

Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

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Friday 12th December (7)

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Dear Widmer End families,

Last week, our pupils took part in a very special project: presenting on the Christmas Radio Station, connecting live in Guatemala in support of the charity, Street Kids Direct. It was a fantastic opportunity for our children to share messages, music, and festive cheer across the world while learning about the impact of their fundraising efforts. Our Safeguarding governor, Helen Carmody planned and organised this event, which we are so grateful for.

We have also been treated to two brilliant performances from our younger pupils. Our Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance was a resounding success - full of energy, smiles, and fantastic singing. Not to be outdone, our Early Years Performance brought plenty of festive magic and made us all incredibly proud. We cannot wait for our Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance next week, which promises to be just as spectacular. The children never cease to amaze me with their confidence on stage!

This week's whole-school Christmas Craft Day was a real highlight for everyone. Pupils took part in a variety of creative activities, producing beautiful festive pieces to decorate the school. A huge thank you to Miss Davis for organising the whole day as well as our wonderful PTA for running the ever-popular Elfridges store, where children enjoyed choosing special gifts for loved ones. The school was full of colour and fun as pupils wore their festive jumpers and enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch together.

Looking ahead, we are very excited for our Christmas Fayre tomorrow, which will be a fantastic community event. In the evening, our school choir will also be performing at the Widmer End Community Carol Concert, at the Church from 6pm, and we would love to see as many families as possible.

Next week, our choir will also be singing at the local parade of shops, spreading festive cheer within our community. Please do join us if you can - it's always a lovely occasion. We will be aiming to arrive at around 10:15am.

Warmest wishes,

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

Dates for your Diary

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 Breaks Up

Monday 22nd December

- ADD+Venture Camp Begins

Monday 5th January

- School Closed For INSET

Tuesday 6th January

- School Re-opens, 8:30am

Thursday 8th January

- Year 5 Swimming Begins

Friday 9th January

- PTA Happy Bags Collection
- Springbucks Gymnastics Sessions For Years 5, 1 & R

Monday 12th January

- Extra Curricular Clubs Begin
- Year 3 & 4 Boys Free Netball Club (see below)

Wednesday 14th January

- Drama4All Workshops for Years R, 1 & 2

Thursday 15th January

- A.I.M High Writers Day For Select Year 3 & 4s
- Year 5 & 6 Boys Free Netball Club (see below)



Awards This Fortnight

Shining Star



Merit Awards



- Year R - Ismail, Freddie, Phoenix & Freddie
- Year 1 - Leo, Layla, Freddie & Harry
- Year 2 - Phoebe, Hallie, The Whole Class!
- Year 3 - Albert, Nate, Tabitha & Rose
- Year 4 - Rehan, Scott, Milo & Abbie
- Year 5 - Jessica, Freddie, Jamie & Evie
- Year 6 - Alf & Arlo

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

Pre-School Updates



I cannot express how proud the children made us with their Nativity performance. They have all worked so hard learning the words to the songs (also lines if they had them). Well done everyone.

Christmas is a busy time in Pre-School and the children have been enjoying lots of Christmas crafts and activities. They have been using Numicon tiles and their mathematical skills to create presents, turn taking whilst playing Christmas dominos and lots of fine motor skills when at the craft table.

Thank you all for your continued support this term. We wish you all a Happy Christmas with your families and look forward to watching the children grow and develop in 2026.

Deborah

Attendance

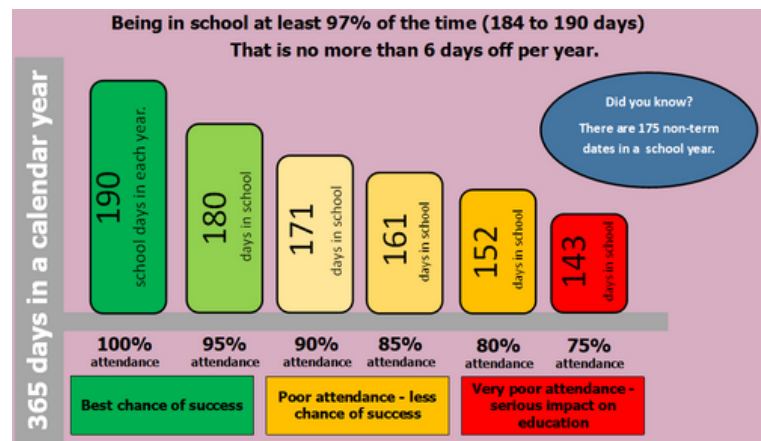
School average this academic year

95.5%

The last 14 days:

- Reception - 95.38% - 2 Late Marks!
- Year 1 - 98.33% - 6 Late Marks!
- Year 2 - 98.33% - 5 Late Marks!
- Year 3 - 95.77% - 5 Late Marks!
- Year 4 - 96.65% - 1 Late Mark!
- Year 5 - 97.5% - 6 Late Marks!
- Year 6 - 94.54% - 5 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!



Year 6 Gratitude



As you may have seen on our social pages, Year 6 created a gratitude Christmas tree to explain the things they were grateful for. Examples ranged from school-based 'kind classmates' and 'wonderful teachers', to 'my parents', 'water' and 'hobbies'. What thoughtful children we have at Widmer!

Spotlight On SEND!

Supporting a child who may find Christmas overwhelming

Christmas is an exciting, busy and sometimes stressful time for everyone, but it can feel even more overwhelming for a child with SEND or who has sensory processing difficulties.

This blog, from 'Parent Talk,' has some ideas and useful strategies to support all children (not just those with SEND) if experiencing emotional dysregulation at this time of year.

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/neurodiversity/understanding-needs/send-christmas/>

Parent Talk is a free online service for parents and carers, provided by the charity 'Action for Children'. For free and confidential advice, they have experienced parenting coaches who will listen to your worries and work with you to find solutions and get you extra support if needed. Their advice service can be accessed [here](#).

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas.

Mrs Ross-Wood

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

Nativity Season



This year's festive performances kicked off this week and were a true highlight, as children from Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took to the stage with energy, confidence and plenty of Christmas sparkle. Our younger pupils delighted families with 'Breaking News! Bethlehem', sharing the nativity story through enthusiastic singing, confident narration, and very adorable costumes.

Meanwhile, our Year 1 and 2 pupils shone in their production of Shepherd's Delight, bringing humour, warmth and brilliant storytelling to the stage. The children all looked wonderful in their costumes and clearly enjoyed embracing their roles. We would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the parents and grandparents who came along to watch and support both performances. All money raised from ticket sales goes directly towards production costs such as costumes, lighting and the many little details that help make these productions so special.

Value Of The Term

TRUST



"If the solution is not affordable, it is not a solution"

In our Values assemblies, we have still been learning about our value of Trust. Mrs Marshall continued to explain to the children about the life of our inspirational person, Devi Shetty. They learnt of how he performed the first ever heart surgery on a newborn baby in India and how he built new hospitals there to make sure everyone had access to the medical care they needed. Mrs Marshall explained about how trust is built on layers of actions, each proving to everyone that a person can be trusted as they build up. Devi built these layers up over many years with his kind actions and charity and the children were asked to work hard to build their layers with the same kindness to others.



MHST Parent & Carer Webinars

We are pleased to share a series of free evening webinars offered by the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) for parents and carers. These online sessions run from January to April 2026, each from 6.00–7.30pm, and are designed to support families with key aspects of children’s mental health and development.

Topics include:

- Exam Stress – Monday 12th January
- Understanding Eating Disorders – Monday 26th January
- Childhood Development & Behaviour – Tuesday 10th February
- Understanding Low Mood – Monday 9th March
- Adolescent Development & Behaviour – Monday 9th March

These live webinars are hosted on Microsoft Teams and are available to families whose children attend schools working with MHST.

To register, simply scan the QR codes on the flyer or contact the MHST team on 01865 901566 or bucksmhst@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk.

We hope these sessions offer helpful guidance and support for our school community.



Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Free Netball Sessions for Boys

We have two amazing netball squads each year, one female-only and one mixed squad. Mrs Weaver is very worried that we will not be able to field a mixed squad for the next few years, due to low uptake from boys learning to play.



Jemma from Swifts Netball Club has kindly volunteered a free taster session for boys to try their hand at netball. If they love playing basketball and want something a bit more competitive, this is ideal!

- Monday 12th January - Years 3 & 4
- Wednesday 15th January - Years 5 & 6 (this is in addition to the team trials on the 21st)

Please sign up to this free session, via the Arbor parent app (clubs). Thank you!

Year 4 Fundraising Superstars



A huge well done to our wonderful Year 4 girls, who showed incredible kindness and teamwork last week by organising their own fundraising activities in support of the children’s cancer charity Thomas Ball. They busily created and sold colourful loom bands and handmade bookmarks, and even organised exciting races for their classmates to enjoy. Thanks to their hard work, enthusiasm, and generosity of the school community, they raised an impressive £85 for this important cause. We are so proud of their efforts and the positive difference they are making!

Arbor Consents

If you haven’t already, please log on to your Arbor parent app and accept or decline the various consents we have on there. This is to ensure all first aid, local trips and other events are covered and your child can take part in these, not just photography!



Year 1's Cheeky Elf

You might have seen our Year 1 elf, Jingle, on our social media pages. He is so cheeky, Miss Davis is tearing her hair out! The children over the whole school are so excited to see what he’s been up to every morning, it is a true delight to listen to their squeals when they find out!





Healthy Lunch Ideas

Unfortunately, we're still noticing a few lunchboxes with very little healthy fuel inside! 🙄🍷

Please remember that sweets, chocolate bars and sugary snacks aren't permitted in school lunches. They can contain hidden allergens and often lead to an afternoon energy crash. ⚠️🍷

Here are some easy ideas to help keep lunches both healthy and tasty:

🌈 Rainbow Wraps - Wholemeal wraps filled with grated carrot, cucumber, cheese, and a little cream cheese or hummus.

🍷 DIY 'Snack Box' - Cherry tomatoes, cucumber sticks, mini cheese cubes, wholegrain crackers, and a pot of berries.

🍝 Mini Pasta Pots - Cold pasta salad with peas, sweetcorn, and a little pesto or tomato sauce.

🍳 Quick Protein Pots - Hard-boiled egg, hummus with veggie sticks, or sliced chicken with wholegrain crackers.

🍊 Fruit Boost - Mandarin segments, apple slices (sprinkle with lemon to stop browning), or grapes cut in halves.

🍪 Healthier Sweet Treats - Banana oat cookies, homemade mini muffins, or plain yogurts with a sprinkle of granola.

Thank you for keeping your children healthy and fuelled up for learning at school!

Free Gymnastics Sessions



Springbucks are hosting some fantastic taster sessions for Years R-5 next year. Please note - these are in addition to your child's normal PE schedule, add these to your calendars now and please ensure they are dressed for PE!

- Years R, 1 & 5 - Friday 9th January
- Years 2, 3 & 4 - Friday 16th January

Radio Christmas

Some of our children enjoyed some time on LIVE radio last week, helping to raise money for the charity 'Street Kids Direct'. They entertained us with their answers to the messages parents, friends and grandparents sent in and were caught dancing along to the music more than once! Many thanks to our Governor Helen Carmody for arranging this exciting event for us, annually.



Piano Tuning Required!

We need help, please. Does anyone tune pianos or have a contact for this, as our upright is well overdue a tune!

Please email or call Mrs Weaver in the school office if you are able to help. Thank you!



Forest School Finale

This week in Forest School, Year 2 had a fantastic time exploring our Forest School setting and searching for the presents hidden around the area. Each present contained an interesting fact about nature or how little creatures adapt for winter, which the children eagerly shared during circle time. 'Did you know? Some frogs hide at the bottom of ponds in winter and can even survive being partly frozen!' Fascinating facts like this sparked lots of curiosity and discussion.



The children also enjoyed listening to the story The Little Fir Tree, learning how the little tree longed to grow tall and see the world but eventually discovered the joy of appreciating the present moment. To finish the session, everyone roasted marshmallows and enjoyed them with biscuits and warm hot chocolate; a perfect ending to a fun and memorable outdoor experience.