

# Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

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Friday 30th January 2026 (9)

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Dear Widmer End families,

We held a wonderful Saraswati Puja celebration in our school hall on Sunday. It was heart-warming to see so many members of our school and wider community coming together for such a special event. Events like this are really important to us as a school. They reflect our shared values and give our pupils the chance to learn more about the world around them. We believe strongly in developing the whole child, and experiences like this help to build confidence, curiosity and respect for others.

We were incredibly proud of our Indian dancers, who performed so confidently in front of a large audience. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Saha, who performed several beautiful dances with her community - all choreographed by her. Their performances were a real highlight of the afternoon. We also shared delicious food and were treated to a wonderful mix of other performances, such as singing, speaking, dancing, various readings and live music. The atmosphere was warm, welcoming and full of celebration.

I would also like to say another huge thank you to Carly Hamilton and her father, who kindly decided to raise money for our school adventure trail. They raised an amazing amount, which means we can now repair the broken sections and make sure it is ready for pupils to enjoy when the weather improves. Thank you as well to everyone who sponsored them - we are incredibly grateful.

As always, everyone is welcome at our community events, and I really do encourage you to come along in the future if you can. Saraswati Puja was a truly wholesome occasion - uplifting, enriching and genuinely good for the soul. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special celebration.

Have a lovely weekend.

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



## Dates for your Diary

### Tuesday 3rd February

- Happy School Bags

### Wednesday 4th February

- CofE Church Assembly
- Guiding Digital Childhoods Workshop - 7pm - register [HERE](#)

### Friday 6th February

- PTA Hot Dog Day! Book [HERE](#)

### Monday 9th February

- Children's Mental Health Week
- Year 6 Trip to Hazard Alley

### Tuesday 10th February

- Come As Yourself Day

### Friday 13th February

- Year 4 Living Rainforest Trip
- Year 2 Sharing Assembly
- Break Up For Half Term

### Monday 23rd February

- School Reopens 8:30am

### Wednesday 25th February

- Year 3 Trip to the Ashmolean
- CofE Church Assembly
- Friendly Mixed Netball Match vs Little Kingshill HOME

### Thursday 26th February

- Development League Football Match vs Hannah Ball HOME

### Friday 27th February

- Year 6 Tag Rugby at HGSS
- PTA Pub Quiz

### Monday 2nd March

- Travelling Book Fair Opens

### Wednesday 4th March

- Year 4 Trip to the NHM London
- Friendly Girls Netball Match vs Little Kingshill AWAY

### Thursday 5th March

- Year 6 Girls Netball Tournament at Pipers Corner School



## Awards This Fortnight

### Shining Star



Veera



Austin

### Merit Awards



- Year R - Eva, Grace, Teddy & Jessica
- Year 1 - Alfie, Evie, Thea & Ellis
- Year 2 - Henry G, Poppy, Hallie W & Jamie
- Year 3 - Hannah, Immy, Palla
- Year 4 - Grace, Archie, Jackson & Joseph D
- Year 5 - Bethany, Yaqub, Minnie & James
- Year 6 - Amelia, George, Jesse & Rupert

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

## Value Of The Term

### COURAGE



*"At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can."*

In our Values assemblies, we have continued with our focus on our value of Courage. This week, Mrs Marshall introduced us to Frida Kahlo, the artist, who was chosen for her bravery throughout her life. Having suffered from an early age with polio, she missed a great deal of her school life because of it. Frida was also involved in a terrible accident aged 18 but this was the start of an amazing career as an artist. Children learnt how she began to paint while in hospital and went on to produce some incredible self-portraits. Mrs Marshall then spoke about the linked value of 'Strength' and how, if we are mentally strong, we can tackle any difficult situation and try hard to get through it.

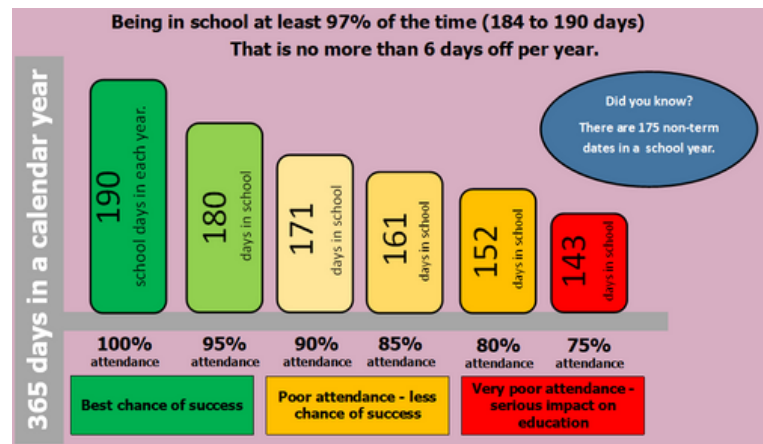
## Attendance

School average this academic year

**95.7%**

The last 2 weeks:

- Reception - 91.75% - 3 Late Marks!
- Year 1 - 96.39% - 4 Late Marks!
- Year 2 - 96.46% - 3 Late Marks!
- Year 3 - 93.06% - 3 Late Marks!
- Year 4 - 96.49% - 1 Late Mark!
- Year 5 - 97.66% - 6 Late Marks!
- Year 6 - 96.6% - 4 Late Marks!



### 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!

Talented dancers Bethany and Ivy, have recently taken their grade 1 ballet exam, passing with merit!

They take classes and exams with older girls, so to pass with a merit is a fantastic achievement.

Well done, girls!





## Children's Mental Health Week

From the 9th-13th February, we will be recognising **Children's Mental Health Week**. This is a national event that shines a light on the importance of children's emotional wellbeing and mental health. At our school, we believe that supporting mental health is just as important as supporting academic learning, and this week gives us a valuable opportunity to talk, reflect and learn together.

Children's Mental Health Week is all about helping children understand their feelings, build confidence, develop resilience and know that it's okay to talk when something doesn't feel right. By recognising this week, we are helping our pupils to grow into happy, healthy and confident individuals.

### What will be happening in school?

Throughout the week, classes will take part in a range of age-appropriate activities focused on emotional wellbeing, self-expression, kindness and support for one another.

### Tuesday 10th February - 'Come As Yourself' Day

On Tuesday, we will be celebrating Come As Yourself Day. Children are invited to wear an outfit that makes them feel comfortable, confident and truly themselves. This could be cosy clothes, cultural dress, favourite colours or something totally unique. The aim is to celebrate individuality and help children feel a sense of belonging. On this day, we will also be holding a special assembly led by our Year 5 Peer Mentors, who will share messages about mental health, self-acceptance and supporting one another.

### How can parents support at home?

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting children's mental health. Simple actions can make a big difference, such as:

- Talking regularly with your child about how they are feeling
- Listening without judgement and reassuring them that all feelings are valid
- Encouraging routines, rest, play and time to relax
- Letting children know where they can get help if they are worried or upset

By working together, both at school and at home, we can help children feel safe, supported and understood.

Thank you for your continued support as we recognise this important week and promote positive mental health for all our pupils.

## Spotlight On SEND!

We would like to share a BBC Sounds programme that explores the real-life experiences of children, families and professionals across the UK.

'[SEND in the Spotlight](#)' highlights the importance of understanding, inclusion and listening to children's voices, while celebrating the strengths of learners with different needs.

At Widmer End School, we are committed to creating an inclusive environment where every child feels supported, valued and able to thrive.

## 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](mailto:SEND@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk)**

## Junior Cricket Players Wanted!

Widmer End Junior Cricket Club is currently recruiting new players for its U9-U15 junior cricket teams, and would love to welcome pupils from our school.



Cricket is a fantastic way for children to stay active, make new friends, and build confidence while learning teamwork and new skills. No previous experience is required - just enthusiasm and a willingness to have a go!

The club will be running indoor winter net sessions starting on Tuesday 3rd February, with summer training beginning in April. Teams compete in the Junior Cricket League, offering a fun and supportive environment for young players of all abilities.

Parents can find out more or book a free trial session by contacting James on 07557 258410, scanning the QR code on the attached poster, or visiting [this link](#).

This is a great opportunity for children interested in cricket to get involved with a local club!



## Pre-School Updates

Over the last couple of weeks in Pre-School, we have been talking and looking at Emergency services and how they can help us. We have looked at the police, dentist, doctors and firefighters. The children were all really knowledgeable about how these people can help us.

We are hoping for a bit more sunshine soon to warm up our outdoor play time! Enjoying what is on offer in our outside area is a fantastic resource for all our children.

Have a lovely weekend,

Deborah



## Year 5 Fire Safety Visit

Year 5 had an excellent time this week when the High Wycombe Fire Service came to visit! The team spoke to the children about their important role in the community and how they work hard to keep our local area safe. The visit included an exciting tour of a real fire engine, where pupils were able to see and hold some of the impressive equipment firefighters use in their job. The highlight for many was getting the chance to climb inside the fire engine and experience what it's like from a firefighter's point of view.

A huge thank you to the Fire Service for such an engaging and memorable visit!



## A Fantastic Fundraising Feat for Our Play Trail!



We are incredibly proud to share some truly inspiring news from our school community. Recently, one of our very own parents, Carly Hamilton, together with her father, took on a marathon-length walk to raise funds for the Widmer End School play trail - and they've smashed expectations!

Both Carly (a former pupil of Widmer End) and her dad committed to trekking the full marathon distance last week, walking for around nine hours through rain and challenging conditions. They trained hard and even battled blisters along the way, all so that our children could one day enjoy a safe, exciting outdoor play trail again rather than having to look at one that needs urgent repair.

Thanks to their amazing efforts, they have already helped to raise £1,101 towards the £3,500 needed to fix and improve the equipment. This means that we can reallocate the budget for these repairs to essential school supplies and curriculum use! You can still donate [HERE](#).

What makes this achievement even more remarkable is the community spirit, energy and positivity that Carly and her father brought to this challenge. Their dedication is a wonderful example of the supportive and caring ethos that makes our school community so special.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to them both, and to everyone who has donated so far. Your generosity and determination are helping to bring an exciting and safe outdoor space back to life for all our children to enjoy.



## PTA Presents - The Legless Arms Pub Quiz

The PTA Pub Quiz tickets are now on sale, for Friday the 27th February! At £50 per table of (max) 8, including your first drink, it's a bargain. See if you can 'beat the teachers' in 2026!

Tickets will sell fast, so please do log on to [www.pta-events.co.uk/widmerend](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/widmerend) and book your table. Drinks packages will also be released soon, so you can pre-order your first 'round'.

You are welcome to bring snacks with you, there will also be some available at the bar. Drinks are only to be purchased at the bar, please. We appreciate your support!

## Healthy Lunch - Fun With Fruit!

Fruit is packed with vitamins, fibre, and natural energy that helps children stay focused and feeling their best throughout the school day 🌟 However, we know it can sometimes be a challenge to get children excited about fruit in their lunchboxes!

The good news is that a little creativity can go a long way. Making fruit fun, colourful, and easy to eat often makes all the difference.

### Simple Ways to Add More Fruit:

- Mix it up – Try a different fruit each day to keep things interesting 🍏🍌🍌
- Finger-friendly – Cut fruit into bite-sized pieces so it's quick and easy to eat 🍌🍇
- Dips are fun! – Serve apple or pear slices with yogurt for dipping 🍏🥛
- Frozen treats – Frozen grapes or berries are refreshing and feel like a treat ❄️🍓

### Lunchbox Fruit Ideas:

- Fruit kebabs with chunks of melon, grapes, and strawberries 🍌🍉
- A small pot of mixed fruit salad 🌈🍓
- Apple slices sprinkled with cinnamon 🍏🌟
- Tinned fruit in juice (not syrup), drained well 🍓

### Parent Tip:

Let children help choose and prepare their fruit at home. When children feel involved, they're much more likely to eat it! 🛒

Fruit doesn't need to be fancy – just fresh, colourful, and fun. A fruity lunchbox can help power young minds all afternoon! 🍌🍏

## Mawira Link School



We were delighted to receive this wonderful photo of our Kenyan link school, Mawira Primary School, receiving and reading our school newsletters. This special connection helps bring learning to life and reminds us that our school community stretches far beyond our local area.

Our link with Mawira Primary reflects our core values in meaningful ways. It promotes Unity, showing that schools around the world can learn together; Trust, as we build positive relationships through sharing; and Kindness, by reaching out with friendship and interest. It encourages Curiosity, as our pupils learn about life in another country, and Courage, by helping children look beyond what is familiar. Above all, it nurtures Respect for different cultures, experiences and ways of life.

This partnership also supports our commitment to British Values, particularly mutual respect and tolerance of different cultures. By learning about Mawira Primary School, our pupils develop a wider understanding of the world and their role within it, helping them grow into thoughtful, open-minded and responsible citizens.

We are proud of this link and look forward to continuing to learn together.