



# 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.

We have a democratic process where the children who would like to be House captains all apply for the position and the other pupils in the house vote for their captains and vice captains.

### House team and points

**Nightingale 6357**

**Guttman 5407**

**Rothschild 5956**

**Hampden 5469**

**Well done Nightingale!**

## School Values, SMSC & BV

In all parts of our learning the pupils reflect on BV and how it is shown, BV stands for **British Values** and the pupils have been learning about how Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect, Tolerance & Liberty link 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 **Honesty** as our school value.

Next half term our School Value will be **Responsibility**.

### William Harding Attendance Cup

The winners of the William Harding Attendance Cup for the first half of the Spring Term were Cherry and Beech classes. They had their mufti day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March. This is the second time in a row Beech have won this treat. Well done to both classes. Let's see which classes will have a mufti day for the best attendance this half term.

Mrs Bicknell – Family Liaison Officer

## PE and Sport at William Harding

This term during PE key stage 2 have been learning a variety of different skills and have been playing a variety of different sports. Year 3 and 4 have been learning skills such as sending, receiving, balance, stability and reactions during indoor PE and in outdoor PE they have been learning tennis, which they have done fantastically at and have really enjoyed competing against their peers. Whilst year 5 and 6 have been focusing of individual skills such as core strength, stability, body control and jumping for indoor PE and have been learning football for outdoor PE which they have really enjoyed competing within and against other classes.

During lunchtimes the children have been playing a variety of different competitive sports which have supported high engagement levels throughout the term.

### Sports clubs

The year 5/6 A team played their first football match of the season which resulted in a great win 1 - 0 win against Haddenham.

Next term we are really looking forward to seeing the start of our new sports clubs!

Tom Rayner – Sports Coach



## Premises News

This term has been busy getting project work ready to be carried out during the Easter holidays.

Following the school closures last year, our Fire Alarm system has been rewired and is now working perfectly to avoid any further issues.

School lunches are doing so well with our uptake numbers now having doubled since we started with Fresh start in January. The children are loving the food and it's so lovely to hear them all looking forward to their lunches again.

After a few concerns were raised about being able to view the KS2 playground from the external path, we now have a privacy screen along the whole fence between the KS2 playground at the pathway to the Stadium.

We have 90 tree and hedge saplings that are being planted and looked after by our Eco Warrior team. The saplings were donated by the Woodland Trust and we can't wait see them develop into the landscape of the school grounds.

Over the Easter break work begins on replacing the carpet in year 2 and 5 classrooms as well as new electric gates being fitted at the main entrance to help improve the safety of our pupils and staff at all times. We also have a major deep clean taking place following our Norovirus outbreak to give the classrooms and shared areas a good chance to be clear of any germs lingering.

### What's coming up? Toilets...

Look out for a poster coming soon, looking for any young artists that may be interested in helping us design a theme for each of our toilet blocks. During the next year, we are hoping to refurbish the toilets across the school. As part of this we will be inviting children to design a theme for their year group toilets. The winners will then see their own designs going up on the wall. A great chance for children to get involved in the visual design of their school.

Miss Judge – Business Support Manager

## Animal Advocates

Our animal advocates continue to take great care of all the animals this Spring.

Our chickens are laying plenty of eggs! If you would like to have some for a small donation please contact the office.





## Pre School News

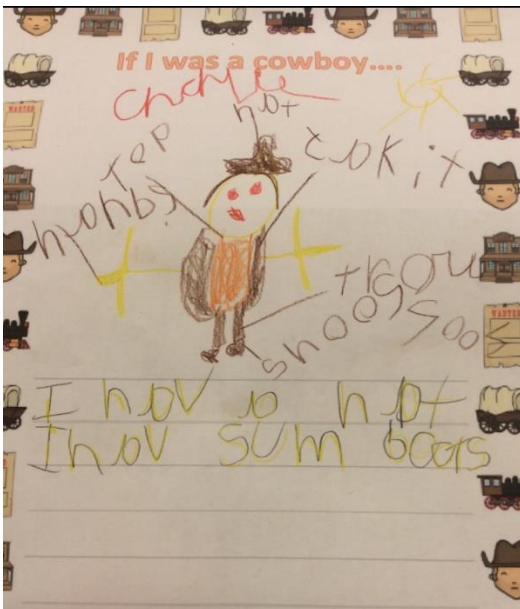
This half term we have been exploring all things seaside with sand play, shells and fishing in the water. We have been learning all about different sea animals and what would a day at the beach look like.

For PE we have been using the Year 1 playground to walk a mile for our William Harding Waddle, we have been encouraged to walk, run, hop, jump or skip our way to our mile. We have even looked at the effects all of that movement has on our bodies. The children were then able to play on the equipment, exploring something new to do and challenging ourselves in different ways.

This half term we have also had our first parent event since COVID which was a huge success, we really enjoyed welcoming all of the families back and getting to know our new families, thank you to all that came along. We look forward to seeing you at our next event - Come and Read on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



## Reception News



In Reception this half term, the children have been learning about 'The Wild West'. The children have learnt about the cowboys, Native Americans and what it is like to live in the Wild West!

In English, we have been reading lots of themed books and have been writing sentences about the cowboys and Native Americans. In maths, we have been thinking about subitising, addition, subtraction and number bonds to 5.

This half term we have been learning about animals and plants that would be found in the Wild West as well as considering where it is on the globe and looking at maps. We have been learning about totem poles and tipi's and why these are important to Native Americans.

The children are excited to continue their learning next half term through our topic of 'Dinosaurs'!

***'I persevere with my writing.  
I keep trying and trying like a  
Keep It Up Captain!'***

## Year 1 News

It's been another fantastic half term in Year 1, with the children impressing us with their amazing work across the curriculum. Our English has focused on Fairy Tales, with the children learning about story language as we explored traditional stories such as Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel & Gretel and How to Catch a Star. In Maths we have practiced telling the time to the half hour, measured height, weight length and capacity and used mathematical vocabulary to describe order and position. In History the children have learnt about Parliament, planned the budget and taken part in an election, whilst in Science we discovered how we can help to preserve our environment through reusing, recycling and renewing. Finally, in DT the children developed their sewing skills by creating t-shirts for teddy bears!

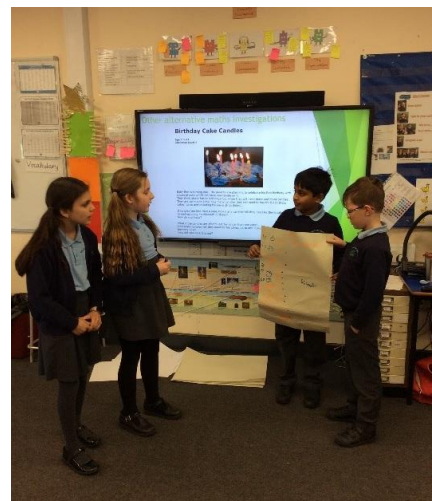


*'They melt plastic and recycle it to make bottles and things' - Maya, Harebell Class*

## Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic half term. In Maths, we have learned about; strategies to solve different operations, fractions, how to tell the time and the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. In English, we have been reading 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark' and 'The Winter's Child' while working on our inference skills and expression when reading. We have explored the rich history of Aylesbury, creating timelines and discussing important historical figures and buildings to the area and have designed and built a bridge in our free-standing structures unit for DT. As we get closer to Easter, all the classes have had the opportunity to put their role-playing skills into practice as we explored the Christian Easter Story in RE. It has been a busy, but productive half term and the Year 2 team are all proud of the progress you have made. Well done. Enjoy your Easter break.

*'A buttress helps hold a structure up, but if you include it in your design, then it isn't free-standing anymore.'*  
Noah, Year 2 pupil



## Year 3 News

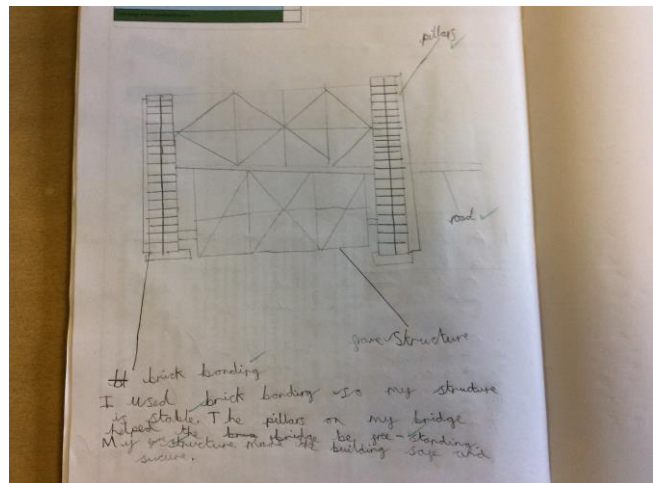
This half term year 3 created an Easter assembly, where the children have all really enjoyed learning a song and they have shown collaboration and perseverance to create a brilliant performance.

In English this half term we have studied Stig of the Dump, we have all loved hearing about Barney's adventures and how his friendship with Stig (a cave boy) has developed. We have looked at direct speech and how the characters talk to one another in the text.

In DT we have looked at healthy eating including what calories are and how we use them. We had fantastic fun planning and then creating our own fruit salad. We learnt new skills including how to cut, peel and grate a variety of different fruits.

In Maths we have looked at different investigations and then we presented our findings to the class. Here is a picture of Willow class presenting their findings.

*'I have really enjoyed reading Stig of the Dump because it is really interesting and you always want to read on. Barney and Stig showed respect towards one another' – Daisy, Year 3 pupil*



## Year 4 News

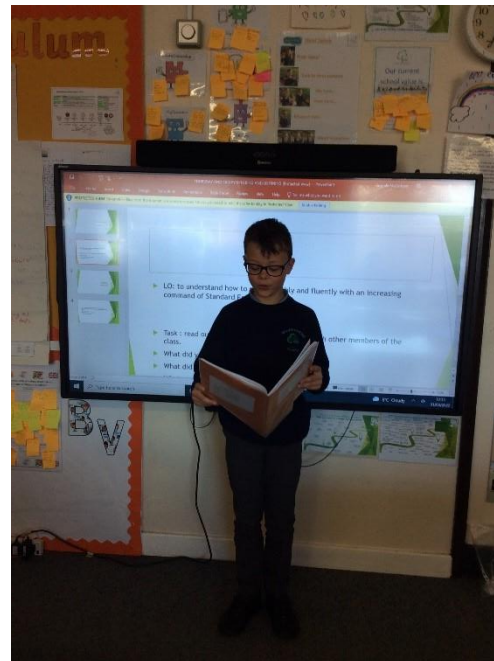
This term in year 4, we have had great fun reading 'Demon Dentist' by David Walliams. The children have loved the expression, the plot lines and using the made-up word alert in their writing!

On World Book Day we compared some of his novels as well for a bit of fun! In Maths we worked at adding and subtracting fractions and finding a fraction of a quantity in arithmetic and also decimal equivalents.

In science, we learnt about how sound is produced and the speed of sound and the children had a very exciting cross curricular write about flying on Concorde.

The children have really enjoyed our history this term and found out lots about the period of history that covers the War of the Roses. In DT we are looking at circuits and making a lamp. A very exciting term overall!

*'I enjoyed history because we were trying to figure out a murder mystery!' - Oscar, Ascott class.*



## Year 5 News

Spring 2 has been another successful half term for Year 5! During assessment week, they showed great perseverance and resilience and it's great to see the progress they have made. Over the half-term, they have enjoyed learning about Baghdad in History as well as learning about different forces during Science lessons.

A highlight of this half-term was our trip to Hazard Alley. All classes represented William Harding excellently and made us extremely proud. They all 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.

*'I found Hazard Alley really interesting because it taught us lots about how to be safe on roads and in cars' - Summer, Manderston class*





## Year 6 News

Year 6 have had a fantastic half term! In English, we have been looking at consolidating all the knowledge we have been developing and now beginning to have more freedom with our extended writing. We have continued reading *Goodnight Mr Tom*, as well as watching the film during SATs week to provide a deeper understanding of the story. We have written for a variety of purposes such as writing a fantasy or action short story and newspaper reports about events at William Harding. Some of our writing has also linked closely to our WW1 History topic, writing setting descriptions of trenches and a diary entry of life as a WW1 soldier. In Maths, we have been thinking about ratios and we've explored shape too; looking at how to calculate the area of 2D shapes and the volume of 3D shapes. As we begin to strengthen our knowledge, we have begun to tackle complex word problems too.



*'I really enjoyed our trip to the Imperial War Museum because it was very interesting. My favourite part was going into a trench.'* - Rainie, Cardiff class



## Head Teacher News

Dear parents and families,

It seems that the term has whizzed by, and here we are at the end of Spring Term already! As ever, it's been a very busy term and with the lifting of COVID restrictions. It has been wonderful to be able to reunite the school community by returning to some face-to-face events and activities.

In March, we were able to hold 'Stay and play' events for Pre-school and Reception, and open classrooms for Years 1 – 6. This was lovely to have our families back in school and an opportunity for you to see your children's classrooms and what they have been learning recently.

We saw a return to external trips and visits with Year 5 going to Hazard Alley as part of our keeping safe curriculum. Year 6 also visited the Imperial War Museum this term. It is wonderful to have a return to our enrichment curriculum again and we look forward to many more experiences for our pupils. The children represented our school impeccably and a great time was had by all.

We have also welcomed back into the school our Governors and external advisors – it has been lovely to work with them in the building again rather than virtual world.

As always, our pupils were excellent during our Fire and Lockdown drills this term to practice what do in an emergency and how to keep safe.

We are so excited to be returning to a full schedule of enrichment clubs when we return for the Summer Term. There are a range of activities on offer from Yoga, Choral and Paper Skills workshops and a range of Sports Clubs. These will run in the mornings, lunchtimes and after school so there is plenty of opportunity for pupils to get involved.

Whether you are away for holiday or spending time at home, I wish you a very Happy Easter break, and look forward to seeing the children return refreshed. A reminder that there is an Inset day on 25<sup>th</sup> April, so we expect to see you all again on the Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you as always for your continued support of our wonderful school.

Best wishes

Miss Cotchin  
Head Teacher