

# Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

Estcourt Drive, Widmer End, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6AH

Telephone: 01494 714371

www.widmerend.bucks.sch.uk

office@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk



Friday 27th February 2026 (11)

Page 1 of 6

Dear Widmer End families,

I hope everyone had a lovely and restful half term. It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back, and how lovely it has been to see glimmers of sunshine poking through the constant grey lately. There is definitely a sense that spring is on its way thank goodness!

You may also have noticed that many classes have been refreshing their displays around the school. The corridors are looking bright and vibrant, and we have begun to redo our large values displays in the hall. The new displays have really helped the whole school feel lighter, fresher and full of pride in what the children are achieving.

Thank you to those who attended our Parent Forum and shared your thoughts. We really value hearing how parents feel about different aspects of school life, and it is important to us that we continue to work together. Following feedback shared regarding Key Stage 1 homework, we have already made a decision to adjust our approach. Mrs Watson is sharing the updated information with families. This is a good example of how we do listen and act where we can, always with the best interests of our pupils at heart.

I am also very pleased to share that we have successfully recruited two new midday supervisors to support our lunchtime provision. Mrs Walker, who is already a very active member of the PTA and someone many of the children already know well, will be joining the team alongside Miss James. Lunchtimes are such an important part of the school day, and having additional caring adults supporting the children will make a real difference. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them as part of the Widmer End team.

Lastly, we are over the moon with our new and improved adventure trail for the children - they are going to really enjoy using this in the Spring. Thank you for all of your charitable contributions. Please see the photos below!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With best wishes,

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



## Dates for your Diary

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

- Travelling Book Fair Delivered
- EYFS Live author event

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

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

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

- World Book Day! Dress as your favourite book character
- 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

- Street Kidz Direct Charity assembly
- M&M Theatre Production 'The Wizard of Oz' Years R-6

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

- AIM High Maths Day for Select Pupils
- Y6 Girls Football training session with Mr Gibbs

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

- Year 1 Milestones Museum Trip
- Science Workshops in School
- Year 5 & 6 Football at HGSS

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

- Bikeability Level 1 for Year 3
- Mixed Y6 Friendly Netball Match at The Disraeli School

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

- Bikeability Level 2 begins for Year 5

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

- Year R Pizza Express & Library Trip
- Mixed Netball League Match vs Little Kingshill HOME



## Awards This Week

### Shining Star



Henry

### Merit Awards



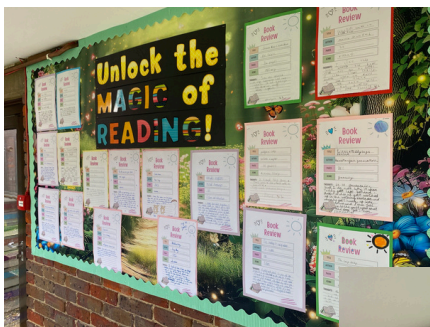
- Year R - Betsy & Nathan
- Year 1 - Mabel & George
- Year 2 - Bethany & Isaac
- Year 3 - Mia & Logan
- Year 4 - Lizzy & Oliver
- Year 5 - Ayush & Tom A
- Year 6 - James & Jake

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

### House Winners



This week's winners for extra break time... **Fire House!**



Our Current Display Boards



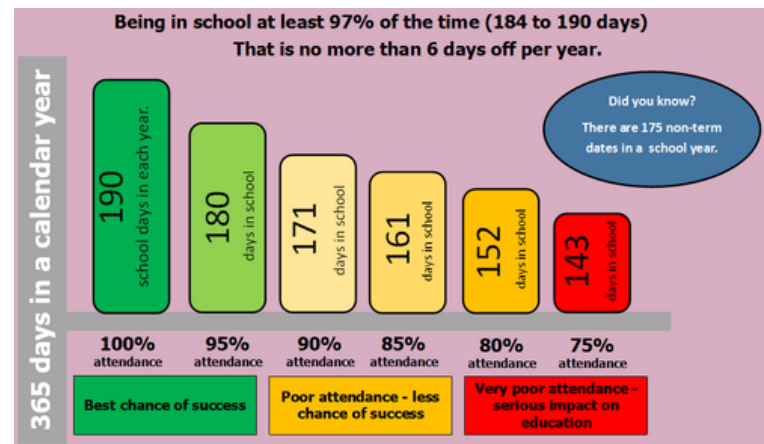
## Attendance

School average this academic year

**95.8%**

The last week:

- Reception - 98%
- Year 1 - 95.56% - 1 Late Mark!
- Year 2 - 97.2% - 1 Late Mark!
- Year 3 - 97.19%
- Year 4 - 95.93%
- Year 5 - 97.81% - 2 Late Marks!
- Year 6 - 96.77% - 3 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!**

## Amazon Wishlist

Our school Amazon Wishlist remains open and is regularly updated with items that support teaching, learning, and enrichment across the school. It provides a simple way for families and friends of the school to contribute directly to resources that make a real difference in classrooms.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already supported us; whether by purchasing items from the wishlist or by making a monetary donation via the Arbor Parent App. Your generosity is truly appreciated and is already helping us enhance opportunities for our pupils. If you would like to take a look, the wishlist continues to grow as new needs arise.

Please see the wishlist [HERE](#).



## ONLINE SAFETY WARNING

### Roblox - '99 Nights in the Forest'

There is a new game available to children on Roblox called '99 Nights in the Forest'. This appears to be a horror themed game and could contain inappropriate content for primary age pupils. Although the Roblox rating is PEGI 7 (for children aged 7+), this game appears to have some more mature themes.

Supervising adults in school have become aware of very young children playing a playground version of the game involving chasing and survival. As such, all class teachers have spent time discussing this with children to ensure they know why this is an inappropriate game and is not to be played.

Please continue to monitor your child's use of online gaming platforms and ensure you have age appropriate controls to help children be safe online. You may wish to reference the Roblox safety card attached to the newsletter email, to ensure privacy controls are set up for the devices your child has access to at home.

*Mrs Ross-Wood*

## Careers Talks

We would love to invite parents and carers to visit classes and share insights into their careers. Hearing first-hand about different jobs and pathways helps spark curiosity, raise aspirations, and make learning more meaningful and relevant for our pupils.

By broadening children's understanding of the wider world, your involvement supports our commitment to British Values; encouraging respect, tolerance, and appreciation of the diverse roles people play within our community and beyond. These experiences help pupils recognise the many opportunities available to them in the future.

If you are willing to give a short, informal talk, bring in examples from your work, or answer pupils' questions, we would be delighted to hear from you. Sessions can be brief and arranged at a convenient time for you. Your experience could make a lasting difference and help inspire the next generation to aim high.

Please email or call the School Office if you would like to take part in this experience. Thank you.



## ADD+Venture Club Easter Bookings!

We are pleased to share that the Easter Holiday Camp run by ADD+Venture Club is now open for bookings. The club will be running throughout the Easter break from 8:00am - 5:00pm (with extended hours available on request) and is open to children from Pre-School through to Year 6, from any local school.



The team has planned a fun-filled programme packed with exciting experiences for all ages. Children can look forward to Easter arts and crafts, team sports and challenges, an 'egg-citing' Easter Hunt, Green Day activities, nature crafts, and even planting vegetables or herbs to grow at home. There will be plenty of creativity, outdoor play, hands-on fun, and some tasty Easter treats along the way.

The club takes place here at Widmer End School, with daily access to our wonderful outdoor spaces as well as activities such as pool and table tennis. It's a fantastic opportunity for children to stay active, social, and engaged during the holidays.

Places are now available and tend to fill quickly. To secure a space for your child, please complete the booking form [HERE](#). If you have any questions, you can contact the team directly at [enquiries@addventureclub.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@addventureclub.co.uk).

## COULD YOU BE A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

Would you like to help shape the future of our school and commit to making a positive difference?

Do you have valuable, professional skills you can offer, not just in education?

**We are seeking a Parent Governor to join our Governing Board!**

This rewarding, voluntary role offers parents the opportunity to bring their perspectives, support strategic decision-making, and work in partnership with our school leaders to ensure the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

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



## Attendance Matters - Every Day Counts!

Did you know... if your child's attendance is 90% as an average, by the time they reach age 16 they will have missed the equivalent of a whole year of education?

That's why good attendance is one of the most important ways you can support your child's success at school.

### What the latest Department for Education (DfE) data says

- In England, pupils who miss 10% or more of sessions are classed as persistently absent.
- In the 2024/25 academic year, 18.7% of pupils fell into this category.
- Overall absence remains around 6.9% nationally, meaning millions of learning days are still being lost.

These figures show that attendance continues to be a national priority; every family plays an important role.

### Why high attendance is so important

- Regular attendance helps children to:
- Build strong friendships and feel part of the school community
- Keep up with daily learning (less catching up needed!)
- Develop good routines and positive habits
- Achieve their very best academically
- Even missing one day every two weeks can quickly add up and impact progress.

### How parents and carers can help

You can make a big difference by:

- Encouraging good bedtime and morning routines
- Booking holidays outside term time
- Letting the school know early if your child is unwell

If you are ever worried about your child's attendance, please speak to us; we are here to help and support.

### Our message

Every day really does count. By working together, we can make sure every child gets the most from their education. Thank you for your continued support.



## Year 4 Visit to The Living Rainforest

Year 4 had a fantastic end to Spring 1 term with a visit to The Living Rainforest on Friday 13th.

Before the trip, the children had been learning about rainforests, including their climate and where they are found around the world. This made the visit even more exciting, as the children were keen to see how this environment could be recreated in Hampstead Norreys.

As soon as we entered, we were amazed by the incredible range of plants surrounding us. The enormous leaves and dense vegetation made it feel like we had stepped into a real rainforest. We also quickly noticed how warm and humid it was!

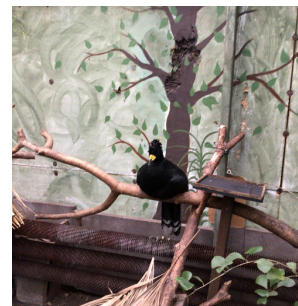
The centre is home to over 850 species of plants and animals, including some that are rare and endangered. The children were extremely excited to see lizards, monkeys, snakes and even Cinnamon the two-toed sloth.

The poison dart frogs were definitely a highlight. Our guide explained that their bright blue colouring warns predators that they are poisonous. We learned that this warning colouring is called aposematic colouring.

We saw many different birds, but a clear favourite was Edwin the toucan. During Covid, when the rainforest was closed, he became very lonely, so staff set up a screen showing videos of children to keep him company.

The children had an amazing day and it was a brilliant way to bring our rainforest topic to life as we finished the Spring 1 term.

*Mrs van der Merwe*





## Pre-School Updates

Welcome back to Pre-School and we hope that you had a lovely half term, even though the weather wasn't brilliant!

This week, our book was 'Toby and the Tricky Things'. We have talked about what we find tricky. There are lots of things in Pre-School that are tricky to do, our buttons, our zips, and sometimes sharing!

Two of the words in the story were 'big' and 'small', so we created a sizing activity to see who was the biggest child and who was the smallest child. As you can see we have some very tall children and we have some small children.

Just a reminder that Thursday is **World Book Day** and the children are invited to dress up in their favorite book character. I wonder who you're going to be, we can't wait to see!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and we'll see you all next week.

Deborah



## Spotlight On SEND!

Please contact Mrs Ross-Wood for any SEND related enquiries. [SEND@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:SEND@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk)

### 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**

## Smart Snacks - Healthy After-School Options!

After a busy day at school, it's completely normal for children to feel hungry the moment they walk through the door!

A healthy after-school snack can boost energy levels, support concentration for homework, and prevent overeating at dinner time. The key is to offer snacks that combine energy + nutrition, rather than sugary quick fixes that lead to an energy crash ⚡🍬

Aim for snacks that include at least one of these:

- Fruit or vegetables 🍏🥕
- Protein (cheese, yogurt, eggs, hummus) 🧀🥚
- Wholegrains for longer-lasting energy 🌾

### Easy After-School Snack Ideas

- Apple slices with cheese cubes
- Veggie sticks with hummus
- Banana with a spoon of peanut butter (if allowed)
- Plain yogurt with berries
- Plain popcorn (unsweetened)
- Wholegrain crackers with cream cheese
- Hard-boiled egg with toast fingers
- A small fruit smoothie with milk or yogurt

### Top Tips for Parents

- Keep portions small - snacks should bridge the gap to dinner, not replace it 🍴
- Be prepared - having healthy options ready prevents grabbing sugary treats 🚫🍬
- Create a snack routine - try offering snacks at roughly the same time each day 🕒
- Water first! - sometimes children are actually thirsty rather than hungry 💧

💡 Remember: Children copy what they see. Enjoying healthy snacks together as a family helps build positive habits that last! 🧑👦🌟

## Final Development League Football Match

The development football team played a match against Hannah Ball Academy. We sadly lost 2-1 but we played very well as a team. We all had lots of fun and loved working together. Hopefully we will win our next U11s League team match, next Friday.

Luke, Y6





## Year 6's Delicious Homework

Year 6 had a different half term homework. I asked them to put their maths skills to use in the kitchen! Their brief was to cook anything they liked as long as they read a whole recipe, used scales and measuring. I was absolutely blown away by their efforts. In fact I think we are going to suspend all year 6 lessons and open a cafe!

Cooking is a wonderful way for your children (no matter what age) to put maths into practice. Not to mention enhance their reading skills and expose them to instructional writing; a writing style that they will need throughout their schooling.

Well done Year 6, feel free to bring in any samples from your future cooking adventures.

Mrs Oxby



## Value Of The Term

# CURIOSITY



*"Our fascination with space links to our ability to dream, to wonder, to be curious and to have big ideas"*

In our Values assembly this week, Mrs Marshall introduced the value of Curiosity. Children were introduced to the astronaut, Tim Peake, who is our first inspirational person for this value. Tim was interested in flying from an early age and wanted a career in the army. He joined the Royal Air Force and was lucky enough to fly helicopters for them - he got to travel to different places and used his talents to be part of special search and rescue missions. Children learnt that this was the first part of Tim's journey to becoming the first person from the UK to do a space walk as an astronaut, and that being curious about our world can lead to big and exciting things!

## Year 3 Trip - Ashmolean Museum

We had a fantastic day with Year 3 at the Ashmolean Museum on Wednesday. In the morning, we explored the Ancient Egypt gallery and took part in a brilliant workshop. The children learned all about mummification, Egyptian kings, and even had a go at understanding hieroglyphics. They asked some great questions and were fascinated by the artefacts which we all got to touch - very rare at this museum as people usually aren't allowed!

After lunch, we explored the rest of the museum and completed a scavenger hunt, searching for clues and spotting Egyptian objects in other galleries. It was lovely to see everyone working together so enthusiastically - our new value of curiosity was definitely on show!

