football - Mandeville 23/03



Mr Rayner – PE Team

Pre-School News

This term it feels like we have explored most weathers, including snow, frost, ice, rain and sunshine! Once the frost had gone and the sun came out we made the most of it by tidying up our gardens and adding some bulbs and checking on those that have already begun to grow!

We have also been looking at fairy tales this half term, covering Goldilocks, 3 Little Pigs and Jack And The Beanstalk, including trying to grow our own beanstalks!

We have also been investigating lots of things such as melting snow and ice in the sun, in the shade and using tools. We have also looked at shapes and the different ways we can use them like making models, printing them from fruit and vegetables and learning new names for them.

We have learned about different festivals including reading poems for Burns Night and trying some Chinese food for Chinese new year.



“I like Pre-school because I can play hide and seek with my friends” - Sybil

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’!



“I’m an ‘I know agent’ I know all of my time words!” - Shiloh

Year 1 News

We've had another exciting half term in Year 1. In Maths we have solved word and missing number problems, practised counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and doubled numbers up to 20. 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 it's 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. Enjoy a well deserved break!

"Dark cumulus clouds mean it could rain heavily" - Rose



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.



"You draw eyes level with the ears" - Charlie

Year 3 News

This term we have been astounded by all the hard work in year 3, children always consistently show our school LORIC values such as Raj Resilience. This half term our book was 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', we enjoyed hearing about Lila's adventures to Mount Merapi. We thoroughly enjoyed our Art lessons where we looked at 2 different artists, Turner and Constable. We created a boat in a storm looking at different brush strokes. We also created our own sculptures out of natural materials. Here is an example of our fantastic work below:

In Geography, we have looked at Africa, learning all about different human and physical features and different languages. Year 3, have loved learning about a different culture, some children are now keen to visit Africa! In science, we have been amazed by how shadows are formed and how we look using different mirrors.



"I look really big in a concave mirror and really small in a convex mirror" - Noah

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 characters' perspectives about: boats crashing and people getting lost; diaries about meeting new people and newspaper reports about finding long, lost relatives. 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 equivalent fractions and how to simplify them. 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 played Mathopoly. In Science, we learnt about food chains and created our own. In Geography, we have been studying settlements and looking at the facilities and services that Aylesbury has 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. Finally, we were lucky enough to visit Waterside Theatre to watch Demon Dentist.



"I have never been to the theatre before.
It was great!" - Zoya

Year 5 News

Spring 1 has been another successful half term for Year 5! 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. The children have also enjoyed designing and creating their own 3D relief art in the form of insects and bugs. They used their knowledge of African Art as well as our current Science topic about living things to produce fantastic pieces! A highlight of this half-term was our trip to Hazard Alley. All classes represented William Harding excellently and made us extremely proud. It was also Dexter the Bear's first trip and the children enjoyed learning about safety alongside him. After the trip, everyone had positive things to say about the trip and learnt lots about different types of safety – they particularly found the practice 999 call useful and all feel prepared in case of an emergency.

"Hazard Alley was
the funnest trip I've
had in a while and
I'll never forget it!" -
Mona



Year 6 News

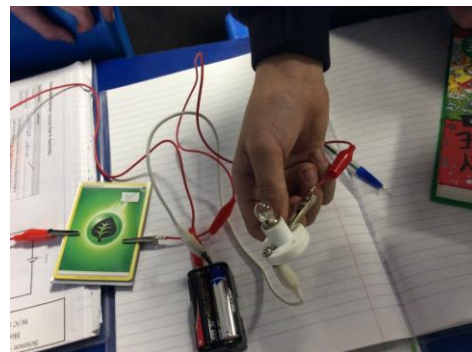
Year 6 have had a fun packed term this Spring. We have just completed our Assessment Week where the children again worked really hard and all teachers were really impressed by their hard work.

As usual, the children have been working hard in their daily Maths and English lessons and we have started to read 'Goodnight Mister Tom' in SQUIRT (Super Quality Uninterrupted Independent Reading Time).

We have had some fun in our foundation subjects.

We explored electricity in our Science lessons and our final experiment was to test different materials to see which one conducted electricity the best. In Art, we looked at art in the Italian Renaissance where children got to pretend to be Michelangelo painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

During Geography, we learnt about North and South America. We looked at why the Mississippi River was so important for trade and how the Amazon rainforest was being destroyed by deforestation due to demand for timber but also for farming. We put our spreadsheet knowledge to good use in computing by planning food and drinks for an end of term party. Children had to research prices online and use formulas in Excel to work out total price for the items they wanted. Some children showed great responsibility by trying to keep their prices as low as possible!



"I really enjoyed Geography because I liked learning about the capital cities" - Finn

Head Teacher News

Dear Parents and Families

The first half of this very cold Spring Term has whizzed by and already we find ourselves at half term this week.

We've had a busy start to the term which has included an excited Year 4 who visited Aylesbury Waterside Theatre to watch the "Demon Dentist", a fabulous adventure in which a lot of strange and unexplained things occur.

Year 5 also visited Hazard Alley Safety Centre where they learnt some very valuable lessons in the centre's purpose-built village. A particular highlight for the pupils was practicing making 999 emergency calls in different life situations they may find themselves in.

We held our first practical activity for families as a Craft Afternoon where you were able to join your child/ren in activities – it was lovely to see so many of our parents and families in school. The event was a success, not only with the uptake but also with the level of enjoyment from all. Many of you remarked how you enjoyed doing the activities with your child/ren and how relaxing you found it – free therapy! From this success we will be organising more of these practical activities for you to attend.

We were also delighted to see so many parents and families join us for Open Classrooms which is becoming a firm favourite in the diary. If you have not been able to attend this gives you the opportunity to come into the classroom with your child/ren to look at the pupils' books and to see the wonderful work they have been doing this half term. Thank you for the positive feedback we have received.

NSPCC Number Day also took place and was a chance for the children to take part in lots of maths activities whilst raising money for this charity. We were delighted to see the thought and creativity that had gone into the children's costumes! Thank you to the School Council for requesting that we support this charity and thank you to you as families for your support.

This half term's value has been RESPONSIBILITY and the pupils have been able to demonstrate this through their actions and attitudes to school life. As always, we are very proud of our pupils.

I wish you an enjoyable and restful half term with the weather looking warmer. I look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 21st February, please note the school has an inset day on the Monday 20th and is not open to pupils.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Miss Cotchin
Head Teacher