

Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

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Friday 28th November (6)

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Dear Widmer End families,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of our new Bursar, Liz Taylor, following a thorough and competitive recruitment process. She brings a wealth of experience in finance and administration and we are delighted to welcome her to the school. Liz ran our PTA accounts for many years and will now be transferring her skills to the school accounts!

Rehearsals for our Christmas performances are well underway. The children are working incredibly hard, and the school is filled with singing, practising and festive spirit! A particularly joyful moment this week was decorating the Christmas tree with our Reception children. We had a lovely time together as the children carefully hung baubles, added sparkle, and proudly admired their wonderful work. Thank you so much to Hildreth's Garden Centre for donating a tree and to the PTA for organising it for us!

More trips and visits have taken place with Year 4 enjoying a fantastic visit to Verulamium, where they explored Roman artefacts, mosaics and interactive exhibits. The children returned with great enthusiasm and a wealth of new knowledge to enrich their history learning. The behaviour of the children on the trip was noted by all of the staff - well done Year 4!

Our Year 5's also took part in an engaging Viking workshop at school that allowed the children to delve into Norse history, daily life, and artefacts. The sessions were lively and informative, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the chance to bring their topic to life.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils also took part in the Papaya workshop, exploring the links between smartphones, screen use and wellbeing. The sessions encouraged thoughtful discussion and supported pupils in developing positive digital habits and strategies for healthy screen time balance. This is such an important topic and one that needs to be at the forefront of pupil's education.

Have a lovely weekend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mrs Hillier'.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 4th December

- 1-2pm Live Christmas Radio Show with Select Pupils - [Listen Here!](#)

Friday 5th December

- PTA Mufti Day for Hamper Items!
- PTA Gift Bags & Money Tree Envelopes Due In

Monday 8th December

- 9am Doors Open - KS1 Christmas Performance Dress Rehearsal
- 2:15pm Rocksteady Christmas Performance

Tuesday 9th December

- 5:30pm Doors Open - KS1 Christmas Performance

Wednesday 10th December

- 8:30am Doors Open - EYFS Christmas Performance

Friday 12th December

- Christmas Craft Day
- PTA Elfridges
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Christmas Lunch

Saturday 13th December

- PTA Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 16th December

- 1:30pm Doors Open - KS2 Rehearsal Performance

Wednesday 17th December

- 9am Rise Up Music Assembly
- 5:30pm Doors Open - KS2 Christmas Performance

Thursday 18th December

- 9am Indian Dance Assembly

Friday 19th December

- 1:30pm School Finishes for Christmas Break

Monday 22nd December

- ADD+Venture Camp Begins



HILDRETH'S
HOME & GARDEN CENTRE

Please visit [Hildreth's Garden Centre](#) in Prestwood for your Christmas tree this year. They are such good value and of a very good quality.

Hildreth's are very supportive of our school, giving us small amounts of gardening supplies whenever we ask, at no cost. They really are a local company with a big heart!



Awards This Fortnight

Shining Star



Emily



Freddie

Merit Awards



- Year R - Shania, Jesse, Betsy & Finn
- Year 1 - Myla, George, Ayana & Sulaiman
- Year 2 - Bethany, Darcey, Poppy & Hafsa
- Year 3 - Alfie, James, Amelia & Darcey
- Year 4 - The Whole Class!, Lizzy & Minal
- Year 5 - Marni, Tom A, Harry & Dylan
- Year 6 - Oscar, Bella, Nia-Rose & Charlotte

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

Value Of The Term

TRUST



"If you want to change something, you need to keep walking, progressing."

In our Values assemblies, we continue to consider our value of Trust. Mrs Marshall introduced the children to our new inspirational person, Devi Shetty. He has been chosen for his incredible work as a cardiothoracic surgeon in India, improving the healthcare system in his country to ensure everyone gets the help they need when they are unwell. Mrs Marshall explained how patients need to have lots of trust in their surgeons and doctors as they may have their actual life in their hands! Children also thought about how kind and compassionate these professionals are, which was the citizenship target all children worked towards this week.

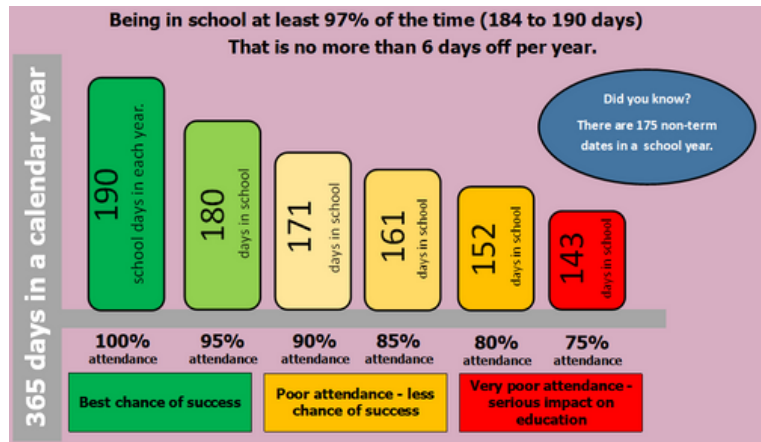
Attendance

School average this academic year

95.3%

The last 14 days:

- Reception - 99.19% - 1 Late Mark!
- Year 1 - 98.54% - 1 Late Mark!
- Year 2 - 94.39% - 2 Late Marks!
- Year 3 - 92.61% - 2 Late Marks!
- Year 4 - 90.12%
- Year 5 - 97.14%
- Year 6 - 89.86% - 1 Late Mark!



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!

Student Shout Out!

Harry started at a basketball group in September and his growth in confidence since starting has been immense. Harry is a key part of the team and in the last three sessions he has scored the winning points for his team in the final few minutes. We are all super super proud of Harry! (Mrs Weaver wonders if Harry would join her netball team?)





Pre-School Updates



As the leaves fall from the trees, Pre-School have been talking about Autumn and looking at all the beautiful colours that it brings. The children have created some lovely leaf pictures using autumnal coloured tissue paper, all whilst using their creative and fine motor skills. The tree paintings were a great success, using broccoli to print the leaves on the trees. A fun activity to do.

A quick reminder of our Parent Consultations on Thursday 4th December, starting at 9.30am.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to lots of Christmas activities in Pre-School over the next 3 weeks.

Deborah



Poppy Appeal Raises 100s!

Wow, just wow. Our school poppy appeal raised a huge £230.49! As a district total, we contributed to the grand total of £3587. This goes a long way to supporting serving personnel, veterans, and their families through financial, practical, and emotional support. Thank you.



Widmer End School Christmas Fun



Christmas has officially begun at Widmer End School. The postbox is open (thank you to all Year 6s for becoming posties at lunch time. This is always such an exciting time as the children receive beautiful hand-written cards from their peers. Please note that any chocolate treats going into the cards will need to be nut-free as we have airborne nut allergies in school.

Mrs Hillier invited Reception children to decorate the gorgeous Christmas tree, kindly donated to us by Hildreth's Garden Centre.

Christmas events step up a gear next week, please see all the dates and times above, good luck!



RADIO CHRISTMAS

On Thursday, some children from years 3-6 will be LIVE on Radio Christmas, in Widmer End School from 1-2pm! You can listen via the [Radio Christmas website](#) or via the app (please see attached flyer).

Friends and family can message into the children at any point during the show, via text to 70099, starting your message with the word KIDS. Text messages cost £1 plus your standard network rate, however the £1 goes directly to Street Kids as a donation. Alternatively, you can call the studio directly on 01494 853797.





Spotlight On SEND!

Some young people experience negative behaviours outside of school that may be impacting on other people in the household. All behaviours have a number of functions and there can be a number of different reasons for them. Where this could be linked to a possible neurodiversity, the National Autistic Society offers [THIS](#) overview and guidance.

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

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

Parent Questionnaire Results

We are very proud to reveal the results of our recent parent survey, taken at our Parents Evenings. Some results are below. We enjoy open communication with all our parents. If you would like to discuss anything further, please call or email the office and we will direct your query to the correct person.

My child is happy at this school - 96.4% agree/strongly agree.

My child feels safe at this school - 99.1% agree/strongly agree.

My child does well at this school - 91.9% agree/strongly agree.

98.2% of parents would recommend Widmer End to another parent!

Comments included:

"I love the school's ethos and their dedication to my son's behavioural and emotional needs as well his academics. I would thoroughly recommend this school to any parent."

"Excellent school with kind teaching and support staff"

Suggestions included:

"Keep educating on cultural differences and on on goings in the world so that racism does not creep into the children. Send out important reminders to parents to remind them to keep educating their children"



Year 5 Viking Workshop

Year 5 enjoyed an action-packed Viking Day and had a truly fantastic time!

Our brilliant instructor, Phil, led the day with enthusiasm and expertise, guiding the children through a range of hands-on activities including candle making, ink making, and even some metal work.

Throughout the morning, pupils took on roles as villagers and warriors before heading outside to practise an Anglo-Saxon shield wall, learning how people in the past might have protected themselves in battle.

In the afternoon, the children became archaeologists, investigating a variety of excavation trays and piecing together clues to uncover information about the past.

Their behaviour was exceptional, and we are incredibly grateful to our wonderful parent, grandparent and community neighbour helpers - Viking Day wouldn't have been possible without their support!



Year 4 Charity Bracelet Sale

Some of our thoughtful Year 4 girls are making awesome loom bands to sell in aid of the Thomas Ball Cancer Fund. If your child would like to purchase any, please ensure they bring no more than **£3** in, this **Tuesday 2nd December**. Thank you.



TT Rock Stars Competition

We recently took part in the TTRS England Rocks competition, and we are incredibly proud of all the children who got involved. Well done to everyone - the children worked hard and showed fantastic commitment throughout the event! Whilst we weren't in the top 100 schools in England, we are delighted to celebrate the pupils who achieved the highest scores in each class:

Year 6 - Josh, Luke, Aiza
 Year 5 - Emily M, Cassie, Thomas
 Year 4 - Alice, Milo, Aster
 Year 3 - Malakai, Otto, Nate
 Year 2 - Luka, Rosalie, Shanaie



A huge well done to Emily M for being the top scorer in the whole school!

Year 4 Verulamium Trip

As Year 4 has been learning about the Romans for a few weeks now, The Verulamium Museum in St Albans was the ideal place to go and look at some artefacts and find out more first hand. Our day began with a self-guided tour of the museum, where we explored the galleries and made links to everything we've been learning in class.

Just before lunch, we took part in our artefact workshop. We had the chance to handle and discuss some of the 2,000-year-old objects that had been found on the site.

After lunch, we headed out into Verulamium Park (which used to be the Ancient town of Verulamium), where we viewed the ruins of an old hypocaust, complete with a detailed mosaic floor.

Museums are incredible places of inspiration and learning. The day certainly boosted Year 4's enthusiasm and interest and they can't wait to discover more about the Romans.

Mrs L vd Merwe



Club Finishing Dates

Here's Autumn Term club finishing Dates for you to ensure your calendars are up to date! Tuesday after school teacher-led clubs were extended by a week due to parents evening.

Friends at Play are available for any wraparound provision, right up to and including the morning of the 19th December.

Music Lessons

- Rise Up Music - Scheduled to end by 12th December but may have catch-up lessons

Mondays

- Indian Dance Club KS1 - now finished but will have practice before the assembly
- Rocksteady - Lessons finish 1st December but the parent concert is 8th December at 2:30pm (doors open 2:20pm)
- Netball Club Y3 & Y4 - Last club 8th December
- Cheerleading Club - Last club 8th December
- Nature Club - Last club 1st December

Tuesdays

- Makaton Club - Now finished
- Running Club - Last club 2nd December
- Sport Multiskills club - Last club 2nd December
- Football Club - Now finished
- Maths Club - Last club 2nd December
- Choir - Last club 2nd December

Wednesdays

- Indian Dance Club KS2 - now finished but will have practice before the assembly
- Computer Xplorers - Last club 10th December
- Street Dance Club KS1 & R - Last club 10th December

Thursdays

- Samurai Kickboxing - Last club 4th December
- Lego & Chill Out Club - Last club 4th December
- Drama & Performance Club - Last club 4th December
- Knitting Club - Last club 4th December

Fridays

- Springbucks Gymnastics - Last club 12th December
- Netball Club Y5 & Y6 - Last club 12th December
- LAMDA Speech & Drama - Last club 12th December
- Street Dance Club KS2 - Last club 12th December

Spring term clubs all begin w/c 12th January!