

William Harding School

HARDING HERALD NEWSLETTER



Get involved in the #ThankATeacher campaign

Teachers and staff find it extremely rewarding to receive acknowledgment from parents and pupils for their hard work and dedication to education.

Thank A Teacher is open all year round, and there is currently a national campaign running that we would like to encourage you to take part in. You can show a special member of staff how much their work is valued by sending a free [Thank a Teacher card](#).

House team and points

House points for Spring term;

Nightingale 5270

Guttman 4999

Rothschild 4875

Hampden 4464

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 **Responsibility**.

Prefects

Due to the current lockdown, the prefects are unable to do their jobs. They are missing having the opportunity to do this and Jia has expressed that she "misses having the responsibility."

Fingers crossed we will be able to safely return to school soon and the prefects can continue working hard, ensuring all children are moving around the school safely and sensibly.

Nut free school

Please remember we are a nut free school.

Please do not send in Nutella or similar products.

If in doubt please ask Matron.

Thank you.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

So far, the school council have discussed ways to improve pupil wellbeing in school. We believe our mental wellbeing is paramount at this time.

We have decided to design and create a suggestion box for each class (when Covid safe), where all pupils can have their say in how to improve our wellbeing in class and out of school.

We also casted a vote and decided that we should have 'mindfulness moments', so each day we should take time to pause and refocus in order to make sense of our thoughts and feelings during this unusual time.

Most classes are using 'Go Noodle' and 'Headspace' to support these 'mindfulness moments'.

Families can also use these websites/apps at home. School council meetings will resume when we are back in school in a Covid-safe way as before.

Useful links to practice mindfulness at home:

<https://family.gonoodle.com>

<https://www.headspace.com/subscriptions>

You can also find free 'Headspace' videos on Youtube.

Please ensure your children are following our internet safety rules at all times.

House Captains;

Nightingale: Joleen P (Lead), Erin C (vice), Jack W (vice)

Guttman: Abigail S (Lead), Charlie C (vice), Brayden W (vice)

Hampden: Jakub K (Lead), Robyn M (vice), Candence T (vice)

Rothschild: Harry H (Lead), Ethan P (vice), Chenai M (vice), Haseeb R (assistant vice)

'My favourite part of this term was making our lanterns in DT. It was awesome!'

Ella
Year 4 pupil

PTA at William Harding

As you are all aware we have not been able to fundraise for the school due to the correct pandemic which has been a great shame as we have had lots of new ideas that we wanted to bring to the school to raise funds for our children.

Unfortunately, we will be looking for a new treasure as the previous person will be stepping down from their role at the end of February.

We will hopefully be holding an AGM meeting in March (date to be confirmed and if we are able to). At this meeting we will be able to discuss future plans and this position. If anyone is interested in this position or has any questions please could they email pta@williamharding.school. We will be more than happy to help.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising/events so if you would like to join us, please email us on pta@williamharding.school. There is also a page on the school website, which has more details about the PTA. www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/pta.

Thank you for your continued support

Lyn and Jane



MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Dear Parents & Families,

With the school closures and the country in lockdown these are especially difficult times. We have found ourselves having to juggle the demands of work and home in equal measure and I am sure many of us have experienced dramatic changes in our regular routines!

As we come to the end of half term however we do have much to be proud of. I have spoken to many of you by phone in recent weeks and shared your concerns and hardships. I have seen your resilience and courage and witnessed your humility, kindness and pride. I have noticed your determination and if I have seen it, your children have also seen it and felt it too.

With the vaccine programme now being delivered across the country we can be hopeful that schools and other aspects of life will gradually return to normal. In the meantime, remember '[The 5 ways to Wellbeing](#)' could help you and your family feel more positive and improve your mental wellbeing.

Relax, self-care and enjoy the break!

Warmest Regards,
Mrs Pacelli

PE & Sport at William Harding

Despite lockdown, William Harding is still keeping active, both in school and at home. Lots of you are taking part in the WH Weekly Challenge and it's great seeing some of you accessing PE at home through timetabled lessons.

We can all do more to keep active during lockdown, to help with this, I am pleased to inform you that we have a dedicated PE & Sport section of our school webpage. Here you will be able to access loads of home learning activities. <http://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/pe-sports>

In case you missed it on our Twitter @schoolhardingPE, **Jasmira in Osborne won the British Dodgeball** at home challenge. She showcased her catching and balancing skills to top their leader board. We are very proud and grateful to Jasmira, especially as the William Harding has won 6 official dodgeballs to enjoy this wonderful game in school.



Pre-school News

This term in the Violet Room we have enjoyed having some fairy tale stories read, we have been particularly exploring Goldilocks and the Three bears, discussing the language of size and scooping and pouring porridge oats.

It's been a very cold half term so we have used it to our advantage by exploring the changes in weather and even painting in the snow and ice, making colourful marks in our garden.

In Poppy and Daisy room this term we have been looking at Fairy Tales. We have learnt all about villains and hero's and who our favourite and least favourite characters are. We have been counting and learning all about recognising numbers around us. We have looked at what we can see in the world around us and what changes we can see in the environment such as hot or cold weather, leaves on the ground and even snow and ice!



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

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.

This half term has been a strange one with some of us learning at home and others learning at school. However, both have been full of learning and the children really loved making their own papier-mâché planets and dressing up as astronauts and aliens on our space dress up day!



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

**'I persevere with my spelling when I find it tricky' and
'Perseverance is when you try and try again until you get it right'**

Poppy and Belle
Reception pupils

Year 1 News

Year 1 have had a brilliant but very busy half term both in school and at home. It has been fantastic to see all the work they have produced.

In English, we have been writing sentences using adjectives and have begun to include a range of punctuation. We have worked hard to use the text to answer questions.

During Maths, we have learnt about shapes and different types of measure.

In Geography, we have learnt all about the United Kingdom and its four countries. The children have loved creating their own lines pictures in Art



Year 2 News

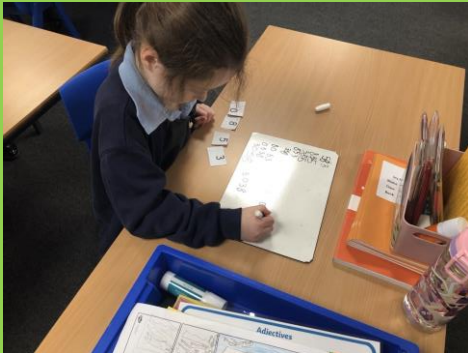
What a strange half term it has been! Your perseverance and dedication this half term has made all of the Year 2 team proud.

Over the past half term, you have learnt so many new skills, even though you've had to contend with siblings, bad internet and crashing devices...

However hard it's been, you've all worked extremely hard whether in school or at home and have produced some amazing portraits in Art, counted tallies, created bar charts and learned to tell the time in maths and explored the words written by Roald Dahl in English.

We have discovered fun facts about the British Isles in Geography and begun our journey into electricity in Science. We've had Mental Health Awareness Day and Perseverance Day to explore and express ourselves.

You've all done an amazing job. Hopefully next half term will see us all back together again and learning in the same classroom.



Year 3 News

This term we have been blown away with the hard work of all of the year 3 students, both in school and online.

Here are some bits we have enjoyed this half term:

Our book this half term was "The Firework Maker's Daughter", which we have all really enjoyed reading.

Holly says, 'I like the book because it was really cool, when Lila entered the fire fiend's grotto!'

During Art we have looked at 2 different artists, Turner and Constable, and have created our own seascapes.

Ryeley has said he has really enjoyed Art because it was fun painting a storm and the ocean.



We also took part in activities about our school value of perseverance.

On Comic Book Book Day
'My villain throws lemons and limes to people to make them slip'.

Emma
Year 2

'I really enjoyed learning a new skill for school values day because I learnt how to do something new. I made an origami fox!'

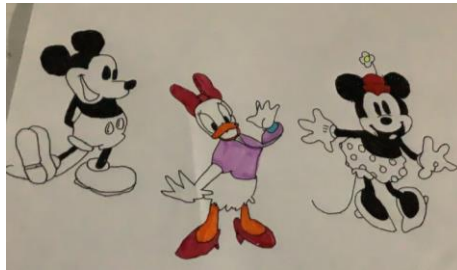
Hibbah
Year 3

Year 4 News

This term, Year 4 have gone on a journey of a lifetime with Michael across the world in our novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom', wrote instructions on how to sail a boat and a deep diving information piece about orcas. Did you know they can live for 50 to 90 years?

With our Maths hats on, we looked at multiplying three-digit numbers and dividing through the part-whole model even some with remainders.

In Science, we learnt how to create our own food chains including a decomposer, producer, consumers and apex predators. In Geography, we have been exploring and comparing the features of different settlements such as hamlets and cities. In Art, foreground, middle ground and background were vital when we created our own landscape drawings and finally DT we finished off by designing a luxurious lantern.



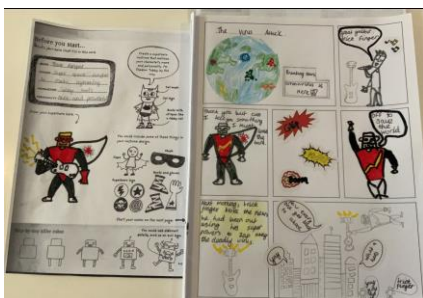
Ellie's Disney art from themed week

Year 5 News

What a strange half term this one has been! Despite the challenging circumstances, we, as a year group, have been so impressed by Year 5's attitude and the work they have produced whether they have been in school or learning at home.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed entering the world of Narnia while reading 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. While reading, we have also learnt about evacuees and what it might have been like for them during World War 2. One member of Hughenden enjoyed learning about this so much, they conducted their own research and found out their grandfather was a host to evacuees.

A highlight of this half-term was Comic Book Day, during which we read different comic books and created our own superhero who became the star of our own comic book story. Here is an excellent example from one of Cliveden's home learners:



Hopefully we will see you all soon; take care and stay safe!

Year 6 news

This half term, Year 6 have been doing some excellent work both in school and remotely from home. We really enjoyed our theme week and having the chance to do some different types of learning to focus on spoken language skills. The children wrote speeches about their dreams for the world and their dream cities to live in which were fantastic to read and – even better – we were able to share some of them by recording ourselves on ClassDojo.

Comic book day was also a fantastic success and we thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of the different superheroes that the children came up with and reading all about them in their information texts. In the afternoon, we created our own comic books which were enormous fun to read and helped us to show off our dialogue writing skills.



"I liked theme week, it was fun to do some different things and I liked comic book day"

Year 6 pupil

Head Teachers News

Dear parents and families,

What a start to the Spring term! With very little notice, late on 4th January Boris Johnson announcing immediate school closures, I am so proud of our teachers and support staff for taking on this challenge to get the remote learning up and running as quickly and efficiently as possible.

With large scale change there can be initial problems, but we have worked through them and together, I believe we have overcome them successfully. Thank you for all your positive messages and feedback we have received acknowledging what this has taken to achieve and the new style of remote learning. Your support always means a lot to the staff.

Whilst the majority of children are learning remotely – I know the staff miss you all greatly. The school has still been open for Key worker, Vulnerable and EHCP pupils and it is my role to ensure that we do not go over a safe capacity during these times.

With the introduction of ClassDojo as our platform for remote learning, we would like to say a huge thank you to Tanswell Technology Ltd, Aylesbury for donating several electronic devices to enable us to supply some families with the much-needed equipment to help with home learning.

I have seen some amazing work shared with teachers via ClassDojo, well done to you and your children for adapting to learning this way, I know this has been no mean feat. I do also appreciate that it is a struggle for many children and parents or carers, I know some of you are also working from home, but you are all doing so well.

Please be reassured that we are still here to support you and your child/ren, so please contact us via the office if you need additional help and your class teacher or a member of the FLO or SEN team will be in touch.

For your continued reassurance, self-testing Covid kits were issued to the school for staff testing soon after we returned at the start of January. Staff are testing twice a week before they come to school to ensure that the risk is kept to a minimum as much as possible. We are of course also following all our previous safety measures.

I am thrilled that Star of the week and Be Kind awards and our Star of the Half term are still in place to support and motivate pupils. These have been awarded to both pupils in school and those who remote learning. The marking response on ClassDojo has also been successful at boosting pupil morale whilst at home.

As always, a reminder about who you can speak with, the 'Who to Contact sheet' is on our website at the top of the 'Communications and Letters' page for your ease.

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

If it important that you speak with the class teacher in the first instance as they know your child.

I'm sure many of you will be looking forward to life returning back to as normal as possible, and we look forward to welcoming all our pupils and families back to school as soon as it is safe to do so. We of course will share any information we receive from Government but please do remember we usually hear at the same time you do when Boris announces to the nation.

Please take time to enjoy half term if you can and keep safe. We look forward to seeing those pupils currently in the building back on Tuesday 23rd and those of you remote learning re-engaging.

Take care and keep safe,

Miss Cotchin

'It has been fun working together with other Children. I loved solving problems and trying to find the correct answer!'

William
Year 1 pupil

'I like my work from home as it's interesting and fun. I like all the subjects we are doing and the teachers have made it easier to understand which makes me want to learn.'

Georgia
Year 5 pupil