



Dear Widmer End families,

We will be leaving January behind us as we go into this weekend - what a busy month it has been for all of us! We started this week with our fantastic French market morning, with Key Stage 2 children enjoying speaking French in the hall as they visited stalls run by children from Holmer Green Senior School. The children played games and ate food from our French cafe. Many thanks to Mrs Oxby who planned and led this exciting enrichment opportunity for the children.

In our values assemblies at the moment, we are learning about the inspirational Florence Nightingale. I was so impressed by how much children already knew about her in my assembly on Tuesday and how well they were able to consider why Florence had been chosen for our value of courage. Please don't forget to ask your children what we have talked about in these assemblies to further reinforce their understanding of our core values. Thank you.

Yesterday, Mrs Ross-Wood and myself attended one of the national 'PiXL' conferences in London. PiXL is a new platform which we started using in September to support us with our assessment of children and ensuring all children make good progress as they move through school, with staff able to identify and close any gaps in learning. The platform has a wealth of resources for our teaching staff to use and we are already seeing the positive impact it is having on our school. The conferences are truly inspiring and give us lots of ideas and suggestions from other school leaders across the country, as well as from key professionals in education. We are very excited to be part of the PiXL community and are keeping our governors updated on our progress.

Thank you for supporting our Year 6 children as they raise money for the Save the Children charity. The mufti day today was the first event for them and we have already raised over £200 for this fantastic cause.

Lastly, can I remind families to only send children in with a fruit or vegetable snack for playtimes. We ask this in our bid to remain a healthy school but also with your children's oral hygiene in mind: dried fruit 'winders', for example, are not suitable for snack times; if they are not being eaten as part of a main meal, they can stick to teeth which could lead to problems. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Enjoy your weekend.



Mrs Marshall



Beautiful Alfie Joshua Watson



Shining Star Award

Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd February

- Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 4th February

- League Football match vs Hughenden

Wednesday 5th February

- Year 6 Trip to The Lincolnsfield Centre

Friday 7th February

- PTA Hot Dog Day

Monday 10th February

- Choir to Wembley Arena Concert

Tuesday 11th February

- Safer Internet Day

Friday 14th February

- Year 4 Trip to the Living Rainforest
- Year 2 Sharing Assembly 9-9:20am
- Year 1 Multiskills Tournament at HGSS - **volunteer helpers needed!**

Spotlight On SEND!

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

Explaining Autism to Siblings

They are the Future have shared a brilliant guide [HERE](#) including strategies to help siblings understand about autism, especially with a recent or pending diagnosis in the family, or a close friend. The guide is written by a clinical psychologist and presents child friendly approaches for discussions with children aged 5-15 to strengthen relationships, build a strong, supportive family environment and explain the neurodiversity in child-friendly talk.

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

Attendance

School average this academic year

95.4%

This week:

Reception - 98.33%

Year 1 - 85.71%

Year 2 - 96.67%

Year 3 - 98.52%

Year 4 - 97.19%

Year 5 - 96.87%

Year 6 - 93.23%

Well done, Years R, 2, 3, 4 & 5! You are all above the national average this week and keeping our attendance 'in check'!



Pre-School Updates

Another busy week in Pre-School!

At the beginning of the week we talked about postmen and how they work hard to deliver our letters. We thought it would be fun to post a letter to ourselves, so on Tuesday we wrote a card. Deborah put it in the post box after Pre-School and then we waited to see how long it would take to get back to us. We were so excited when it arrived at about 10am on Wednesday morning, the next day! Fantastic 😊

We have also listened to the story about how the Chinese lunar calendar began. This year it is the year of the snake and so we have used our creative skills whilst making a big snake out of really colourful triangles, Chinese lanterns and then some little snakes, all on display in Pre-School. The children worked really hard to create this board.

Deborah



Learn Makaton With Miss Allen

With all these germs about, you or your child may have been to see a **Doctor** recently. Sometimes, this can be a little scary. We hope you use courage when you visit, to realise that it's not actually scary at all!



Merit Awards

Special Merit Award winners this week are:

- Year R - Leo & Myla
- Year 1 - Tamanna & Sophie
- Year 2 - Austin & Alfie
- Year 3 - Oliver & Aster
- Year 4 - James & Bethany
- Year 5 - Jesse & Monty
- Year 6 - Ruby & Chloe D



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

Atelier Français!



Monday morning saw France come to Widmer End School Hall. We were very lucky to have some Year 9s from Holmer Green Upper School help our KS2 children play a variety of games, eat some typical French food and speak French. Judging by the smiles the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was wonderful to see them putting their learning into practice. The pain au chocolate was particularly popular as was Twister! Please do ask your children what French they used, maybe they could teach you!

A bientot, Mrs Oxby.

UK's leading child protection charity and Times Tables Rock Stars are teaming up for the 9th year in a row to celebrate the NSPCC's Number Day. Have your school reach new heights with NSPCC Rocks. The online times tables competition that will boost maths confidence alongside accuracy and recall speed.