

# Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

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Friday 13th March 2026 (12)

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Dear Widmer End families,

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting time in school over the past couple of weeks, with lots of wonderful activities taking place for our pupils to enjoy.

One of the highlights was our fantastic World Book Day celebration which was organised by Mrs Van der Merwe. Both staff and pupils fully embraced the spirit of the day by coming to school dressed in an array of incredible costumes inspired by their favourite book characters. The effort that went into the costumes was truly impressive! Throughout the day the children took part in a range of fun activities to celebrate reading, sharing stories and their love of books. It was a brilliant day and a wonderful reminder of how important reading is in our school.

We were also delighted to welcome M&M Theatrical Productions into school who performed a fantastic production of The Wizard of Oz. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were captivated from start to finish by the music, acting and colourful characters. It was a real treat to have such a high-quality theatre experience brought directly into school. I would like to thank families for contributing financially to this experience and also to the PTA who made a generous donation to make sure this could happen.

Another special event was welcoming the founder of Street Kids Direct to lead an assembly for our pupils. Earlier in the year, before Christmas, we learned about this charity during our special Radio Christmas event. The assembly was a powerful and inspiring update, helping the children understand more about the lives of children in Guatemala and how different their experiences can be compared to those of children here at our school. It was a thoughtful and engaging talk that really encouraged our pupils to reflect on how fortunate we are and the importance of helping others.

We are also extremely proud of our sporting achievements recently. Our netball teams performed brilliantly to win the netball tournament at Pipers Corner - a fantastic accomplishment for the squad. On top of this, our football team has also had tremendous success in winning their league. A huge thank you to the staff and parents who support and help run these teams - your time and commitment make such a difference and help create these wonderful opportunities for our pupils.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to make our school such a positive place for our children to learn and grow.

With best wishes,

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

## Dates for your Diary

### Saturday 14th March

- Inter-Schools Netball Tournament

### Monday 16th March

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

### Tuesday 17th March

- Bikeability Level 2 begins for Year 5

### Wednesday 18th March

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

### Thursday 19th March

- Year 6 Extra Swimming Lesson
- Y6 Girls Football Training Session

### Friday 20th March

- Choir Echoes Rehearsal in Wycombe
- Year 4 Sharing Assembly - 9am

### Monday 23rd March

- Lego Workshops for Years 4 & 5
- Parents Evening 4-7pm

### Tuesday 24th March

- Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm

### Wednesday 25th March

- Year 2 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo
- Girls League Netball Match vs Holmer Green AWAY

### Thursday 26th March

- Last Year 5 Swimming Session - Bring PJs!
- Pre-School Trip to Odds Farm
- Indian Dance Assembly - 9am
- Year 6 Girls Football Tournament at Pipers Corner School

### Friday 27th March

- School Closes for Easter Holidays - 1:30pm



## Awards This Week

### Shining Star



Ayush



Grace

### Merit Awards



- Year R - Shania, Freddie, Sameera & Daniel
- Year 1 - The whole class!, Freddie & Sulaiman
- Year 2 - Rosalie, Ollie, Phoebe & Florrie
- Year 3 - Findlay, Ivy, Abdullah & Elsie
- Year 4 - Sarbani, Arthur, Pixie & Emma
- Year 5 - Thomas, Erin, Bella & Cassie
- Year 6 - George, Charlotte, Kai & Rupert

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

### House Winners



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

## Right of the Month

March's 'Right of the Month' is Article 29: I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment.

This month, the Eco Reps helped choose this right as it is linked to lots of Eco celebration days this month: World Wildlife Day, Food Waste Action Week, Global Recycling Day, World Water Day and Earth Hour.

**29** I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment

## Attendance

School average this academic year

**95.8%**

The last week:

Reception - 97.31% - 1 Late Mark!

Year 1 - 95.34% - 2 Late Marks!

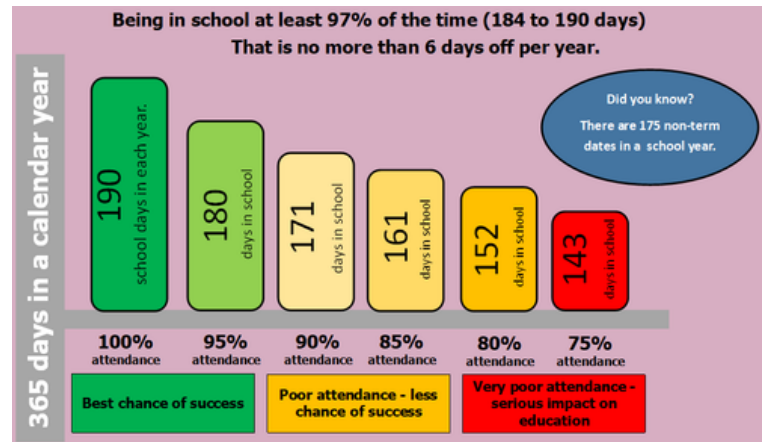
Year 2 - 95.9% - 2 Late Marks!

Year 3 - 95.49%

Year 4 - 92.90%

Year 5 - 97.09%

Year 6 - 97.48% - 2 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!**

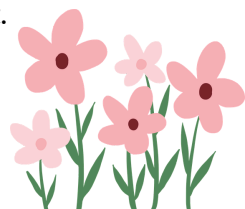
**Be at the classroom on time and ready to learn!**

## 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.

This week, we are hoping for kind donations for our **forest school provision**. You can see that we need knives, peelers, and a solar pond pump! Compost, top soil, grass seed and flower/vegetable seedlings are also welcome, but you won't find these on the wishlist.

Please see the wishlist [HERE](#).





## March is 'Eco Month'

As March has so many global celebration events that are linked to our planet, the Eco Warriors decided that it would be our first ever 'Eco Month' at Widmer End, linking it to our 'Right of the Month'. They launched it at the first assembly in March where they talked about all of the different events and introduced the Eco Month competition to create something to celebrate the month.

They will be choosing the best competition entries for display around school and using the children's ideas to create our new school 'Eco Code'. The Eco Warriors have been sharing tips and advice for how to care for our planet, reduce waste and promote sustainability.



## Netball Season Begins



Some Year 5 and 6 girls took part in the fantastic inter-school netball tournament hosted by Pipers Corner last week. One team managed to win all their matches and won the tournament, taking some shiny medals away! We are all looking forward to the annual High Wycombe District Tournament, tomorrow at Kingsmead Netball Centre, this time taking 2 mixed teams and 1 girls team. Fingers crossed for another win!

## Spotlight On SEND!

### The Parent's Portal by Autism Early Support

The Parent's Portal by Autism Early Support is a new digital platform for parents/carers.

As part of the Buckinghamshire local offer to families, the Parent's Portal by Autism Early Support (AES) is commissioned to provide free online support and guidance services for Buckinghamshire families, and professionals. The portal provides an interactive 24/7 community of support, resources and guidance and is free for Buckinghamshire families. You can register for your account here:

<https://portal.autismearlysupport.org.uk/bucks-registrations/>

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**

## 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.



## Football Brilliance



Our brilliant U11s League football team, narrowly won their final match against Great Kingshill Combined School last Friday, 1-0. This means that for the first time in recent history, our school has won the league!

A huge effort has been made by John Gibbs, who has coached the team through additional training sessions and matches, giving this awesome opportunity to all of the boys. Thank you!

## 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 assemblies, Mrs Marshall continued to teach children about the value of Curiosity. Children learnt more about Tim Peake's difficult training to become an astronaut, including how he had to learn how to speak Russian and that he had to travel to extreme environments to get used to the loneliness of space. Tim's curiosity led him to travel into space, somewhere where very few have been. His hard work and dedication has inspired so many others since to follow their dreams and explore the world around them. Make sure you ask your children what their dreams are and where they would like to explore next!

## Calling All Parents and Carers - Can You Inspire Our Pupils?

We are still looking for parents and carers to visit classes and briefly talk about their careers. Hearing about real jobs helps spark curiosity, raise aspirations, and broaden pupils' understanding of the world.

If you are able to give a short, informal talk or answer a few questions, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the School Office by email or phone if you would like to take part. Thank you!



## Year 5 Trip to the Natural History Museum

Last week, Year 5 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Natural History Museum. During a fascinating volcano and earthquake show, the children learnt how volcanoes erupt and how earthquakes occur, before taking on the challenge of saving Lego people (even Barbie!) who were living near an active volcano!

Afterwards, they explored the Volcanoes and Earthquakes zone, where they experienced what it might feel like to be in an earthquake inside the famous 'shop' simulation. In the afternoon, the children became space scientists and worked in teams to design and build their own Mars Rovers using Lego. Their creations included features such as cameras, satellite dishes and diggers to collect samples from Mars. The children were extremely well behaved throughout the day and represented the school brilliantly.

Miss Weston





## Pre-School Updates

In Pre-School, we have been looking at and learning about space. The children have created some lovely space crafts which are now on display.

The children have all been very excited to look at the planets that are in our solar system and are able to remember some of their names. Did you know that the sun is huge and sun sets on Mars look blue to the human eyes, due to the fine dust in it's atmosphere?

We have learned that, in space, there is no gravity! This means astronauts and their food float around inside their spaceship.

We watched a video of an astronaut cleaning his teeth; the children thought this was very funny when he let go of his toothbrush and it floated. Can you remember what happened to the water on the toothbrush?

Moving like an astronaut, dressing as an astronaut and singing space songs, like "Zoom, zoom, zoom, We're going to the moon" have been so much fun.

I wonder what we will learn about next?

Have a lovely weekend.

Deborah



## A.I.M High

Gift Aid forms are essential in helping the school claim extra funds from donations by you, with no costs to yourselves! If you haven't filled one of our Gift Aid forms in, please do so and email or print and return to the office ASAP. We have attached it to this email. Thank you!



## Packed Lunch Prep Tips - Make Mornings Easy!

Busy mornings can make packing a healthy lunchbox feel rushed 🕒 A little preparation can make things much easier and help children stay energised throughout the school day.

### 📅 Simple Tips

📅 Plan ahead – Think about lunches for the week when doing your food shop.

🥕 Prep the night before - Wash fruit or chop vegetables ready to go.

👪 Get children involved - Let them help choose their fruit or snacks.

### 🍏 A Simple Lunchbox Formula

🍞 Main: sandwich, wrap, bagel or pasta salad

🍏 Fruit or veg: apple slices, grapes, carrot or cucumber sticks

🧀 Protein: cheese, yogurt, hummus or egg

💡 **Parent Tip:** Keeping a small "lunchbox section" in your fridge with ready-to-go snacks can make mornings much smoother!

## A.I.M High

On Thursday, a small group of children were lucky to go and spend a maths day at Beechview School. It was lovely to see them being challenged and working together, testing my maths skills too! *Mrs Bravington*

"First, we did some algebra, eg.  $2A+B-1A=A+B$ , then we did a game where we had pyramids with 15 blocks and we had 5 numbers, eg:1, 9, 3, 4 & 5. We would put them in the blocks at the bottom and add it up to try and get the highest. Then we played a game where we had to fill boxes with shapes and try and fill your box. Then after lunch, we drew plans for spaceships and tried to get the smallest perimeter. Then, we did some questions about space using geography, eg. what is the mean temperature of all the planets. Then we very briefly looked at how to work out speed (distance over time = speed). Then it finished." *Ayush - Year 5*

"It was great and I really like it. I thought it was really, really fun. If I could I would definitely go again. I loved doing GCSE level maths and doing the area and perimeter of the spaceship." *Pixie - Year 4*

"It was so much fun and I learnt a lot. I learnt stuff I didn't know and got really good at stuff I did know. I love doing maths, it was amazing. I loved doing it." *Alice - Year 4*



## World Book Day Celebrations

We had a wonderful week celebrating our love of reading across the school, culminating in our fantastic World Book Day celebrations on Thursday. Throughout the week, we were delighted to host the Scholastic Travelling Book Fair, which proved incredibly popular with our pupils and families. Thanks to your support, we raised an amazing £712.87 in rewards, which will be spent solely on purchasing new books for our school. This will help us continue to refresh our classroom libraries and ensure children have access to exciting new stories to enjoy.

Thursday brought a burst of colour and creativity as children arrived dressed as their favourite book characters. It was wonderful to see such a wide range of costumes and so much enthusiasm for reading. We spotted some fantastic characters around school, including Dobby the Elf, Dorothy, and The Lorax, with many children truly going the extra mile with their outfits.

Staff also joined in the fun, with Mrs Hillier transforming into Professor Minerva McGonagall from the Harry Potter series, while Mrs Oxby arrived as Violet Beauregarde from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! Mrs Van der Merwe arranged a fantastic scavenger hunt and competition, results of this will be announced soon.

It has been a joyful and colourful week celebrating books, stories, and the magic of reading. Thank you to everyone who supported the book fair and helped make our World Book Day celebrations such a success!



## Nature Club



Nature Club have been getting very green fingered! We have tomatoes, courgette, and many more delicious veggies planted! They grew these all 'from seed', so this is a fantastic achievement for these young children. Thank you to Mrs Bejan and Mrs Swanson for dedicating so much time and effort into building this wonderful curriculum for the children.

## Year 4 Science Experiments

Year 4 scientists put their investigation skills to the test this week as they explored the greenhouse effect. We set up an experiment with two jars – one open and one covered with a plastic bag – to see which would heat up the most. Inside each jar, we placed a thermometer so we could measure the temperature accurately. With the sun hiding behind the clouds, we had to get creative and used the hot dinner trolley light as our "sun"!

We carefully read the thermometers and recorded the temperatures like real scientists. Our results showed that the covered jar became hotter, helping us understand how greenhouse gases trap heat around the Earth.

A fantastic investigation with some brilliant scientific thinking from our young researchers!





## Wizard of Oz



Last Monday, M&M Productions performed a glorious pantomime, The Wizard of Oz. The children were giggling away and thoroughly enjoyed the whole production. Thank you to all parents who contributed a little towards the cost and to the PTA who covered the final balance, without this funding, we couldn't give our pupils the brilliant experiences we do!

Did you know, our TAs missed the performance to take part in valuable training sessions to improve reading uptake? Our staff are always looking to encourage our pupils' literature uptake!

## Year 1 Milestones Museum Trip



Year 1 had a fabulous day travelling back in time to the Victorian era and the 1940s to learn all about Travel and Transport. They got to see Penny Farthings, Steam trains, Buses and cars. They even got to go on an old tram!

They loved learning all about these types of transport and taking what we have been learning in class and being able to see it in real life! They represented the school amazingly and the staff at the museum even commented how amazing they were!

Miss Davis

## Science Workshops

Today, we were treated to an amazing science workshop that captured the children's interest and intrigue. There were smiles and gasps of delight as things exploded, expanded and changed colour! Questions and scientific exploration were plentiful.

This was a wonderfully creative way for children to enjoy science and learn about laws of physics, chemistry and biology. They were totally absorbed and really saw how much fun science can be.

Be aware of them rummaging around your kitchen cupboards trying to recreate elephant toothpaste or making water go uphill! This was a wonderful workshop that totally brought science to life for Widmer End.

Mrs Oxby

