



Dear Widmer End families,

The children have all come back to school this week raring to go and telling us all about their half-term adventures! It has been lovely to have them all back and we are excited about Spring arriving very soon to Widmer End.

In Monday's assembly, the children began learning about Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman into space and a person to inspire us all to be more curious in life. Some of our merit badge winners today were chosen if they had achieved our citizenship target of asking lots of questions - an essential part of demonstrating curiosity.

Two more exciting trips happened this week, with Reception class visiting a farm to explore and find out more about where their food comes from; and Year 3 going to the Ashmolean Museum to give them more information for their Ancient Egypt topic. It is wonderful how many wonderful opportunities the children have off site to enrich their learning experiences. Thank you, as always, to parents and family members who give up their time to accompany the children and ensure the trips can go ahead. We really couldn't do it without your support.

Don't forget that Monday brings the start of World Book Week. We have the Book Fair happening from Tuesday which runs until Friday. Please come along to one of the sessions with your children to buy some books or order off their wishlists which they will be bringing home on Monday. Please come and help us if you can, too, as we still need some volunteers to record sales. Children can dress up as a book character on Thursday 6th March or simply bring in something to do with their favourite character - all to celebrate everything books! More information in the letter attached.

And finally, thank you for completing the online survey about digital childhoods that we sent out before Christmas. We had a huge response from parents across all of the schools in the partnership and now have data that represents the thoughts and views of nearly a thousand parents in the local area. Thank you for your patience whilst we look at the responses and pull the data together for analysis. We are not experts in this area so it will take us a little time. What is already clear from the data is that many parents share our concerns about the effects of smartphone and tablet use on children and there does seem to be a desire for local schools and families to work together in partnership on this issue. We will be in a position to begin to shape what that looks like after we have analysed the data. We hope to be in touch towards the end of the Spring term, with some initial responses and a date for the first parent forum.

Have a wonderful weekend and see you all in March!

*Mrs Marshall*



## Dates for your Diary

### Monday 3rd March

- Reception Height & Weight Measurements with the School Nursing Team

### Tuesday 4th March

- Travelling Book Fair - All Week!
- National Offer Day for Secondary School Places

### Thursday 6th March

- World Book Day

### Friday 7th March

- PTA Hot Dog Day!
- Year 5 Handball Tournament at HGSS

### Monday 10th March

Science Week

### Tuesday 11th March

- PTA Mothers Day (shhh) Photos - [BOOK HERE!](#)

## Spotlight On SEND!

### 5 Easy Emotional Regulation Activities For Kids

Each day we face many different emotionally stimulating situations that require emotional reactions or responses.

Emotion self-regulation is one of a child's biggest developmental tasks. Whether or not children can regulate their emotional state and responses can affect relationships with both families and peers.

[Click here](#) if you are interested to read more about developing this important life skill

Please contact Mrs Ross-Wood for any SEND related enquiries. [SEND@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:SEND@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk)

## SEND Support Phone Line

We are open everyday between 10am and 4pm and until 6pm on Tuesdays. The line is for parents, professionals and anyone with enquiries about SEND in Buckinghamshire.

Please note that the support line is open between 10am and 2pm during school holidays and is closed on Bank Holidays.

**01296 382135**

## Attendance

School average this academic year

← **95.4%**

This week:

**Reception** - 97.78%

**Year 1** - 95.24%

**Year 2** - 96.12%

**Year 3** - 97.53%

**Year 4** - 95.14%

**Year 5** - 97.92%

**Year 6** - 97.49%

Enjoy some fresh air in the sunshine, whilst it lasts!



## New Shed Appeal!

Our old PE shed is getting on a bit and we've noticed it is starting to fall into disrepair. We would love to replace the shed with a robust, metal version, with secure concrete base and safe path from the school hall door, to the shed.

### We need your help!

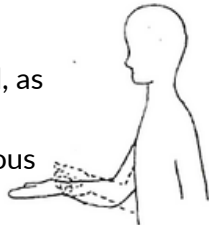
If anyone is in a trade that could be of assistance to make this vision a reality, please get in contact with Mrs Weaver in the school office. We have some ideas for the actual shed but really don't know where to start with help to 'dig out' and create the concrete base. We are hoping that our wonderful school community will come to the rescue!



Picture for attention purposes!

## Learn Makaton With Miss Allen

We are learning about curiosity in school, as one of our values. Here's the sign for 'to find'. Encourage your children to be curious at home!



## Wear Purple For Epilepsy Awareness

The 26th March marks **Purple Day**, the international day for epilepsy. To help raise awareness of epilepsy and to assure people with epilepsy that they are not alone, we ask that children and staff wear purple for the day. This can be just one item of clothing, or a whole purple outfit! It will be a full mufti, so no uniform will be required.



## House Mascots Unveiled!



Thank you for all the wonderful entries for the house mascot designs, choosing the winners and runners-up was almost impossible!

All entries gained 5 house points, with runners up gaining 8 and the winners gaining a huge 15 house points!

Please see the winning designs attached to this email.

## PTA Updates!

### Easyfundraising - Friday 28th February

Today is the last chance to raise £2 each for the school for simply downloading the Easyfundraising app and selecting Widmer End School Association. As they say, every little helps!

If you go through the app before doing your shopping you will raise funds for school every time, at no cost to you. Thank you!

### Hotdog Day - Friday 7th March

Pre-bookings only - please remember to send your child with a packed lunch if you haven't booked for Hotdog day!

### Mothers Day Gift Event - Tuesday 11th March


During the school day we are offering the chance for your child/ren to create a personalised gift especially for Mothers Day.


We know that this has been popular previously, so we are bringing it back again this year! If you would like your child/ren to take part, please book here: [www.pta-events.co.uk/widmerend](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/widmerend)

### Circus - Wednesday 4th June

We are excited to announce that Happys Circus will be coming to Widmer End School in their travelling big top on Wednesday 4th June 2025! Tickets are £12.50 per person, but we are selling at an early bird rate for £10.50 pp if you book by 4th April. Feel free to share with family and friends, everyone is welcome!




If you would like to get involved in planning the Circus with the PTA team, please let us know at [pta@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:pta@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk)

 easyfundraising

 **The Free £2**

App-eal

**How you can support us for free**

-  Download the easyfundraising app
-  Sign up as our supporter
-  Once registered, we'll get a £2 donation!



## Year 3 Ashmolean Trip

Year 3 had an amazing time at the Ashmolean Museum, becoming Ancient Egyptian detectives and even handling some real Ancient Egyptian artefacts.

We started on a treasure hunt looking for games, jewellery, pots and dangerous creatures amongst the exhibits. We saw the shrine of Taharqa and learned about how the Pharaoh was shown on the walls alongside hieroglyphics and depictions of some gods, including Amun.

The children handled an ancient mirror, axe head and statue base. Everyone was fascinated by the mummies on display, as well as all of the incredible objects from thousands of years ago.

See more photos on our website's class pages [HERE](#).

Ms Atkins



## Reception Farm Adventure

This week Reception visited Newbarn Farm to launch our 'Farm to Fork' learning and explore where our food grows. We learnt all about compost, visited their vegetable patch, met the chickens, planted peas, sorted food into different categories and learnt all about how to make bread.

It was a really fun morning out and were so lucky with the weather!

Please see more photos on our website's class pages [HERE](#).

Miss Ilić



## Pre-School Updates

Welcome back after half term. We hope you all had a lovely week making new memories and spending time with your children.

This week, we have been looking at The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We have read the story and talked about how the caterpillar 🐛 changed into a butterfly 🦋. The children created some lovely caterpillars using paints and sponges and were able to use repeating patterns whilst doing this. We also created a number caterpillar. The children worked together to name, recognise and sequence 1-15, before decorating each number and then placed them on display as a caterpillar.

We have started our new literacy scheme this week and the story was Neon Leon, all about a chameleon who cannot change colour. Can you remember how this made Leon feel? What were our special words this week from the story?



Have a lovely weekend and don't forget to look in the sky tonight for the planets!

Deborah



## Parents Evening Dates Announced!

Bookable on the 6th March from 9am, the following dates are for your spring term parents evenings:

- Monday 31st March 3:40pm-6:40pm
- Wednesday 2nd April 4pm-7pm

Please mark these in your calendar, bookings are made through your Arbor app.

## Merit Awards

**Special Merit Award winners this week are:**

- Year R - Daniel & Spencer
- Year 1 - Nyah-Grace & Sara
- Year 2 - The Whole Class!
- Year 3 - The Whole Class!
- Year 4 - Owen & Violet
- Year 5 - Alfie S & Poppy
- Year 6 - Hakimah & Codey

**Congratulations and thank you for being excellent role models to your peers!**

