



William Harding School

HARDING HERALD NEWSLETTER



Attendance

As a school we aim for class attendance to be at **96%**.

Well done to Years 1,3,5 & 6 for being above 96%

We look forward to seeing which class will be awarded the Attendance Cup and awards!

Save the children

We are pleased to advise you that we raised **£411.85** for Save the Children.

Thank you for your supporting this wonderful charity

House team and points

House points for this half term;

Rothschild 1571

Hampden 1376

Guttman 1147

Nightingale 471

Well done Rothschild!

School Values, SMSC & BV

Pupils have begun to focus upon SMSC and BV when reflecting on their learning in Art, DT, RE and PSHE as these subjects are great opportunities for pupils to show their understanding. If you wish to find out more about how we show BV or SMSC 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 **INCLUSION** as our school value.

Next half term our School Value will be PERSEVERANCE.

Headteacher News

Dear parents and families,

We have continued to have a fantastic Autumn term here at William Harding.

This term I have been busy meeting pupils for the Pupil Voice meetings and listening to their views. What has come across very clearly is how they love William Harding and how happy they are. All of the Pupil Voice comments are on our website <http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/pupil-voice>

It has also been wonderful to see the Reception Carols performance this week – the pupils were so mature and their crowns were fantastic.

Year 1 also enthralled with their Nativity which they performed very well. I was very impressed with their confidence and spoken narration.

Our half term School Value has been **INCLUSION** and the pupils have been able to show this through our everyday actions. We are lucky to have such an inclusive school with lots of pupils from different backgrounds and cultures. The following gives you an idea of our school community;

- 21% of our pupils speak another language
- 18% of our pupils have a Special Educational Need
- Some of our pupils have specialist education as part of our SEN Additional Resourced Provision

I hope you have a very happy and safe Christmas and we all look forward to seeing you in the New Year on 7th January 2020.

Best wishes, Miss Cotchin - Headteacher



WILLIAM HARDING SCHOOL
Aim high... Work hard... Be kind...

School Website

Our website is developing with new additional pages and tabs including a **WH Voice** section. Here pupils can be reminded or find out about;

- Pupil Voice
- Parent Voice
- Governor Voice
- External Community Voice
- You asked... We did...

We hope you find the website useful and that it will support you and your child whilst at William Harding.

Do not forget to check the website for letters that are uploaded each Friday.

<http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/communications-letters>

'I came to the Year 5 assembly as my child was very excited to share everything he had been learning about Remembrance Day. He even told me I should bring tissues! I just had to say that it was a lovely assembly, one of the best I've seen. The children were so respectful and some of their poems were amazing. Well done to all of Year 5 children and staff!'

Parent November 2019

School Council News

This half term we have been discussing different subjects that affect school life, in and around the classroom, at our weekly meetings. It's great to come together and have different opinions from all across the different year groups. We like to have a voice in school and have a taste of what it's like to make important decisions!

The charity we supported this half term was Children in Need. With everyone's support, we managed to raise £728.90. Thank you for generosity. We also supported and raised money for the charity Save the Children by wearing our Christmas jumpers – everybody looked amazing! Thank you again for your kindness and amazing support.

We look forward to working together next year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Jack on behalf of the School Council



Pupil leaders and Pupil Voice

We have lots of opportunities at WH for pupils to be Pupil Leaders and be involved in school life. In this newsletter you will hear from the **Animal Advocates** - Evie, Madi, Kyla, Chenai, Kiya & Faith to share with you their roles.

'As Animal Advocates we work closely with each other to be inclusive. We think the gerbils are therapeutic and we are looking forward to carrying on with our role and visiting assemblies to share information about the gerbils and when pupils can come and see them at lunchtimes.'

House Captains;

Nightingale: George (Lead), Gracie (vice), Charlotte (vice)

Guttman: Jess (Lead), Madi (vice), Amina (vice)

Hampden: Sami (Lead), Ayla (vice), Isla (vice)

Rothschild: Seth (Lead), Cara (vice), Divya (vice)

House Point Collectors - Chenai, Ethan, Nakshatra & Daniel

PE & Sport at William Harding

What a fantastic term it has been for competitive sport at William Harding. Our boys' football team have continued to perform well and are set up nicely for a positive campaign. The girls' football team are training hard to prepare for a busy fixture list in the New Year.

December brought success with our school teams participating in gymnastics and badminton competitions. Our badminton team, in their first experience of competitive badminton, really impressed. Against a very strong field of teams, they should feel proud of what they achieved in a sport that is new to William Harding. Our gymnastics team competed exceptionally against a huge number of schools. Demonstrating poise, control and creativity our teams did themselves and the school very proud, our Year 3/4 team finishing 7th out of 14 and our Year 5/6 team coming out winners!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the PE Team.

PTA at William Harding

Events this term have been a great success. We received lots of positive feedback following the KS1 and KS2 discos. We really hope your children enjoyed it.

We would like to thank all of the stall holders, volunteers, donations and to all of you that attended the Christmas Bazaar! Thank you to all of you who also bought raffle tickets.

We raised a total of £3,000 which is beyond all of our expectations. We look forward to letting you know what school projects this will be supporting next term and the date of our first AGM.

Thank you again for your support.

Lyn, Natalie and Jane



Nut free school

School Office

Opening times 8.30am – 4pm

Communication – Please advise pupils full name and class when leaving messages and sending emails. Listening to voicemail messages before calling the school back will greatly assist the office staff.

Payments - Cash/cheques are no longer accepted for school trips, all payments to be made on the school Gateway please. Please be aware that parents are not allowed to drive on site during school hours.

Please remember we are a nut free school.

Please do not send in Nutella or similar products.

Please remember this when sending in birthday treats as well. Thank you.

Matron's Message

Winter is in full swing and as you are aware Norovirus and other bugs are prevalent in the school. Please remember that we operate a **48 hour rule** from the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea. Unfortunately we are still having parents sending their children in without adhering to our policy. Can I also remind parents to notify myself of any changes to your child's medical needs or medication in school.

Reception News

This half term we have been learning about dinosaurs. The children have enjoyed learning about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. They have learnt about where dinosaurs live and how they became extinct. We were very lucky to have a visit from a real life dinosaur and learn all about fossils. You can see him here in our KS1 hall.

In English we have been learning how to write words and sentences. In maths we have been learning about counting, shape, length and height!

We have also been busy learning Christmas songs ready for our Christmas performance – we really enjoyed it and had fun. We hope you enjoyed seeing us perform.



Year 1 News

We have had such a busy half term in Year 1!

The children have learnt so much across the curriculum and the progress they have made is obvious in their books and the conversations within the classrooms.

Our favourite lessons by far this half term have been history. The children have remembered all of the names of the important people we have learnt about, used the new vocabulary in their writing and created role plays to show what they have learnt.



Our highlight of the half term, of course, has been the Christmas Performance, the children were such stars and we have all been incredibly proud of them!

'The best bit was our Knowledge Organiser and the key vocabulary in History.' Francis in Snowdrop

Year 2 News

The Year 2 children have been working extremely hard over the last half term and all the staff are proud of the progress they have made.

We have been continuing to look into different text types to discover ways of adding detail to our writing and have moved through two-digit addition and subtraction to begin multiplication and division.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed the History Unit on Charles II, The Great Fire of London, the Plague and learning about life in the 1600's.

Likewise, they have thrown themselves into learning about food hygiene and designing smoothies as well as learning about habitats and life cycles following our Oxford Science Workshop.

We hope you all have a lovely break and look forward to delving into more learning in the Spring Term.

Year 3 News

This term we have read a variety of books including 'Cat in the Hat' and 'King Arthur and Knights of the Round Table'. We have all loved performing 'Cat in the Hat' focusing on rhyming words and learning about the Middle Ages in King Arthur and discussing tricky vocabulary to expand our knowledge of language. We have researched prehistoric Britain; from the Ice Age to the Iron Age. One of the Year 3 children said

'Wow, even the baby mammoth is massive, bigger than us!'



We were very lucky to have an artist in residence spend the day with Year 3. We learnt all about Georgia O'Keefe and created wonderful silk gymnastics equipment within the lessons, inspired by her work, which are going to be displayed along the corridors around the school!

During PE, we have been exploring shape and movement to create sequences within our gymnastics topic. The children have shown good balance, body control and poise.

91% of KS2 pupils said they enjoyed play and lunch times

Pupil Questionnaire 2019

Year 4 News

In English this term, we studied the novel, 'Journey to the River Sea'. We explored the Amazon rainforest and wrote diary entries, explanations and reports on characters and places from the novel study. In maths this term, we revised our multiplication and division number facts, and looked at multi-step word problems. In History, we learned about Vikings and Anglo-Saxons, how they came to be and what they did. We also had an amazing time with the *Vikings: Portals to the Past* incursion and this added to our knowledge of what life was like as a Viking.

"I liked acting as the King and being able to touch all the artefacts Stuart passed around." Blenheim pupil



In Science, we explored the different states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. We experimented and investigated concepts such as evaporation by observing coloured ice cubes melt overtime.

Year 5 News

In SQUIRT this half term, we have been reading the book 'Who Let the Gods Out' by Maz Evans, which has taken us on a journey to the land of Elysium. This text has been hugely engaging and has led the children to write in a variety of genres. In English, we have written letters and diary entries in character as one of our main protagonists, as well as writing both character and setting descriptions.

In History, we have been focusing on Alexander the Great and how he ruled his kingdom, whilst in PSHE we have explored the principles of democracy. This unit was celebrated even further on Greek Day, where the children participated in what was a fantastic day.

During PE, we have been exploring shape and movement to create sequences within our gymnastics topic. The children have shown good balance, body control and poise. A particular highlight has been incorporating a range of gymnastics equipment within the lessons.

Lastly, in DT we have been becoming familiar with CAMS, whilst in Science we have been exploring forces.



Year 6 news

We have had a great second half term in Year 6.

We have covered many areas of work this half term including: fractions, measure and ratio in Maths; persuasive writing, different sentence starters and non-narrative texts in English; investigating electricity and circuits in Science; the suffragettes in History plus many other exciting areas.

In Science this half term, the children have thoroughly enjoyed the topic of electricity;

'The most enjoyable part of science was being shocked at all the experiments' Chenai M.

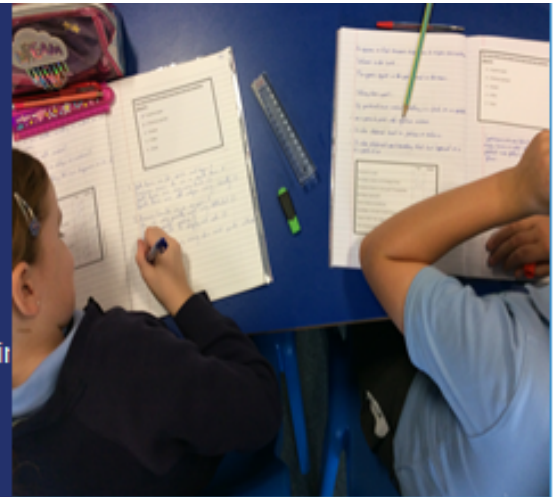
'Working with the people on my table to create different circuits has been the best part' Arthur G.

'I learned how to draw circuit diagrams using the correct symbols' Deepak J.

Our focus for the Spring term will be on our extended writes and ensuring we are showing all our skills.

River Dart Residential

At the start of the term 53 children visited this country park. Once we arrived the pupils settled quickly and soon got stuck in for the week ahead. The children took part in high ropes, caving, kayaking, canoeing, zip wire, crate stacking and rock climbing. Over the week all impressed the staff at William Harding and the River Dart staff by showing confidence, team work, enthusiasm and most importantly enjoyment.



A few quotes from River Dart...

'I liked the high ropes because they are really fun and the challenges were hard but also fun to do.' Holly-Jane

'I enjoyed River Dart because the activities were really challenging but fun. The food was AMAZING! The dorms were really nice.' Gracie

'My favourite part was the caving because it was something new; we got to make mud balls and slide down natural slopes.' Riley

'River Dart is a fun active place. They have thrilling activities such as high ropes and caving. The food was amazing.' George

'Lots of teachers, good rewards, everyone respects each other, gates to keep us safe, fun lessons, cleaners to keep our environment clean, lots of kind children.'

What pupils said was great about our school
Year 4 Pupil Voice November 2019

Pre-school News

This term we have been busy settling in our new children. It is great to see how quickly they have got used to our routines and friendships they are starting to make.

We have been over to main school on a couple of occasions to watch Harvest Festival and Year 1 Nativity and our children really make us proud with how well they cope with new things introduced to them and how lovely they sit while watching the other children.

Lately, we have been very busy getting festive with various Christmas craft and decorating Pre-school.



Today we welcomed a lot of our families to our Christmas family craft Morning (2 year old) and Afternoon (3 & 4 Year old) it was so lovely to welcome you all. Some pictures will be uploaded to Twitter so if you don't already please give us a follow @PreschoolIWH

From all of us at Pre-school we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

‘Teachers having fun, lots of learning, gems, star of the week as we are proud of ourselves, we follow the school values, teachers help us when we are late to get to class.’

What pupils said was great about our school
Year 2 Pupil Voice December 2019

‘Teachers help you learn, reading, partners help us, lots of resources and teachers are kind and helpful, everyone is kind.’

What pupils said was great about our school
Year 3 Pupil Voice November 2019

Linking Project – Year 4 Blenheim Class

This term, Blenheim class participated in the Linking Project with Bierton Combined School. Our first meet at a neutral venue was held at the Scout Hut. On this day, we played question bingo, circle games and shared books with our partner from Bierton in order to get to know them. It was a day full of fun and excitement, and we finished off with a combined art activity where we drew our own identity circles onto a long sheet of wallpaper.



Here is what the children had to say about the project;

“I learned that everyone has similarities and differences.”

“I liked meeting new people.”

Message from our School Counsellor

Dear families,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mrs Pacelli and I have just joined William Harding as the School Counsellor. I am so happy to be here and be a part of such a wonderful school and community! I have spent the past week meeting all of the children here and they truly are incredible. As a School Counsellor, my primary responsibility is to provide emotional and therapeutic support to all pupils. I look forward to offering my support to the pupils, staff, families and community.

I would like the pupils here to think of my room as a warm and friendly place, where they are always welcome. It is also a safe place where they can get help if they feel confused or worried.

Any pupil can request to meet with me or they can be referred by a teacher or parent. I encourage you to reach out if you have concerns regarding your child by speaking to the class teacher or a member of the FLO team.

I'm excited to be here and I look forward to getting to know you and your children!

Kindest Regards,
Mrs Pacelli

Staff changes for January

At the end of this term we say goodbye to staff and take this opportunity to wish them all the best in their new adventures and thank them for their commitment to WH;

Mrs Baxter who has been with us as a supply teacher and is moving on to work in a special school
 Mrs Valiji who has been with us as a supply teacher and is going on maternity leave
 Mrs Loch who has been with us as a supply teacher and is and going back to day to day supply
 Mrs Lania, Miss Durham and Mrs Savage are moving on to new adventures
 Miss Chahal and Mr Pursani are both relocating

I would like to also say thank you to Mrs Sharma who agreed to teach for the Autumn term and will return to her original role of Cover Supervisor. I would also like to thank Mrs Keys and Mr Lambourne who have also stepped in to jointly teach for the last half term. Our pupils are very lucky that we have staff who put the pupils first before themselves.

We also welcome the following to our WH team;

Mrs Zannini into the role of Pre-school Leader and will oversee all of Pre-school
 Mrs Armour who moves from Reception to Pre-school as a Room Leader
 Mrs Pacelli as our new school counsellor
 Ms Cuerden, Ms Lindemann, Ms Crawford, Ms Browne, Miss Bliss, Miss Douglass and Ms John as teachers.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming our new staff and wishing those leaving the very best.

'As a new parent I am really pleased with the communication around my child starting school - I felt the school really wanted us to be happy.'

Parent September 2019

Reminder of who to contact

A reminder of who to contact in line with our updated complaints policy;

1. **Class teacher** – they always aim to build strong relationships and they know your child best
2. **Year Leader** – they will have an overview of the Year group and may be able to offer a greater insight over the year group
3. **Key Stage Leader** – they will have an overview of the Key Stage and staff
4. **Deputy Head teacher** – they line manage and strategically oversee all staff in the Key Stage
5. **Head teacher** – strategic overview of the entire school
6. **Chair of Governors** – who works to support and challenge the work in the school

Please note that the office will always follow this structure and may ask you who you have already spoken to in order to put you through to the right person without delay.

'I have to share how happy I am with all the new changes the school has made - I know you're all working really hard to make the school great!'

Parent Questionnaire July 2019