

William Harding School

HARDING HERALD NEWSLETTER



House Captains;

Our house captains are responsible for keeping track of house points and sharing the totals with the rest of the school each week. They also support the teachers with inter-house competitions and encourage the children to cheer for and celebrate their house's achievements.

The children who would like to be house captains this year have all recorded a short speech and the rest of the house will vote for their captains soon.

House team and points

Nightingale 3337

Guttman 2948

Rothschild 3251

Hampden 2905

Well done Nightingale!

School Values, SMSC & BV

This half term we have been focusing on ensuring the pupils know what BV means and why it is important. BV stands for **British Values** and the pupils have been learning about how Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect, Tolerance & Liberty are linked to our curriculum. If you wish to find out more about how we show BV at WH then please go on our website.

<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 **Honesty**.

PTA AT WILLIAM HARDING

As 2021 draws to a close, it's been another difficult year for the school community due to Covid which has also impacted our ability to raise funds.

We haven't been able to run any discos and for safety reasons the Christmas Fair was cancelled. These events are usually the ones that generate a good income for the school. We did raise £267.85 from the Christmas Cards so thank you to the parents/carers and school office for supporting this.

Currently there is only 2 of us on the PTA and we continue to be in desperate need of support from parents to join/volunteer to help with fundraising and events. If you are interested in joining or if you have a few hours to spare on an ad-hoc basis, please email pta@williamharding.school.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

Jane and Natalie.

The Committee



Natalie – Treasurer of the PTA



Jane – Chair of the PTA

PE & Sport at William Harding

Gymnastics was the focus this term and we've seen animals in the jungle in KS1, to elegant jeté leaps in KS2. After Christmas, we're turning our attentions to dance, we'll be using our new real Dance resource and later bringing history to life through dance.

Clubs have been in full flow this term, with dance, netball, tennis, football and even Kurling! As we're pausing face to face clubs, we hope you'll enjoy the virtual club offerings and don't forget there are lots of videos you can access on the school website.

Finally, I would like to say thank you and goodbye to the William Harding community. I have loved developing PE and Sport for the children at this school, I know that I leave you in good hands with Miss Timberlake and the newly appointed Mr Rayner.



MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

During Christmas, online games can be a great way for children and young people to keep busy and stay in touch with friends and family, but it's important that they play safely. I am noticing that many of the children seem unsure, scared and uncomfortable with the content in movies/series' they're watching, games they're playing on console/PC's along with their interactions on social media.

Consoles like the Xbox, PlayStation and Nintendo, platforms such as Netflix, YouTube and Roblox as well as social media apps like WhatsApp, Snapchat and TikTok, all come with family and privacy settings to help reduce risk of cyber-bullying, trolling, griefing, scams, in-game purchases, talking to people they don't know, grooming... the list of bad things that can happen to children when they are playing an online game is scary.

We owe it to our children to protect them while allowing them to play games online with friends or while watching a film alone or with their family, we cannot underestimate the emotional effect of watching a film/series (that is not age appropriate) has on a child, they may talk or not, about their nightmares and their worries after. You might assume your child is able to process the content of a scary or violent movie, however a child can mask very well and show us only what we expect to see, when actually they're not coping and unable to process what they have seen or heard.

Children will always say to me "I know it's not real, but what if!" which then develops into a negative thinking pattern, thoughts invading their minds so that they can't think of much else, changing their behaviours and making them feel upset and worried with sleepless nights and other strange body sensations.

If we don't monitor this for our children it can have an effect on their long-term mental health and the ability for them to thrive as a young person.

The NSPCC have some great resources for parents on how to help children play online games safely <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

And Childnet have some fab resources suitable for children of different age ranges on how to stay safe online: <https://www.childnet.com/young-people>

I'd really recommend having a look at these and going through the [Childnet resources](#) with your child. Also, please check out the school website [ONLINE/E-SAFETY](#), there are some useful links to guides to all the Apps and games to keep your child safe online.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mrs Pacelli

WILLIAM HARDING ATTENDANCE CUP

The William Harding Attendance Cup and a mufti day is awarded to one class in Key Stage 1 and one class in Key stage 2 who have the highest overall attendance percentage for the previous half term.

On Friday 19th November, Year 1 class Snowdrop and Year 5 class Manderston had their Mufti Day. Snowdrop's attendance for the first half term was 96.31% and Manderston's attendance was 97.29%. Well done to both classes.

With only a short time left of this term, I wonder who will be having a mufti day in January?

Kind regards

Sarah Bicknell
Family Liaison Officer

Animal Advocates

Our animal advocates have been working exceptionally hard this half term taking care of the furry friends of KS2. It has been lovely to see them spending time with Bilbo, Jeff, Elvis, Smudge, Caramel and taking care of the chickens.



Pre-school News

This Half term we have been looking at journeys and how we travel to school. We have celebrated lots of different things such as Divali, Black history month, Christmas, Kwanzaa and Anti bullying. We have been very creative by doing lots of mark making and arts and crafts to celebrate these events. With the weather change we have had the chance to explore the snow and ice noticing that the sun makes it melt and turn to water and the cold can make it last even longer. We have visited the school animals like the chickens and guinea pigs and learning all about their homes.

We hope you all have a well-rested and fun Christmas and we can't wait to welcome you all back in the new year!



**"The best thing about
Pre-school is playing
outside."**

Pre-School Pupil

We also have a pre-school twitter page where we share photos of what we have been up to, so follow us [@PreschoolWH](#)

Reception News

This half term we have been learning about Australia! We learnt about Australian animals and plants as well as the weather and environment compared to England. We had so much fun seeing all of the animals when they came to visit! We also did some volunteering. We spoke about how to look after our world including litter picking and recycling our rubbish. We even did some litter picking to make sure our school is nice and tidy!

We have also enjoyed taking part in our music lesson where we learnt lots of new songs and actions. We have been very excited about Christmas and have learnt a lot about the Christmas story as well as making Christmas decorations and pictures to put up in our classrooms. We finished off the half term with some baking. The biscuits were very yummy!



**"I like being at school. When the teachers are
around, they make me feel safe and happy."**

Reception Pupil

Year 1 News

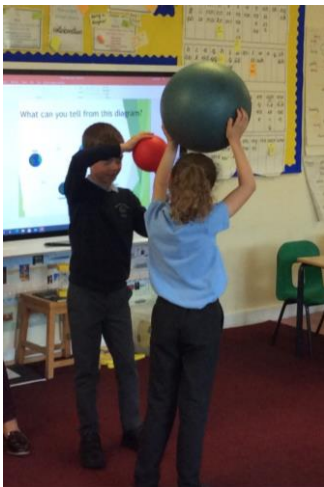
Year 1 have worked incredibly hard throughout another busy and exiting half term. In Maths we learnt about the features of 2D and 3D shapes, solved addition and subtraction word problems and found related facts for sentences. In English we have enjoyed reading exciting books such as 'Dogger', 'Traction Man' and 'Knuffle Bunny'. Children have practiced their reading and focused on answering a range of retrieval and inference questions. In writing, children have focused on using adjectives and similes for description.

In Science we have been learning about animals, their features, and how we can classify them into groups. In History, we have explored how Kings and Queens throughout history have changed the way we live in England. Throughout our DT lessons we have been exploring mechanisms, and using this to create exciting Christmas Cards.



"King John gave lots of money to his friends and family"

Lexi
Year 1



"I really enjoyed making my smoothie even though the seeds got stuck in my teeth."

Noah
Year 2

Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic Autumn 2. We all had a great time hiking around Wendover Woods, searching for bugs and practicing reading maps on the orienteering trail.

In Maths, we have learned new strategies to solve multiplication and division calculations and dividing by the denominator in fractions. In English, we have read 'The Shopping Basket', 'Vlad and the Great Fire of London' and 'Emily Brown and the Thing'. These books taught us about past and present tenses and descriptive language. We learned all about animals and how they have adapted to their habitats.

In History, the children have had a great time learning about The Great Fire of London and how London was rebuilt after it was destroyed. During DT, we covered food hygiene and then designed and made some delicious smoothies. We have learned so much this half term!

Enjoy your break.

Year 3 News

This term we have been reading a variety of Greek Myths. We have all loved learning about the different creatures especially the minotaur.

During DT, we have enjoyed designing and creating our Christmas boxes following our design brief, this involved drawing and creating our own nets.

"I really enjoyed getting to design and create my own Christmas boxes because it was really fun and I could be creative when creating our nets' from Daisy and Alicia.

The children have really enjoyed Maths this half term as they can use resources to work out different calculations. During Computing, we have looked at following and creating our own programs (like computers do). Below is a picture of us following our steps to get around an obstacle course.



"I have enjoyed working with others, there have been lots of opportunities to be collaborative with my learning."

Ava
Year 3

Year 4 News

What a term this has been from learning about eco warriors to Viking warriors! In English, we have been busy writing our own narrative based on the 'Wolves in the Walls' which produced some rather scary reading moments and looked at the fable 'The Boy who cried Wolf' and discussed the moral of the tale and how that ties in with our values. Nick Sharratt, a famous author also visited us virtually.

In Maths, we worked on recalling and using our multiplication and division facts up to 12 and have looked at working out the perimeter and area of rectilinear shapes. In Science, we have been studying living things and their characteristics. We classified animals into vertebrates and invertebrates and plants into flowering and non-flowering. In history, we found out about how the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons lived and enjoyed a workshop in school (including writing in runes – see picture below) and also a funny story about Alfred the Great burning cakes. In DT, we designed, created and evaluated our own greeting cards and pop-up lever inside.

It was a busy term!

"History this term was amazing! It was interesting to learn about how the Vikings invaded Britain."

Ayat, Year 4



Year 5 News

This half term, Year 5 have been super creative! During extended writing sessions, we have enjoyed writing our own story inspired by our SQUIRT novel 'Who Let the Gods Out'. Ali said, "I loved making up my own ideas and using my imagination." Year 5 have also enjoyed using their creativity in their DT lessons when they were designing and making their own cam mechanisms. A lot of us found this tricky but there were great examples of perseverance and resilience shown!

Throughout this half term, we have also been learning all about the Ancient Greeks and Alexander the Great; some of us think he was a great leader while others very much disagree! Although we have to wait a little while longer, we're looking forward to next half term when we finally get to hold our Greek day and learn even more about this time!

"I've enjoyed 'Who Let the Gods Out' and the suspense and unexpected events of the story!"

Charley
Year 5 Pupil



Year 6 News

Year 6 have had a fantastic term and are now looking forward to a very well-deserved rest after working incredibly hard since September. We have been learning all about the Women's Suffrage movement in history and how our democracy was shaped. We have been thinking about the ways that scientists classify living things in our science work and have learned all about Carl Linnaeus, "the father of modern taxonomy", as well.

Our SQUIRT text, a Victorian detective mystery, has inspired us to do our own creative writing using the classic fairy-story "Little Red Riding Hood" and putting our own spin on it. Very well-done Year 6 for a fantastic term and we can't wait to see you looking refreshed and ready to continue learning in January.



"I have enjoyed the history because I liked learning about how the war affected the country."

James
Year 6

Head Teachers News

Dear parents and families,

It seems near impossible that we are at the end of the Autumn term already! It has been an incredibly busy term with ensuring that our pupils are settled and also catching up on missed learning from the COVID lockdowns. However, I am delighted to say that from my time around school and leaders' feedback, pupils have settled back into our routines very well.

Our pastoral offer to pupils and families continues to be a strength of our school. We are now supporting a high number of families and pupils to ensure that they are able to attend school. The Nurture room has now been completed to support pupils who need a quiet and calm place for reflection and support.

The school cow has been named 'Mooana' and the Reception children had great fun painting the cow with their own 'welcome' handprint which looks bright and cheery. If you are passing by the school on the train, take a look and see if you can see it. Our ECO Warriors (pupils who are interested in protecting our environment) also planted a tree to replace our fallen school tree recently.

Our school premises improvements continue, with a move for the SEN team. This is now in a more central location and is better for all pupils to access and is working really well. The Hush Hush room for quiet KS2 play, has now relocated to a more accommodating space and nearer to the playground for pupils' ease. We are in the process of having a room created that will act as a Family and Community room which can be used for parent groups and meetings.

We will be saying goodbye to Mr Palmer, School Sports Leader at the end of this term. We will be welcoming Mr Rayner as a new Sports Coach working alongside Miss Timberlake. Mr Rayner is joining us from another Primary School and has a wealth of experience in sports, physical education and PE. Our school Admissions Officer, Mrs Bracken has been with William Harding for 10 years and will be leaving us at the beginning of January. Mrs Pacelli, School Counsellor will also be leaving us towards the end of January to grow her own private practice to address the needs of mental health requirements across the NHS. We would like to thank these staff members for all of their hard work and dedication to the school, and wish them all the best in their new roles.

We are saying goodbye to Mr Hall who has been a supply teacher with us for the Autumn term. We also say goodbye to teaching assistants Miss Laidain and Miss Plaskett leaving at the end of this term, and Mrs Gupta who will be leaving mid January. We would like to thank them for all their hard work.

As a reminder, all our letters are available to view on the school website every Friday afternoon after 4pm so please take a look at [Communications and letters](#). Our website also has areas such as Class information, Curriculum, and William Harding Voice where the pupils give their view about being a pupil at William Harding, plus feedback we receive from parents and the community. There is also a specific area for parents, which can be found under the '**Parents**' tab and includes Dates and Events, Term Dates, PTA, Uniform, School Lunches and more. Each tab on the website has a drop-down menu with more specific areas, so please do view it regularly.

Please note, Monday 3rd January is a Public Bank Holiday and Tuesday 4th January is an Inset day set aside for staff training. We look forward to seeing pupils returning on **Wednesday 5th January**.

I hope that you enjoy the festive break with your family and friends and manage to keep well and safe. Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Miss Cotchin

Head teacher