



Dear Widmer End families,

Happy New Year to you all and I hope you had the best Christmas with your families and friends. The children tell me they are well-rested and have come back to school ready for a term of hard work and super learning. The school has had a lovely, purposeful atmosphere this week and I can't tell you how many times I have praised your children for their good behaviour and effort in class and around school.

May I take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Ilić to our team of staff. We have already had the privilege of working with her over the last year when she volunteered in Reception on a regular basis; however, we now welcome her fully into the team as she covers Mrs Watson's maternity leave when she leaves us next Friday. I know she is going to do the most fantastic job in Reception for us and we are already enjoying having her here full-time!

It has been wonderful to see the snow falling and the children have enjoyed going out at lunchtime to play in it. Thank you for bearing with us and walking the long way round to the front gate if you usually come in from the alleyway: this has helped us to avoid the icy surfaces and any accidents! If we do continue to get wintry weather this term, don't forget to check your emails and go on the link Mrs Weaver sent you earlier this week if you are unsure about school opening hours and potential closures; I will make contact by 7.45am in the morning if there are any changes to school hours.

Thank you so much for all your Happy Bag donations. We are pleased to say this has raised a total of £190.35. This is just one of the many events our wonderful PTA team organise: thank you to them for their tireless efforts raising money for us, and to you all for supporting the events.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Marshall

We are seeing plenty of gloves and hats worn by the children whilst this cold weather persists.

Please remember to name every item your child wears to ensure we don't have any 'Simon Socks'!



Shining Star Award

Dates for your Diary

Monday 13th January

- Drama4All Workshops P-Y2
- All Remaining Clubs Begin

Wednesday 15th January

- Reception applications Deadline

Thursday 16th January

- Year 5 Swimming Begins
- Census Day

Friday 17th January

- World Religion Day

Monday 20th January

- Blue Monday - Wear Bright Clothes!
- Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday 21st January

- AIM High Maths Day for Selected Students

Friday 24th January

- Year 6 Sharing Assembly 9-9:20am

Important Update!

New Pupil Premium/Free School Meals - applications Eligibility checks MUST be made before 31st March 2025 to ensure those who qualify can secure funding until the end of Year 6. Government changes from 1st April, mean applications received after this time will not benefit from the same protection. If you have an older eligible child, younger siblings are not automatically eligible - a separate application MUST be made per child. If unsure, I have sent letters home with further information, but please do contact me if you have further questions.

Mrs Ross-Wood: PPG Lead



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

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

Attendance

School average this academic year

← 95.3%

This week:

Reception - 95.63%

Year 1 - 86.88%

Year 2 - 93.75%

Year 3 - 96.76%

Year 4 - 98.44%

Year 5 - 94.92%

Year 6 - 95.16%

What a great effort from everyone, with lots of viruses still going around!



Pre-School Updates!

Welcome back to Pre-School and a Happy New Year to you all!

We would like to welcome our new children who have started this week and of course their families. They have all made an excellent start to their Pre-School journey.

Just a couple of reminders for you all:
Please name all your child's belongings including hats and gloves. The children don't always recognise their own things and as you can imagine, there are a lot of gloves etc to keep track of!
Our timings for the day are as follows:
8.45am - 11.45am for a morning session
8.45am - 3.15pm for an all day session

This week in Pre-School we have talked about doctors and nurses and how they help us. The children have used their fine motor skills to make a doctor and nurse, used their counting skills to place the correct quantity next to the right numbered nurse and also placed medical items into a picture of a doctor's bag.

Deborah



Learn Makaton With Miss Allen

This week, we're learning the Makaton sign for 'cold'! It's been a real shock to the system with the temperature dip this week, but what fun to see snow on the ground!



Widmer Winter Wonderland

School has become a winter wonderland this week! The children have been excited to enjoy the playground and field at lunch times, hopefully we'll have enough snow for building snow people next time!

Our wildlife have been enjoying the peace, can you tell what animal made these prints in the snow?



Blue Monday - Full Mufti Day

Blue Monday typically falls on the third Monday in January and is associated with feelings of sadness, low motivation, and a lack of energy. It started in 2005 as a PR stunt from the TV channel, Sky Travel, they had psychologist Cliff Arnall create a formula to calculate the most miserable day of the year. While the concept of Blue Monday has been criticised for its lack of scientific validity, it has become a day for promoting mental health awareness and self-care.

This Blue Monday 20th January, we are banishing the blues and ask that children all wear the **brightest clothes** that they would like to, head to toe! Neon, glow in the dark, vibrant colours all welcome.

Banish the blues by getting outside, exercising, read a new book, reconnect with friends, or digital detox!

Merit Awards

Special Merit Award winners this week are:

- Year R - Harry & Layla
- Year 1 - Ollie & Henry G
- Year 2 - Lexi & Otto
- Year 3 - Archie & Scott
- Year 4 - Owen & Tom A
- Year 5 - Nia-Rose & Arlo
- Year 6 - Hugo & Charlie



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