

# Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

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Friday 13th February 2026 (10)

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Dear Widmer End families,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donations to our school fund. Your continued support truly makes a difference and enables us to further improve the school environment and experiences we provide for our pupils.

We have been overwhelmed by your kindness in purchasing items from our Amazon Wishlist. Teachers and support staff have been incredibly grateful for the resources received, many of which are already being put to excellent use in classrooms across the school. These contributions directly enhance teaching and learning, and we are extremely appreciative of your support. If you would still like to contribute, here is the link to our Amazon Wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/OgNpG6WJ>

Our Year 2 pupils have been working so hard on their assembly this term on Kings and Queens. It was a real highlight to see them speak so clearly and confidently to the whole school and parents! Well done Year 2 - it was fabulous.

Finally, I would like to share some staffing news. At the end of this half term, we say farewell to Miss Allen, our Pastoral Lead, who is moving on to support SEN provision within the Local Authority. Miss Allen has been an invaluable source of support to both pupils and families during her time with us. Her care, dedication and compassion have made a lasting impact on our school community, and she will be greatly missed.

Following a very competitive recruitment process, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Munn has been appointed as our new Pastoral Lead and will begin after half term. Mrs Munn is already well-known to many of our pupils, and we are confident she will make a fantastic contribution to the school as we move forward. Please join me in welcoming her to this role and be assured that your children continue to be in very safe and caring hands.

Have a wonderful half term.

Warm regards,

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

Year 5s & 6s performing their rap to Miss Allen



## Dates for your Diary

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

- School Reopens 8:30am
- Year 4 & 5 Netball Friendly Match vs Disraeli HOME

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

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

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February

- 9:30am Parent Forum
- Development League Football Match vs Hannah Ball HOME

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

- Year 6 Tag Rugby at HGSS
- Mothers Day PTA Photos, book [HERE](#)
- PTA Pub Quiz, book [HERE](#)

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

- Travelling Book Fair Opens

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

- Year 5 Trip to the NHM London
- Friendly Girls Netball Match vs Little Kingshill AWAY

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

- World Book Day
- Police School Visit
- Year 6 Girls Netball Tournament at Pipers Corner School

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

- PTA Hot Dog Day
- Football U11s League match vs GKCS AWAY

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March

- M&M Theatre Production 'The Wizard of Oz' Years R-6

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

- AIM High Maths Day for Select Pupils
- Girls Football training session with Mr Gibbs



## Awards This Fortnight

### Shining Star



Finley



Pallav

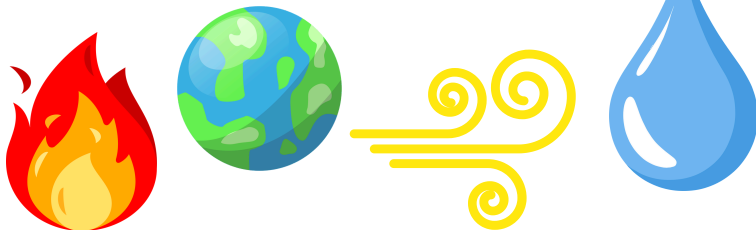
### Merit Awards



- Year R - Lyla, Tyler, Phoenix & Lyra
- Year 1 - Oliver, Ellis, Spencer & Ayana
- Year 2 - Luka, Emily, Henry & Shanvika
- Year 3 - Nancy, Maisie, Bray & Amelia
- Year 4 - Alice, Charlie & Ella
- Year 5 - Jennifer, Harry, Marnie & Evie
- Year 6 - Naira, Veera, Myleigh & Reuben

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

## New House Incentives!



As you know, we have 4x houses in school, enabling children to earn house points for excellent behaviour and eventually the potential to win the house cup!

Mrs Hillier has been consulting with lots of pupils about how to incentivise good behaviour further, with regular prizes and a very exciting offering at the end of the school year.

Half termly, the winning house will be allowed one mufti day. Our first one will be **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February and has been won by WATER house.**



At the end of the school year, the pupils within the winning house (totalling up the points from the whole year and sports day) will win an ice cream from a 'Mr Whippy' ice cream van, paid for by the school.

We hope you will encourage the children to win these prizes. We look forward to reporting about the house winners each week!

## Attendance

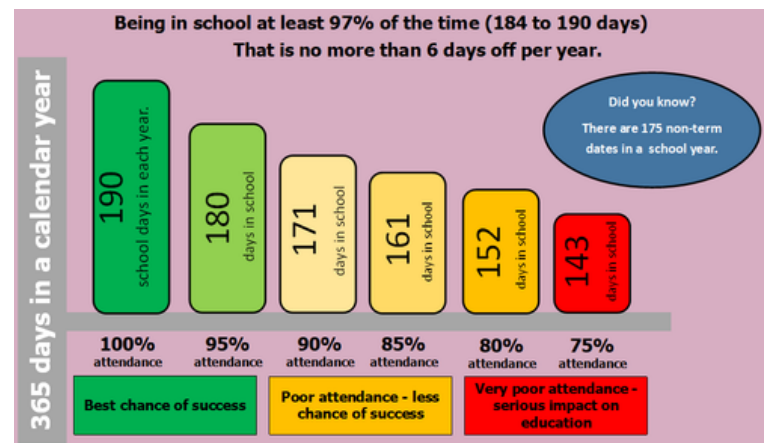
School average this academic year

**95.7%**

The last 2 weeks:

- Reception - 97.1%
- Year 1 - 98.06% - 2 Late Marks!
- Year 2 - 96.38%
- Year 3 - 95.29% - 2 Late Marks!
- Year 4 - 96.05%
- Year 5 - 97.35% - 1 Late Mark!
- Year 6 - 96.13%

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!**



## PTA Christmas Fundraising

The completion of the Christmas Auction marks the end of what was a bumper series of Festive Fundraising Activities including the Panto visit, Elfridges, Raffle, Fair, Auction and Grotto. So after some final entries into the 'super spreadsheet' I'm able to share more information on the proceeds of these events. First though, a huge thanks to everyone who contributed by organising, volunteering, donating and spending...that includes parents, teachers and school staff, children, sponsors and the local community. Anyone who helped or participated by spending has made a great contribution!

The children (and parents) clearly really enjoyed all these great activities and whilst some of us may have gained an extra HUGE cuddly toy or slimy, sticky thing to be thrown at our nice clean walls, we also got to enjoy the odd Chocolate Orange, glass of prosecco or new woolly hat 😊.

As a result of all this activity, we're pleased to share that a healthy sum of  £4283.73 has been raised to help support the children's school experience. We're super-pleased with the result and will share more information on how this will be spent in later newsletters.

Thank You! - Your PTA

## Spotlight On SEND!

If your child has targeted provision set out for them within a SEN Support Plan, class teachers are currently reviewing these and will be sharing them alongside an invitation to meet to discuss the next cycle of SEN support after half term.

You can access a copy of all plans and reviews by logging on to the parent account you have set up on Provision Map.

<https://edukeyapp.com/parent/login>

## 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)**

## Tissues Required



We need some soft tissues for children's little noses, as the paper towels are very rough on their soft skin. If you would like to donate any boxes to your child's class/es or medical room, please send these in with your child on the first day back to school after half term. Thank you!

## Right Of The Month

Every month, the Rights Reps choose a right to focus on. This is usually linked to some of the special celebration days and events held in that month.



February's 'Right of the Month' is article Article 13 (freedom of expression): Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law. They chose this as it is Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day, as well as International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

Please visit [our website](#) for more information.



**DO YOU WANT TO MAKE LUNCHTIME THE BEST PART OF SCHOOL LIFE?**

**MIDDAY SUPERVISOR WANTED - HELP SHAPE OUR LUNCHTIMES!**

**INTERESTED?**

We are seeking a caring and reliable Midday Supervisor to join our friendly primary school team. Lunchtime is an integral part of our pupils' daily lives, and this role plays a key part in making it a fun, positive and nurturing experience for every child. You will supervise children during lunch and playtime, encourage positive behaviour, and help create a safe, organised and inclusive environment. The ideal candidate will be outgoing, warm and approachable, with a genuine enjoyment of working with children and supporting their wellbeing.

For more information and a job specification, please visit our website, email [office@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk) or call **01494 714371**



## Pre-School Updates

Over the last couple of weeks we have been looking at and learning about dinosaurs. The children have all taken this in their stride and have really enjoyed all the activities that we offered them.

We have learned so many different dinosaur names, whether the dinosaur is a meat eater or a plant eater, and whether they live on the land, in the air or in the water.

We have looked at rhyming words associated with dinosaurs. Can you remember any of them? What rhymes with claw? What rhymes with egg?

I think it is safe to say that dinosaurs has been a subject that all the children have enjoyed learning about.

We hope you have a lovely half term and make some precious family memories. Let's hope the sun shines a little bit and that it doesn't rain for too many more days.

Deborah



## PTA Presents - The Legless Arms Pub Quiz

A quick reminder that tickets for the PTA Pub Quiz on Friday 27th February are now on sale.

Tables of up to 8 are £50, including your first drink; great value for a fun night out and your chance to 'beat the teachers' in 2026!

We'd really appreciate your support to ensure that this event can go ahead. Please book as soon as you can at [www.pta-events.co.uk/widmerend](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/widmerend).

You're welcome to bring snacks, drinks must be purchased at the bar. Drinks packages will be available to pre-order soon.

Thank you for your support, we hope to see you there!  
The PTA

## Year 6 Hazard Alley Trip



On Monday, Year 6 had a brilliant visit to Hazard Alley. They spent the day going through simulated hazards that they could come across in real life, such as: calling an ambulance; what to do if someone is in difficulty in water; how to deal with conflicts outside; the dangers of trains; and how to put someone in the recovery position. The afternoon was spent in a classroom learning about internet safety.

I was incredibly proud of the whole class and their behavior all day. They upheld the school values at every point. The centre staff commented that they were the best group they had ever had. Well done, Year 6 - what a great trip.

Mrs Oxby

## Year 2 Sharing Assembly

Year 2 wowed us today with their knowledge of Kings and Queens. They explained how the relationship between the monarchy and power in England changed over the years, thrilling us with a fun dance and song afterwards!

Well done, Year 2.





## Come As You Are Day



This week, we were proud to take part in Children's Mental Health Week, a special opportunity for us to focus on wellbeing, celebrate individuality, and remind our children that their feelings matter.

Throughout the week, classes took part in activities designed to help children understand their emotions, build resilience, and learn ways to support their own mental health. From circle time discussions and mindfulness activities to creative work exploring ourselves, the children showed great maturity, kindness and thoughtfulness.

A particularly exciting part of the week was the continuation of our Rights Respecting Schools work with Ms Atkins. We reminded the children that every child has rights, and that with rights come responsibilities. Why don't you explore what this means with your child over the half term break? We look forward to sharing more about our Silver Rights Respecting Accreditation as this develops.

On Tuesday, we held a wonderful 'Come As You Are' Day. Children (and staff!) were invited to come to school dressed in a way that represents who they are; whether that meant wearing their favourite colour, sports kit, cultural dress, hobby-themed clothing, or simply something that makes them feel confident and comfortable. It was fantastic to see such a joyful celebration of individuality across the school. The message was clear: we are all unique, and that is something to be proud of.

## Healthy Lunch - Veggie Adventures!

Vegetables are full of vitamins, minerals and fibre that help children grow, stay healthy, and concentrate in class ☀️ Yet we know they can sometimes be the trickiest part of the lunchbox!

The key is to keep vegetables colourful, fun, and easy to eat. A little creativity can turn "no thank you" into "yum!"

### 🌈 Make Veggies More Exciting:

- Add colour – The more colours, the better! Try red peppers, orange carrots, yellow sweetcorn, and green cucumber 🥕🥕🥕🥕
- Keep it bite-sized – Small sticks or slices are easier (and more appealing) to eat 🙌
- Add a dip – Hummus, cream cheese or guacamole can make veggies much more tempting 🥙
- Make fun shapes – Use small cutters to create star or heart shapes 🌟❤️

### 📖 Easy Lunchbox Veg Ideas:

- Carrot and cucumber sticks with a small pot of hummus 🥕
- Cherry tomatoes (cut if needed) 🍅
- Mini sweetcorn or sugar snap peas 🌽
- Grated carrot or lettuce in a sandwich or wrap 🥪
- A small pasta salad mixed with peas and finely chopped peppers 🍝

### 👨👩👧👦 Parent Tip:

Children are more likely to try vegetables if they've helped choose them at the shop or prepare them at home. Even washing the carrots can make them feel involved! 🛒🥕

Remember, it can take many tries before a child accepts a new vegetable; don't give up! Keep offering small amounts regularly and stay positive 😊

## Parent Forum

Our popular Parent Forum this year is going to be held on **Thursday 26th February at 9:30am**. Please do take the time to have your say and feed back to Mrs Hillier and Mrs Marshall about how you would like to see our school develop.

If you would like to attend, please accept attendance via Arbor (trips section) so that we have an idea of numbers.





## Travelling Book Fair Is Coming!

We're thrilled to announce that the Scholastic Travelling Book Fair will be visiting our school w/c 2nd March, bringing shelves full of exciting new books for your children to explore and enjoy! Every child will have the chance to browse through a wonderful selection of books during the school day. There'll be something to capture every child's imagination!

World Book day is the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Please encourage your child/ren to dress up as their favourite book character!

Buying books at the Book Fair is a wonderful way to encourage your child's love of reading while supporting our school at the same time. We can't wait to see which brilliant books capture their attention!

## Year 5 Artwork

This term in Art, Year 5 have explored a variety of different ways in which to present self-portraits, including through continuous line drawings, poetry, cubism and photography.

In the final week of our 'Self-Portrait' topic, Year 5 completed 'Reverse Acetate Portraits' using acrylic paints. First of all, we used one of our photographs from our photography week and copied the outline of our features onto acetate using permanent marker. We then reversed our images and used acrylic paint to colour our hair, lips, eyes and clothes. The children chose either warm or cool colours. We then created a background to put them on.

The children put a lot of hard work into their creations and really enjoyed this task. I think you'll agree - they have created some effective self-portraits. Well done, Year 5!

Miss Weston



## Value Of The Term



*"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. Children learnt more about Frida Kahlo and how she painted herself in a bright and colourful style, using backgrounds reflecting her Mexican heritage. Children also learnt that her paintings showed the pain and sadness she experienced during her life - her courage to overcome challenges is an inspiration to us and so many people enjoy looking at Frida's art work today. Our linked value has been 'independence' and, in our assembly, children considered how working on our own can be a challenge but is important for us to grow and learn.

## Safer Internet Day

On Wednesday 11th February 2026, we joined schools across the UK and around the world to celebrate Safer Internet Day. This year's theme was:

"Making Smart Tech Choices: Safe, Responsible, and Positive Online"

We spent time talking about how to stay safe online, how to spot things that might not be true, how to keep personal information private, and how to use technology in a kind and positive way. The children took part in fun, age-appropriate activities to help them feel confident and responsible when using the internet.

How you can help at home:

- Chat with your child about what they like doing online and who they talk to
- Look at online safety resources together (such as Childnet or the UK Safer Internet Centre)
- Keep conversations open so your child feels comfortable telling you if something worries them

By working together, we can help children enjoy the internet while staying safe, happy and confident online.

Mrs L van der Merwe  
Computing Lead