



William Harding School

Harding Herald Newsletter



House Points

Rothschild 6343

Guttman 6570

Hampden 6892

Nightingale 6131

House Captains

This half term we did netball for the inter-house competition. It was exciting to watch all the matches even though it was in classes not whole years. We also had an assembly about our school value: responsibility. We explained to everyone how to be responsible and good characteristics to have if you are responsible. As well as this, we found the house point totals in the whole school and updated the score weekly.

House Captains

Head Teacher News

Dear Parents and Families,

We arrive at the end of the Spring Term after another half term full of wonderful learning opportunities and experiences across the school. These have included Reception's Wild West pony visit, a trip to Bedgrove Park for Year 1 and the Y4 residential trip to Woodrow.

We were delighted to see so many of you in school when you came to talk to your child/ren's teachers at parents evening and I know you appreciated the opportunity to also speak with your child/ren's teachers virtually too to help fit around busy lives.

We enjoyed World Book Day again this year with lots of fantastic costumes and some fabulous homemade creations. It was great to see the children immerse themselves in the activities to celebrate our love of books and the enjoyment reading brings.

The School Council invited everyone to join them in raising money to support Comic Relief with Red Nose Day. The school was awash with everyone dressed in red and pupils came armed with their favourite joke which they loved sharing during their enrichment time! As well as being lots of fun, the children also learnt about the issues facing young people across the world, and how the money we raise through supporting charities can help those less fortunate than ourselves.

We were very pleased to see Open Classrooms so well attended again and to know that this is such a popular event with families. If you have not been able to attend one of these events before, Open Classroom gives you the opportunity to come into the classroom with your child/ren to look at their books and to see the fantastic work they have been doing. They're always so proud to share all their hard work with you.

The Easter Craft afternoon was another lovely way to enjoy the end of the spring term. It was delightful to have the school filled with families joining their children to take part in fun themed craft activities.

Please be reminded that you can find dates and times of all our upcoming events on our school calendar <https://www.williamhardingschool.co.uk/new-datesevents?view=calendar&month=01-2024>

I hope you all have a relaxing half term spending time with friends and families and I know we are all looking forward to longer days, lighter evenings and hopefully some warmth too.

I look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 16th April; please note that we have an inset day on Monday 15th April and the school is not open to pupils.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Miss Cotchin
Head Teacher

Governors

Dear Parents and Families,

On behalf of the Governing body, and as a parent myself, it was a pleasure to attend the parents evening on the 27th February. Parents evening is a key opportunity to observe the interaction between teachers, parents and pupils. I took the opportunity to have an informal chat with parents throughout the evening and, with my daughter as my helper, encouraged participation in the annual Parents Survey. We would like to thank all of you who were able to provide your invaluable feedback and hope the survey was straightforward and quick to complete. Your feedback will be reviewed and key points raised with the school.

We wish all pupils and their families a very happy Easter break and look forward to the excitement of the summer term.

Matt Robinson – Parent Governor

Premises



Premises Update

We have a lovely new front desk that is being permanently glazed this holiday. The new arrangement has provided much needed protection for the office team against the elements and also an additional level of safety for our pupils and staff. Thank you for your patience while this work has been taking place.

We are very fortunate to have had new desktop computers installed over the last half term, meaning pupils and staff are now working on up to date, faster machines and software.

We have converted the bungalow in our new Forest Building. It will be a perfect base for SEN / FLO family coffee mornings and family events run by the school or the local authority. This has four freshly decorated rooms, varying in size and available to let for small gatherings, meetings etc. It also has a brand-new kitchen. If you are interested in finding out more about hiring this as a venue, please contact the office.

Miss Judge – Business Support Manager

School Council

During the Spring term, each of the School Council members have been ensuring all of the children in their classes have had the opportunity for their voice to be heard in their Class Council meetings. This has included giving their peers the opportunity to vote for their 'Teacher of the Year' in the Buckinghamshire Council School Awards. As we could only have one nomination per school, in our School Council meeting, we collected all of the nominations and counted to see who had the most votes. We had a brilliant session, filled with democracy, individual liberty and mutual respect. The winner of the voting session was Mr Rayner, with the majority vote. A massive congratulations and well done to Mr Rayner who is our Sports Coach!

The School Council were also involved with raising money for Comic Relief by taking part in our 2024 Red Nose Day! Children and staff were encouraged to wear red and donate to support the cause. Overall, we raised an incredible £462.84. Thank you for all of your generous contributions!

Miss Brown - Reception teacher and Mrs Sharp - AHT

@SchoolHarding Twitter Account

Many of you follow already but for those of you who don't, the [@SchoolHarding](#) is our whole school Twitter account where we share all the wonderful things that we do at William Harding.

We post regularly to keep parents/carers involved in school life e.g. helping select our chosen value for the half term, Friday Sporting Challenges and information about external events or organisations that may be of use to our community.

Thank you for all of you that follow us already and participate in the polls and like our posts - it is very much appreciated and, alongside Friday Comms, hopefully gives you a taste of what we get up to at William Harding.

Twitter does not replace our usual communication methods e.g. Gateway and Friday Comms, but will celebrate learning and sporting successes, special events and activities plus any moments and information we would like to share.

We look forward to having more parents and carers follow us!

Mr Liddle – Behaviour & Community Lead

PE News

PE & Sport

This term the pupils in both KS1 and KS2 have been learning a variety of sporting activities such as tennis, dance, ball skills, netball and hockey! The pupils have also been enjoying a wide range of lunchtime activities such as skipping, netball matches, different sporting challenges and activities run by the sports leaders.

Year 3&4 had Buckinghamshire Cricket Club come in and run engagement days for the pupils. The pupils had a really enjoyable day, learning a variety of different skills such as throwing, catching, fielding and bowling. It was fantastic seeing some of our pupils take such an interest in the sport.

Competitions

This term has been really busy for football matches with the girls A team and boys B team being undefeated all season. The girls A team are currently in the quarter finals of the cup! We wish all pupils good luck for the rest of season. There are lots of matches and festivals booked in for next term.

Thanks to all parents and pupils who have sent in their sporting achievements for the display board. This is looking fantastic! If you have any sporting achievements you would like to share, please make sure to email the Office.



Mr Rayner – PE Department

Pre-School News

We have had a fun filled term at Preschool. Our topic this term has been 'the beach'. We have transformed our outdoor areas across the provision to a beach hut theme. Violets have explored making sensory ice cream out of foam, food colouring and paper cones. Poppy and Daisy room froze sea animals and explored melting ice. We made jelly fish out of paper plates and coloured tissues.

We have all been involved in science experiments. The pupils have really enjoyed this and all the rooms came together for the experiments. We carried out a Coke and Mentos experiment, a skittles rainbow experiment and milk repelling experiment. The children were very intrigued and had lots of questions. The staff got stuck in wearing hard hats and goggles. Violets explored mixing colours together and seeing them change.

This term we have also celebrated Mother's Day, World Book Day, Ramadan and Red Nose Day.



"It's gone really high!" - Luke

Miss Parveen – Pre-School

Reception News

In Reception this half term, we have had a great time learning about the Wild West! We have been exploring the globe, looking for the Native American countries and we have been learning all about their culture. To link with our topic, we have made totem poles, played some games from the past and experimented with colour mixing to paint a Wild West setting. The pupils loved the cowboy dress up and they have had a great time riding the horses around the Giraffe house. We really enjoyed our cowboy dress up day, all of the pupils looked great and had a great time! In English, we have been learning to read and write sentences all around our topic of the Wild West. In Maths, we have been working on our number bonds and addition and subtraction. We are looking forwards to next half term!



"There are 7 continents and America is one of them, that's where the Wild West is" - Gus

Miss Beaney – Reception

Year 1 News

It's been a fantastic half term in Year 1, with the pupils impressing us with their amazing work. 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. We also practiced our writing skills and are beginning to write stories using story language. In Maths we have practiced telling the time to o'clock and half hour and measured weight and used mathematical vocabulary to describe order and position. In History the pupils have learnt about Parliament 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 pupils developed their creative and imaginative skills by creating an animal sock puppet.



“We always put paper in our recycling boxes ready for it to be reused” - Alfie

Miss Garner – Year 1

Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a great half term once again! We've enjoyed reading The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark in our SQUIRT sessions and wrote some excellent narratives inspired by the story as well as advice letters to Plop the Owl. Although learning how to tell the time and calculate with money has been challenging, we have never stopped persevering during our Maths lessons. We have found learning about the growth of Aylesbury and key events really interesting during our History lessons and really enjoyed designing and making our own pencil cases in DT. This half term also gave us the opportunity to become botanists during our science lessons and we found it really exciting learning about what plants need by planting, growing and observing our own daffodil bulbs and cress seeds.



“I've liked doing DT because we got to do lots of decorating” - Aria

Miss Wainwright – Year 2

Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a fantastic this half term. The pupils really enjoyed dressing up on World Book Day and talking about their favourite books and characters. In Reading, the children have enjoyed reading 'The Stig of the dump' and have wrote some lovely persuasive writing in English. In Maths, Year 3 have been learning how to multiply and divide 2 digits by 1 digit and describing properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They also had the opportunity to draw and construct 2D and 3D shapes. In History, we have been focusing on Egypt and have learnt about the importance of the River Nile and have found out some amazing facts about Pharaohs. In DT, we have been looking at healthy eating and what consists of a good diet and we will be making their own fruit salad!



"I really enjoyed the Maths lesson when I made the 3D shapes. It was fun!" - Charlie

Miss Farid – Year 3

Year 4 News

Year 4 have had a spectacular half term full of fantastic learning and great adventures. In English, we have been reading the award winning 'Demon Dentist'. They have used the book to inspire their writing about character descriptions and persuasive letters. In Maths, we have been focusing on comparing money and finding fractions of an amount. During History lessons, we have been learning about the iconic War of the Roses including the Battle of Bosworth Field. In addition to this, the pupils investigated the mysterious disappearance of King Richard III's nephews. Science this half term has been all about the topic Sound. The pupils have learnt a vast amount of information about how sound is made and enjoyed making and explaining string telephones. Finally, we had a fantastic time at our residential trip to Woodrow this year where the children had a great opportunity to practice our school values.



"I had the best time at Woodrow. It was so much fun to be with all my friends and do exciting activities" - Oliver

Mrs Valji – Year 4

Year 5 News

Year 5 have had yet another fantastic half term! The pupils have continued to work hard and persevere through their challenges and really impressed us with their resilience and focus during assessment week. Our trip to the Odeon cinema was a success, with the children really impressing us by representing the school fantastically! The work the children have been producing in class has continued to impress us and they have written some great extended writes based around the poem 'The Highwayman' in addition to cross curricular writes around the Science topic of 'forces' and the history topic of 'Baghdad 900CE: City of Peace'. In Science, the children got a chance to be creative and inquisitive while investigating the impact of air resistance on different size parachutes; they really enjoyed seeing their knowledge in action!



"The bigger the parachute, the greater the air resistance and the slower it will fall" - Rares

Mr Fuller – Year 5

Year 6 News

What another fantastic half term it has been in Year 6 with the pupils continuing to impress! In our final push before SATs, the pupils have shown an incredible attitude to their learning and desire to achieve the best they can. Due to this, we have rewarded the children with an extended 45 minutes break time on Wednesday afternoons. As well as this, we watched Goodnight Mr Tom in assessment week to reward the children for all their efforts and because they really enjoyed the book in our SQUIRT lessons this term.

In Science, the children have enjoyed learning about light and how it travels. We have also enjoyed learning all about America in Geography, looking at different countries located across America, the different biomes, the rivers and their importance, urbanisation and the Incan Empire and the challenges they overcame.



"I really liked the DT lesson because I liked opening our t-shirts and seeing how they turned out" – Kanchan

Mr Irwin – Year 6