

Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

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Friday 25th September 2026 (2)

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An Important Message About Our PTA

Dear Families,

Our PTA held its Annual General Meeting yesterday and, unfortunately, it became clear that a number of planned events will have to be cancelled unless more parents and carers come forward to help. The first event affected will be the school disco, which is due to take place before half term.

Despite several appeals, no new volunteers have offered to become PTA officers or committee members who can help lead and organise the many events held throughout the year which means we are now at crisis point.

We were incredibly grateful to the many willing volunteers who supported our Summer Fayre. Their help enabled this wonderful event to go ahead. However, the PTA also needs people who can help organise events and provide support throughout the year. The current committee remains committed to creating special experiences for our children, but it simply cannot continue operating as it is.

So many much-loved activities happen because of our PTA, and these may no longer be possible without additional support. Elfridges is the next event at risk of cancellation.

If you would be willing to become a committee member or officer, and could commit even a small amount of time, please let us know. You do not need to take everything on yourself: my hope is that, with more people involved, many hands really will make light work.

I very much hope that members of our parent and carer community will be able to step forward so that these special events can continue for our children.

Have a lovely weekend.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 28th September

- Drama4All Workshops Years P-3
- Bucks Bear Visiting!
- Football Team Trials

Tuesday 29th September

- CAP Netball Tournament at Widmer End School

Thursday 1st October

- CENSUS Day - Please ensure lunches are booked!
- Black History Month

Friday 2nd October

- PTA Hot Dog Day - Volunteers Needed! Contact PTA@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk or speak to your class rep

Monday 5th October

- VR Workshops for Black History Month
- U11s League Football Match vs Kingswood HOME

Tuesday 6th October

- Evacuation Practice to Cedar Park School (see more information below)

Wednesday 7th October

- Year 5 & 6 Netball Trials for Both Girls & Mixed Teams

Thursday 8th October

- Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Friday 9th October

- World Mental Health Day



Awards This Fortnight

Shining Star



Alfie



Rory

Merit Awards



Year R - The Whole Class, Pollie, Frankie
 Year 1 - Teddy, Alaya, Tyler & Betsy
 Year 2 - Myla, Max, Ellis & Ayana
 Year 3 - Rosalie, Sara, Tamanna & Hafsa
 Year 4 - Otto, Lexi, Amelia & Abdullah
 Year 5 - Arthur, Aster, Grace & Sarbani
 Year 6 - The Whole Class, Thomas & Emily M

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

House Winners



This week's winners were Air! Rewards are currently being deliberated over in staff meetings.

Year 1 Art & Music



Year 1 were amazed when Miss Davis pulled out a HUMONGOUS roll of paper from her cupboard. It was bigger than some of the children! Miss Davis played 3 songs to the children, whilst they drew, mark-made, and scribbled along in whatever pattern or picture came to mind.

We have wonderful staff who think up brilliant ideas for out-of-the-ordinary lessons, to keep the children engaged, excited and enable them to develop their own passions.

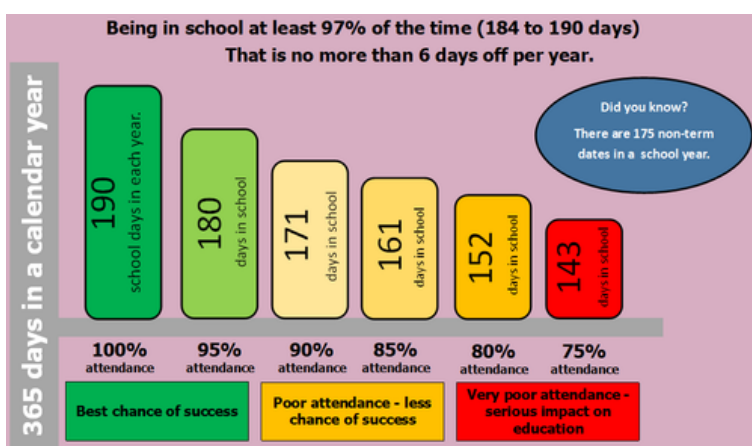
Attendance

School average this academic year

97.7%

The last fortnight:

Reception - 96.54% - 2 Late Marks!
 Year 1 - 98.3% - 1 Late Mark!
 Year 2 - 99.48% - 2 Late Marks!
 Year 3 - 98.85% - 3 Late Marks!
 Year 4 - 95.91% - 1 Late Mark!
 Year 5 - 99.10% - 6 Late Marks!
 Year 6 - 97.66%



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

We still have many things on our [Amazon Wishlist](#) and would be grateful for your donations. We keep adding items as they are needed so it is getting longer every day! This week is a focus on play equipment, please!

Thank you!





Value of the Week

Unity



"As indigenous people we must unite in a single objective: that we demand that they respect us."

In our Monday Values assemblies, children have continued to learn more about our inspirational person, Nemonte Nenquimo, as part of our learning about Unity. Children learnt how Nemonte gathered many Amazonian tribe leaders together and went to court to fight for the protection of their land from the oil miners. They won the case and Nemonte wrote a book about her life for people to learn more about her culture and fight for justice in her country. Our linked value this week was 'humility'. Children were taught that being humble is a huge part of working towards unity and doing great things. They were given examples of how they could show humility and see it in others, too.

Staying Rail Safe

This week, all of our children took part in a Rail Safe Friendly assembly in their classrooms, learning some really important messages about staying safe around the railway.



The sessions were tailored to different age groups, helping our children understand the potential dangers around railway lines, stations, level crossings and railway equipment, as well as what to do to keep themselves and others safe.

There were plenty of opportunities for the children to ask questions and discuss real-life situations – because when it comes to railway safety, knowing what to do can make all the difference.

A big thank you to the Rail Safe Friendly team for helping our children become more confident and responsible around the railway.

And, as always, we hope our children will take what they have learned home and share it with their families too!

Pre-School Updates

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been looking at ourselves and the parts of our bodies. Singing songs like head, shoulders, knees and toes helps us to learn through play.

The children painted some fantastic self portraits which are on display in Pre-School along with some other pictures of ourselves, under the heading of "Marvellous Me".

Looking at our senses, the children made some colourful hand print pictures for touch. This was great fun being able to paint our hands in different colours.

We looked at our eye colours and made a chart to see which eye colour was the most common in Pre-School. Taking a walk outside on the playground, we used our ears to see what we could hear. We heard lots of traffic, but also birds, a whistle, footsteps and even hiccups! For touch, we had a freely bag with different objects in. Could we guess what was in the bag? We had a teddy which was the favourite to feel. And finally, taste. We had the chance to try some different fruits and vegetables during snack time. Can you remember your favourite?

We have spoken a lot about how good manners can make others feel. It is always lovely to hear the children say please and thank you without being reminded. Keep up the good manners work everyone.

A busy couple of weeks with lots of learning through play.

Have a lovely weekend and we can't wait to see what we will learn next.

Deborah & Tamsin





Spotlight On SEND!

Getting into the Zone!

This week, our whole school came together for a Zones of Regulation assembly, and it was wonderful to see the children so engaged.

We explored how each colour represents a different feeling and looked at photographs of children showing different expressions. Together, we thought about how each child might be feeling and which Zone they might be in. Our youngest children in Year 1 were particularly enthusiastic and showed a fantastic understanding!

The language of the Zones is part of everyday life across school. Children regularly check in with their teachers, sharing how they feel and are learning lots of strategies to regulate and return to the Green Zone – where we are ready to learn.

Why not continue the conversation at home? When reading a book, watching a favourite programme or looking at pictures of much-loved characters, ask your child “What Zone do you think they are in? How do you know?” It’s a fun and simple way to help children recognise emotions and practise using their Zones language every day.

Mrs Ross-Wood

ZONES OF REGULATION!

Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
Sick Sad Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Good to Go Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Anxious Excited	Mad/Angry Mean Yelling/Hitting Out of Control I Need Time and Space

Please contact Mrs Ross-Wood for any SEND related enquiries. 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

Benedict's Law: Keeping Our Children Safe

Widmer End  **Nut Aware**

Benedict's Law is named in memory of five-year-old Benedict Blythe, who tragically died following a severe allergic reaction at school in 2021. His parents have since campaigned for stronger allergy safety measures in schools across England.

From September 2026, new statutory guidance requires schools to take a consistent approach to managing allergies, including staff training, individual healthcare plans and appropriate emergency procedures.

At Widmer End School, we are committed to keeping every child safe and included. We are a nut-aware school and ask parents not to send nuts or foods containing nuts into school. However, allergies are not limited to nuts, and we recognise the importance of managing all known allergens.

How can you help?

Please ensure the school has up-to-date information about your child's allergies and any prescribed medication. Check food labels when preparing packed lunches and snacks, remind children not to share food and speak to the school before bringing in food for celebrations.

By working together, we can help every child enjoy school life safely and confidently.

For more information, visit: [Allergy UK – Benedict's Law](https://www.allergyuk.org/benedicts-law)

Year 1 Tie-Dye



Year 1 used different fruits to tie-dye items during Forest School this week! It was very tempting to eat the fruit rather than make dye from it.



Healthy Food Inspo: Let Children Get Involved

Children are often more willing to try different foods when they have helped to choose or prepare them. Snack-Tember is a great opportunity to give children a little more responsibility in the kitchen.

This fortnight's idea: Make your own snack

Choose a simple snack that children can assemble themselves, with appropriate adult supervision. Ideas could include:

- A mini pizza made with wholemeal toast, tomato, vegetables and cheese
- Half a wholemeal bagel with soft cheese and cucumber
- Wholegrain breakfast cereal (think bran flakes) with milk and sliced fruit
- Homemade popcorn without added sugar or excessive salt (not recommended for under-5s due to the choking hazard)
- Vegetable sticks with a homemade hummus or yoghurt dip

Family challenge: Let your child plan and prepare one snack for the family this weekend!



You can find more Snack-Tember inspiration and recipes in the British Nutrition Foundation's parent and carer guide:

https://www.nutrition.org.uk/media/tvbb1hd1/snack-tember-parent_carer-guide-2026.pdf

Keeping Our Children Safe Online

Following recent news reports about the misuse of children's photographs online, we would like to reassure parents and carers about how we share photographs at Widmer End.

Photographs shared on our school website's class pages are kept within a secure, password-protected area, accessible only to authorised users. This allows us to continue sharing the children's learning and achievements with their families whilst protecting their privacy.

We also kindly remind parents and carers not to share photographs featuring other people's children on social media without their permission.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our children safe online.

Helping Hands



Mr Smith fitting fence post caps, supplied & painted by him & Malakai



Mr Oxby fitting new blinds to Year 4's windows

Did you know, we are always after help to look after & improve our school buildings and grounds? We take such pride in our whole school environment and want it to be the best it can be for our pupils.

Lovely parents, partners and friends of staff and governors come and do lots of odd jobs for us. From painting skirting boards and putting up new window blinds, to visiting Hildreth's Garden Centre and looking after our rainbow planters, we have a job for every skill set!

If you have a few hours available and would love to volunteer to improve our school, please contact Mrs Weaver. She has a long list of jobs, ready for you to take on!

Games & Equipment Needed



Our pupils have so much fun with the new break and lunchtime play equipment, which is why it's so disappointing when items get lost or damaged.



We have added replacement items to our Amazon wishlist, so please do log on and take a look. Every item purchased goes directly towards improving your child's experience at school, whether they are starting their school journey in Reception or finalising their primary years in Year 6!





Year 3 Step Back in Time!

Year 3 had a fantastic day stepping back in time at Chiltern Open Air Museum!

The children had so much fun getting hands-on with their Stone Age learning and bringing their classroom topics to life. It was wonderful to see their curiosity, enthusiasm and excitement throughout the day; and their behaviour was absolutely brilliant.

Our staff thoroughly enjoyed the day too (although we suspect the children had slightly more fun than the adults!). It was a fantastic opportunity to learn outside the classroom and make some special (and very messy) memories together.

A huge well done to Year 3 for representing Widmer End so brilliantly.

And there's no slowing down for this class... they are already looking forward to their next adventure at the Ashmolean Museum in February!



Volunteers Needed - Pond Clear-Out!

Our school pond is looking a little more "wildlife jungle" than "wildlife haven", so it's time for a winter tidy-up! 🍂

We're looking for a pond-loving volunteer who knows what they're doing to help us clear the pond safely and appropriately, while making sure we don't disturb the wildlife that calls it home.

If you know your pond plants from your pond weeds, aren't afraid of a bit of mud and have some time to spare, we'd love to hear from you! 🐸

Pond expert? Wildlife enthusiast? Secret frog whisperer? We need you! ❤️

Class Charters

Since achieving our Rights Respecting Schools Silver: Rights Aware accreditation in July, all of our classes have made a fantastic start in embedding children's rights into everyday life across our school. Every class has created a rights-based 'Class Charter', with children (rights holders) and adults (duty bearers) working together to agree a set of principles that help to ensure every child's rights are respected, valued and upheld in our school community. Each class has also created a beautiful display to celebrate and showcase their charter.

Our newly appointed Rights Reps met this morning to discuss our next steps on our journey towards achieving the GOLD award. They shared ideas about how we can continue to promote children's rights throughout the school and helped to choose our next 'Right of the Month'.

It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm from our children and staff, and we are excited to continue working together to make children's rights an important part of everyday school life.

