



William Harding School

Harding Herald Newsletter



House Captains

Our house captains have made a fantastic start to the year and have been learning how to take responsibility for adding up and recording the totals in our fiercely contested house points competition. They have also been doing tasks around the school and are looking forwards to finding more ways to be helpful in the new year!

Hampden: 3423 points

Rothschild: 3536 points

Nightingale: 3809 points

Guttman: 3604 points

School Council

This year's School Council children have had a very successful first term in their new roles! During the Autumn term, we have met regularly as a group, discussing a variety of different questions that needed addressing within the school. The School Councillors have even taken on their own role within their classes, holding important class councils, opening up the opportunity for everyone to have their opinion heard. By listening to the views and suggestions of the children, we have already addressed and solved issues that have arisen and made a proposal of other goals we want to achieve by the end of the school year. As a School Council, we have already begun fundraising for charities, including raising over £1090 for Children in Need and £365.73 for Save the Children. We look forward to keeping you updated with our accomplishments over the year!

Miss Brown and Mrs Sharp

William Harding Attendance Cup

As we draw near to end of term, we will soon be finding out who will be the KS1 and KS2 winners of the William Harding Attendance Cup for the second half of the Autumn term. Letters will be sent home to the winning class early in January to let them know when they have their mufti day.

Mrs Bicknell – Family Liaison Officer

Animal Advocates

The current Animal Advocates are spending their final few days with the animals as their term comes to an end. Here are a few lines from some of the Animal Advocates themselves on how they've enjoyed their role.

Annabella - "I've never had a small pet at home so this role has allowed me to learn how to look after animals. I've overcome my fear of holding hamsters and gerbils and even the chickens are friendly and can be stroked. I've learned lots from the other Animal Advocates as well."

Finley - "It's been lots of fun meeting the animals, I really liked getting to hold them and clean them out. The best part is playing with the animals and getting to know them." Next term we will welcome in a new group of Advocates for the Spring terms.

Mrs Bazeley – Family Liaison Officer

PE and Sport at William Harding

Sports at William Harding This term has seen the introduction of our Y6 sports leaders who have been running sporting activities and games throughout lunchtimes. This has seen massive involvement and the children seem to be really enjoying the games! Each term we will be changing the games that the sports leaders run, to allow children to experience a wide range of sports.

PE KS2 - during PE this term, KS2 have been learning a variety of different sports from tag-rugby, basketball to multi skills and dance. Whilst KS1 have been looking at dance and multi skills. All children have shown this term's value of perseverance throughout the challenging lessons. During multi skills they have been practicing a wide range of skills such as running, jumping, throwing and catching.

Competitions This term has seen an increase in external competitions against other schools. The school netball team played their first ever match, which they won! The boys A and B football teams have put in some amazing performances and demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship throughout their games. The girls A football team progressed to the next round of the cup which will be played next term. A massive well done to all our teams and good luck to all for next term.



Mr Rayner – PE Team

Message From Our Chair of Governors

Hello all,

As we get in the festive spirit and are getting ready for much deserved holidays, I wanted to take an opportunity to wish all of you a happy holidays. I hope you have a great time with your loved ones during this special time of the year!

I have been a Governor of the school for nearly two years and have recently taken on the role of the Chair of the Governors. I am incredibly humbled by this opportunity and thankful to the fellow Governors and the Senior Leadership Team for trusting in me and providing support in carrying out such an important role.

Speaking of Governors, there are few vacancies, especially for Parents Governors. I would encourage each and every one of you to consider putting yourself forward for this important role. As a school Governor, we need to ensure that the school is providing a high-quality education for its students and is being run efficiently and effectively. Being a school Governor is a rewarding but challenging role. One of the key responsibilities of a school Governor is to help set the school's vision and strategic direction. It provides an opportunity to make a real difference to the education and future prospects of young people, and to be a positive force for change in the local community. If you are interested in becoming a school Governor, then do not hesitate to get in touch with me or the office to find out more.

The school is on an upwards journey in its improvement journey. The recent Ofsted inspection resulted in a Good rating for the school. This coupled with school achieving the Centre of Excellence Status awarded by Inclusion Quality Mark sets William Harding School to be one of the leading schools. Congratulations to everyone involved and especially to the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team.

Next year will bring fresh challenges and I feel the school is ready for them! I would like to sign off by thanking each and every staff member at all levels, parents, pupils and my fellow Governors.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Gaurav Shrivastava
Chair of Governors

Volunteering News

We are very proud of our pupils and enjoy celebrating whenever our children go above and beyond and demonstrate our school values in the community. Sienna (Preschool) has demonstrated so many of our values in volunteering at a Dementia Home, taking food into the residents, chatting to them and playing with them as well. This is an extraordinary act of kindness and something we are all very proud of her for doing! Well done Sienna!

Please do let us know if your child volunteers as we'd love to hear about what they are involved in.

Pre School News

This half term Pre-school have been learning all about transport and journeys and how we all travel to Pre-school. We have had some excellent drawings of maps and all the things we see on our way. We have also been very busy creating crafts for Diwali, Bonfire night, Halloween and Christmas. We are very sure the children are more glitter than child now!

Miss Bagshaw has been leading us in some very fun and engaging PE lessons. We have pretended to be trains, played tag and ran races to keep ourselves fit and healthy.

We have been exploring the snow that has suddenly appeared by observing through the windows as it has been far too cold and icy to go outside! Our teachers have braved the frostiness to bring some inside for us to play with, we have been building mini snowmen and exploring.



**"I like doing PE at Pre-school with Miss Bagshaw!"
Sophie**

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. Safari Stu came to visit us, bring along many of his non-native animals! We had so much fun, we were even allowed to hold them! We have also enjoyed taking part in our music lessons where we have learnt lots of new songs and actions. We have also been practicing for our Christmas Concert ready to perform to our grown-ups. 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!



"At school people behave really good and people learn. If you get something wrong, it doesn't matter, you try again!" Shiloh

Year 1 News

Year 1 have worked incredibly hard throughout another busy and exciting half term. In Maths we have 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 practised 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. Keep up the good work!

“Amphibians and reptile are both cold blooded, but amphibians have smooth skin and reptiles have scaly skin” Oliver



Year 2 News

In Year 2 this half term we have been learning lots of new things. In Maths we have looked at identifying, counting and adding money. Our novel study in English linked to our exciting History topic, The Great Fire of London. We looked at a story called ‘Vlad and The Great Fire of London’ where we identified noun phrases and expanded noun phrases within the story. There was also the opportunity to write a diary entry just like Samuel Pepys, making sure we included the correct features. History was our favourite topic this half term learning that the fire started on Pudding Lane in 1666 and comparing life in 1666 to now. We also had lots of fun with our DT topic making and tasting our own fruit smoothies. It has been an extremely fun and exciting half term which also included a pantomime trip.



“My smoothie tasted delicious. It had strawberries, bananas and orange juice in” Henry

Year 3 News

This term we have been reading a variety of Greek Myths. We have 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. The children have really enjoyed Computing this half term, we have looked at following and creating our own programs (like computers do).

As a Year group we have been extremely lucky, we have participated in not one but two trips! We enjoyed our walk to the library, where we had the opportunity to read different books and learn more about our local area. We have also had the fantastic opportunity to visit Waddesdon Manor, where we looked at all the amazing Christmas trees within the house and were able to create our own Christmas trees.



“Wow! Look at the ceiling, the cogs are all moving. They match the huge tree. It’s beautiful!” Charlie

Year 4 News

It's been a busy half term in year 4. There have been lots of exciting activities as well as lots of hard work on the approach to the Christmas holidays. This half term Year 4 enjoyed getting to know more about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons during Viking day! They took part in Viking activities throughout the day, such as code breaking using runes and finding out more about Viking longships. Year 4 loved being able to dress up in Viking costumes too, the costumes looked amazing!

Year 4's cinema trip to see 'Arthur Christmas' was fantastic, the children represented the school with pride and impressed their teachers with how responsible they were. Well done!

There's been lots of hard work happening in Year 4 as well where the children finally got to show off everything they've learned during assessment week.



"My favourite thing this half term was Viking day" Jaime

"The cinema trip was really fun!" Callum

Year 5 News

Year 5 have had another great half term and really impressed us with their efforts and attitudes throughout the past 7 weeks, especially during assessment week.

The children have continued to work hard in all lessons and it has been wonderful to see some of the progress they have already made! We've noticed them beginning to apply their Maths skills to different problems as well as their use of more complex and ambitious techniques within their writing.

One of the highlights of this half term was our Greek Day. Not only did the children enjoy the different activities they took part in (including a mini Olympics, Ancient Greek puzzles and Myth retelling), they also enjoyed developing their knowledge of Ancient Greece.

The children have also enjoyed making their own cam mechanism toys in DT this half term and it was great to see their problem-solving skills in action when some of them didn't quite work in the way they should have!



"I enjoyed Greek Day because there were lots of facts and games" Josiah

Year 6 News

Year 6 have continued their successful start to the Autumn term, getting stuck straight back into their work after many of the children recovered from the River Dart trip!

In English, Year 6 have continued reading *The Clockwork Sparrow* in SQUIRT, using this to inspire their writing for a number of different purposes. It has been amazing to see the children working particularly hard on their suspense writing!

During our Maths lessons, children have been focusing heavily on fractions, decimals and percentages. All the children have shown incredible resilience when tackling some tricky concepts which are brand new to them!

One of the highlights of the half term was seeing the children's work in DT. The children have been evaluating different stitches, showing great perseverance, to eventually produce a purse or wallet from felt.



The thing that I have enjoyed doing most is DT because I enjoyed sewing and making the purses.'

Elsie

The subject I've enjoyed most is History as I loved to learn about the changes to women's rights and politics.' Ellie

Head Teacher News

Dear Parents and Families,

What a busy and wonderful term we have had, we have seen the children taking part in lots of activities to support their learning. Year 2 went to the theatre, Year 3 visited Aylesbury Library and Waddesdon Manor, Year 4 enjoyed a Viking educational workshop and the cinema, Year 5 took part in an Ancient Greece workshop. I know that the other year groups are looking forward to their upcoming trips.

The school has been buzzing with Christmas excitement and we have seen the Reception Carols, the Key Stage 1 Nativity and Christmas parties taking place. The Reception children all sang beautifully and Year 1 shone during their nativity performances of "Shine! Star, Shine!" which was enjoyed by all who came. It has been wonderful to see our pupils taking part and being so excited with these additional events and experiences.

We were also delighted to see so many parents join us for parents evening, both in person and virtually and at our Come and Read session. We hope you will join us for our upcoming events – these can be found on our school calendar www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/new-datesevents?view=calendar&month=02-2023

We have a new Chair of Governors, Gaurav Shrivastava who is an existing Governor and understands our school well. Our previous Chair, Sally Perkins remains as one of our Governors. I would like to welcome Matt Robinson to the Governors as a new Parent Governor. We still have one remaining Parent vacancy – if you are interested or wish to know more please contact the office.

Our half term value has been PERSEVERANCE and the pupils have been able to demonstrate their determination, persistence and tenacity through every aspect of their school life. As always, our pupils make us very proud. I have been very impressed with how all classes have 'aimed high' and 'worked hard' with their assessments recently. I have also been impressed with how our staff have used multiple techniques and methods to support all pupils. I look forward to seeing which School Value our pupils vote for Spring term.

Please note there is no Inset day this year and all pupils return on Wednesday 4th January 2023. I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and we all look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

Miss Cotchin
Head Teacher