

Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

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Wednesday 22nd October (4)

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Dear Widmer End families,

What a fantastic end to the half term! Our Year 2 pupils took part in an amazing Great Fire of London workshop this week, which really brought their history topic to life. The children were completely engaged throughout the day and it helped them understand what life was like in 1666. Staff leading the workshop commented on how polite, enthusiastic, and exceptionally well-behaved our pupils were. They were a real credit to the school, and we are so proud of them.

Our Year 3 class also impressed us all with their incredible Harvest Assembly. Their singing, speaking, and confidence on stage were a joy to see. They demonstrated our school values of unity, courage and kindness beautifully. We were also delighted to welcome Helen Foster from the One Can Trust, who joined us to thank the children and families for their generous food donations – your contributions make such a difference to local families in need.

Last week's school disco was a huge success and great fun for everyone! A very big thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising the event, and to all the staff and parents who helped make it such an enjoyable evening for the children. Some of our wonderful pupils even ran a neon competition to raise money for the rainforest - please see further details below on their fantastic fundraising.

We have some very exciting news to share! After a long wait, the school has finally been matched with a volunteer therapy dog through the Pets As Therapy charity. Our new furry friend, Clara, will be joining us after half term. She will be working with different year groups, taking part in activities such as reading sessions, as well as supporting pupils with their emotional health and wellbeing. Clara has been carefully assessed for her gentle nature and suitability for school life. We are thrilled to welcome them both to our school community. More information about Clara's visits, including how sessions will be organised and how parents can give consent for participation, will be sent out after half term.

Thank you all for your continued support and contributions to Widmer End this half term. It's been a busy but rewarding few weeks, and we couldn't do it without the dedication of our pupils, families, and staff.

Have a wonderful half term and enjoy a much-needed break.

Mrs Hillier



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 23rd October

- ADD+Venture Club Camp Begins

Monday 3rd November

- School re-opens 8:30am
- Mrs Thurston Drama session for Y6

Tuesday 4th November

- MF Martial Arts Sessions for R-6
- Mrs Thurston Drama session for Y6

Wednesday 5th November

- Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents 1:45pm
- Parents Evening 4-7pm

Friday 7th November

- Year 1 Trip to Bucks Museum
- PTA Hot Dog Day! [Book Here](#)
- Year 2 Football Tournament at HGSS
- Mrs Thurston Drama session for Y6

Monday 10th November

- Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying
- Development Team Football Match vs Hannah Ball - HOME

Tuesday 11th November

- Armistice Day Service at Widmer End Village Hall
- Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm

Thursday 13th November

- U11s League Football Team Match vs Highworth Combined School - AWAY

Friday 14th November

- World Diabetes Day
- Children In Need - [Link to Donate is Here](#)
- Year 5 Sharing Assembly 9am

Monday 17th November

- AIM High Writers Day - Select Y6
- Year 5 Viking Workshop

Tuesday 18th November

- Whole School Flu Vaccinations



Awards This Fortnight

Shining Star



Merit Awards



- Year R - Daniel & Nathan
- Year 1 - Florence & Ivy
- Year 2 - Riley & Henry G
- Year 3 - Lucy & Malakai
- Year 4 - Niamh & Noah
- Year 5 - Jennifer & Emily
- Year 6 - Poppy & Florence

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

Football Results

Wow what a week for the Year 6 football team. They got off to an incredible start on Monday with a huge victory against King's Wood School! Great sportsmanship shown by both teams. A real joy to watch.

Thursday saw us take on Manor Farm, District Cup Champions. Manor Farm took an early lead but we remained calm with Arlo making it 1-1 shortly after. We then took the lead. Manor Farm fought hard and brought it back to 2-2. Their goalkeeper stopped everything that came his way. We showed incredible team spirit and perseverance paid off with a winner strike from Joshua. Another impressive performance.

Mrs Tudge



Attendance

School average this academic year

96%

The last 9 days:

Reception - 96.32% - 7 Late Marks! 😱

Year 1 - 94.21% - 2 Late Marks!

Year 2 - 89.62% - 9 Late Marks! 😱

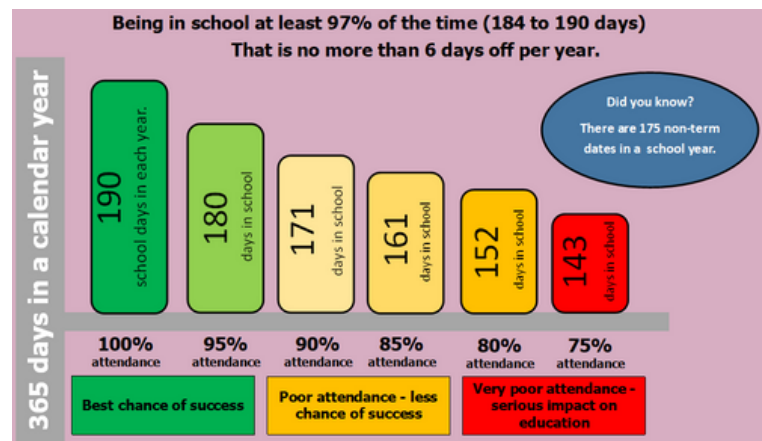
Year 3 - 90.26% - 2 Late Marks!

Year 4 - 94.7% - 2 Late Mark!

Year 5 - 98.55% - 8 Late Marks! 😱

Year 6 - 92.15% - 2 Late Marks!

As you are aware at the end of every half term & term we are obliged by the Department of Education to share your child/rens attendance with you via standard letters. If your child's attendance falls below 95% (expected level) or is at 90% or below (Persistent Absentee) you will receive an additional letter that will highlight a specific concern according to the Department of Education's guidelines. Please know that, as a school, we are here to support you with your child's attendance so please do contact us if we can assist you in any way. We do understand children become ill or may have barriers that affect their attendance. However, if we have significant concerns as a school surrounding your child's attendance, we will contact you directly at any point within the term.



Every Minute Counts!

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING
(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

- 5 Minutes late each day **3 days lost!**
- 10 Minutes late each day **6.5 days lost!**
- 15 Minutes late each day **10 days lost!**
- 20 Minutes late each day **13 days lost!**
- 30 Minutes late each day **19 days lost!**

Be at the classroom on time and ready to learn!



Pre-School Updates

Well we made it! It always seems like a very long first term for the children but they have all settled really well and are enjoying Pre-School life.

This half term, we have looked at the 'All About Me' and the children have loved making pictures of themselves by looking in the mirror and exploring their senses.

As it's harvest, we've looked at the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. Through listening to the story, we have learnt that it is really kind to help out friends and others. Always be kind!

Last week we went on an autumn hunt. Looking for different things by using our senses. What could we see? What could we smell? What could we hear? What could we feel? The children loved this experience, so I'm sure we'll do it again.

The leaves have started to fall and so we made autumn stained-glass windows. When the sun shines (I didn't say when!) the colours look lovely.

We are working hard on our number recognition and counting. It would be lovely if you could support your child with this. Anything can be counted and there are so many numbers to see when you are out and about. What door numbers can you see on your way home? What numbers are on the cars? You could even have a tick sheet of numerals 1-10 to find.

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing you all back with stories of your adventures.

Deborah



Martial Arts Sessions

Children in Years R-6 will be treated to MF Martial Arts sessions on Tuesday 4th November. Please ensure your child wears PE kit on this day, in preparation for a fun session!



Healthy Lunch Reminder

Unfortunately, we have seen a few lunchboxes popping up with no healthy food in sight! Please remember that sweets and chocolate bars/snacks are not permitted in lunches, due to the risk of allergens and the amount of sugar. Try these simple swaps to make lunchboxes a bit healthier and just as tasty!

🍫 Swap: Chocolate bar → For: Yogurt-covered raisins or a homemade flapjack square

🍟 Swap: Crisps → For: Rice cakes, popcorn, or veggie sticks with hummus

🍪 Swap: Biscuits → For: Oatcakes with cheese or fruit slices

🍰 Swap: Shop-bought cake → For: Homemade banana muffin or fruit loaf

Thank you for helping keep our children healthy and ready to learn!

Tree Surgeons Gain a Fan Club

We had some excited Reception & Pre-School children last week, as heavy machinery was on-site!

Mrs Hillier contracted [Bartlett Tree Experts](#) to reduce the height and overhanging branches of some of our mature trees, to improve our neighbours' light into their gardens and to ensure the car park is safe for all. We always wait until after nesting season, so that no feathered or furry creatures are harmed!

Bartlett Tree Experts were polite, experienced and we will use them again when needed. Please contact them for a quote if needed, feel free to mention our name!





Value Of The Term

UNITY



"You don't have to live next to me; just give me my equality."

In our Values assembly on Monday, Mrs Marshall told the children about how successful Nina Simone's singing career was and how she inspired so many singers and artists with their songwriting, too. The children were encouraged to think about our citizenship target of appreciating others, regardless of differences and they also considered our linked value of 'acceptance'. Children told each other about what they learnt during Black History Month and Mrs Marshall finished the assembly with some information about the festival of Diwali, which is being celebrated this week.



Reception Create Fairy Bread!



Reception have been learning about Australia and this week made fairy bread, which is a traditional food at children's parties. They were very excited to spread butter on their bread, put the sprinkles on top and eat it! The children all said they would love to eat it again!

GFoL Workshop

This Tuesday, Year 2 children were transported back to September 1666! They had a fantastic workshop all about the Great Fire of London. They had a morning packed full of activities - they could take part in making candles, smelly pouches, soap, clay masks, biscuits, writing letters with quills, leather work, creating books about the fire and learning about doctors tools from the time.

The afternoon was then spent thinking about the evidence that was left from the fire and the children became archaeologists - they were allowed to dig around in the soil to find a variety of objects. They then had to use them as clues to answer various questions about who might have lived in the house that had burnt down. It was an amazing end to our Great Fire of London topic.

Mrs Atkinson



PTA Disco

Our PTA really know how to throw a good disco! With tuck shops, party games and some fantastic (in our opinion) singing along, the children had such a blast. With a special thanks to Mrs Lindsay for taking the lead on this, all the PTA and parent helps for ensuring children were happy, safe and fuelled up on sugar and squash for the night!





BHM Mask Workshops

Last Wednesday, children in years R-6 became immersed in a mask making workshop to gain practical and a deeper understanding of culture outside of our own. They received some interesting facts and knowledge from the workshop leader, then were able to create their own tribe masks based on their colours of choice. The children used wooden dowels to create the dot patterns, the paint was very messy!

Red - War, fighting, power, sacrifice

Orange - Camp fire, community, endurance, strength

Blue - peace, love, harmony, the spirit world

Green - growth, fertility, health, prosperity

Gold - wealth, status, fertility, spiritual purity

White - Tribe, ancestry

All children did a centre line to mark that we are one 'tribe', celebrating our value of Unity.



Student Shout Outs!

Lovely Shannon was in a fabulous charity dance show this weekend. She danced her heart out alongside her older sister, Jessica. What amazing talent you have, Shannon!



Little Eva received 'player of the day' at football last week, for the very first time. Well done, Eva, what a fabulous athlete you are becoming!

Spotlight On SEND!

SEN Support Plans

If your child has targeted support identified in a SEN Support plan, these have been drafted and are available to view on EduKey. There will be some exceptions - if your child's plan is not yet 'published' and available for you to review, please discuss with class teachers. You can access a review of your child's plan by logging in to the parent account you have set up using your email address.

<https://edukeyapp.com/parent>

It has been lovely attending SEN meetings across the last two weeks, reviewing pupil progress, and discussing the provision in place to continue to build on this. Please support this as best you can at home, and particularly if your child has been invited to morning interventions, it is really important they attend.

Wishing you all a restful half term.

Mrs Ross-Wood

Please contact Mrs Ross-Wood for any SEND related enquiries. SEND@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk

Year 3 Harvest Assembly

What a fantastic assembly Year 3 produced, led by the marvellous Mrs Marshall! They recited a beautiful poem 'Ballad of the Harvest', followed by some happy singing of 'Harvest Song', complete with actions.

They were all very brave, and confident! It's hard to imagine that these children are only 7 or 8 years old.

Well done, Year 3 and thank you to Mrs Marshall.



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