

Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

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Friday 9th October 2026 (3)

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Dear Widmer End Families,

It has been a great couple of weeks at Widmer End, with plenty of reasons to feel proud of our wonderful children.

Our lovely Open Morning was particularly busy, and it was a pleasure to welcome so many new families into school. Our visitors were really impressed by what they saw, especially our pupils, who did an excellent job showing our visitors around and making everyone feel welcome. Their kindness, confidence and enthusiasm for Widmer End school shone through - it was a joy to watch!

This week, we also held VR workshops for all our children as part of our celebrations for Black History Month. These provided an exciting and immersive opportunity to explore Black history, bringing learning to life and encouraging the children's curiosity. It was a memorable way to enrich our learning and celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black people.

I would also like to say how proud I am of the children's behaviour during our annual evacuation practice to Cedar Park. They listened carefully, followed instructions and approached the practice sensibly and calmly. Our Year 6 pupils buddied up with our youngest children and it was heart-warming to see. Practising these arrangements helps everyone understand what to do should we ever need to leave the school site, and the children were an absolute credit to our school.

Weeks like this remind me what a special community we have at Widmer End. Whether welcoming visitors or showing care and responsibility when out together, our children give us so much to celebrate.

Have a lovely weekend.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 12th October

- Development League Football Match vs Kingswood AWAY

Tuesday 13th October

- KS2 Author Visit - Pari Thompson

Wednesday 14th October

- Parents Evening

Thursday 15th October

- Parents Evening

Friday 16th October

- Pre-School Disco
- PTA Halloween Disco

Monday 19th October

- U11s League Football Match vs Highworth AWAY

Tuesday 20th October

- Year 3 Harvest Assembly
- One-Can Collection - House Competition!

Wednesday 21st October

- Year 5 Viking Workshop

Thursday 22nd October

- INSET - School Closed

Friday 23rd October

- INSET - School Closed

Monday 26th October

- Half Term

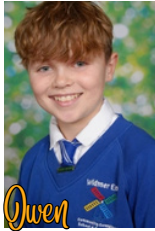
Monday 2nd November

- School Reopens 8:30am
- Interventions & Clubs Restart
- Development League Football Match vs Disraeli - AWAY



Awards This Fortnight

Shining Star



Merit Awards

Year R - Willow, Daisy-Lee, Wren & Luca
 Year 1 - Lilah, Phoenix, Grace & Arthur
 Year 2 - Daniel, Primrose, Oliver & Layla
 Year 3 - Isaac, Jamie, Henry G & Ollie
 Year 4 - Ivy, Amelie, James & Darcie
 Year 5 - Minal, Archie, Ella & Reuben
 Year 6 - Margot, Madison, Marni & Ayush



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

House Winners



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

Outerwear Reminder

Please can you ensure that your children come to school with appropriate coats, hats, gloves and waterproof school shoes.

We like the children to still play outside in light drizzle, as fresh air and outdoor play is brilliant fun, especially when there are puddles to find!

As the weather gets colder, we don't want little fingers getting frosty. Gloves or mittens are appropriate, for the younger year groups we would always recommend a snood rather than a scarf, as they can safely put this on themselves.

Reminder:

- Umbrellas are not permitted to be used on site by children
- Wellies can be worn to school but your child must bring a pair of school shoes/PE trainers to change into when in the school building.

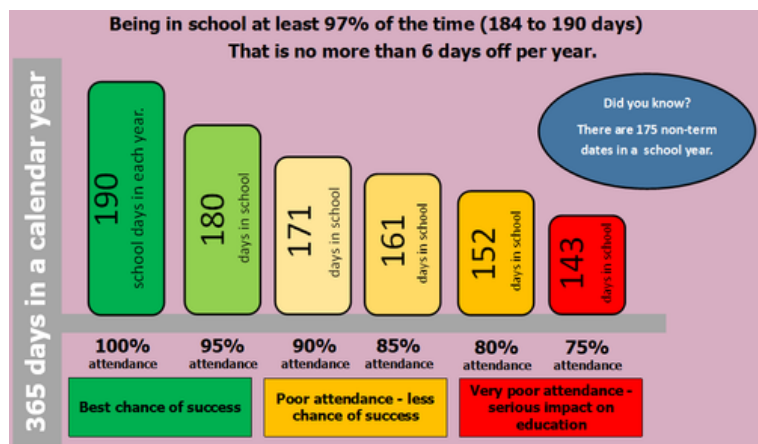
Attendance

School average this academic year

97.2%

The last fortnight:

Reception - 97.61%
 Year 1 - 97.4% - 5 Late Marks!
 Year 2 - 97.37% - 3 Late Marks!
 Year 3 - 95.55% - 2 Late Marks!
 Year 4 - 96.25% - 2 Late Mark!
 Year 5 - 97.97% - 3 Late Marks!
 Year 6 - 95.32% - 6 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

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 **reward stickers and charts**, please! Our pupils love receiving stickers and we love giving them.

Thank you!





Value of the Week

Unity



"People from all races and backgrounds, supporting one goal, something we can learn in everyday life. To make a better country and a better world."

In our Monday Values assemblies, children have been learning about our new inspirational person, Siya Kolisi, as part of our learning about Unity. Children learnt how Siya was born in South Africa in a township near Port Elizabeth. They were asked if they could remember what they had learnt about this country when we explored the life of Nelson Mandela in a previous term. The children impressed us with how they had remembered what segregation was. Mrs Marshall explained how Siya was the first black South African to captain the national rugby team, the Springboks, and that this had become an amazing moment in history and a way of uniting the people of South Africa: they could be one team, just like Siya and his team were when they won the World Cup in 2019 - a team mixed with black and white South Africans. This also linked well with what the children have been learning so far during Black History Month.

Netball Champions at Widmer End!

Last Tuesday, 29th September, we were delighted to host the Chiltern Area Partnership (CAP) Netball Tournament here at Widmer End School.

Both our Year 5 and Year 6 teams faced tough competition from Cedar Park and Highworth, showing fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout. A huge congratulations to our Year 6 team, who won every single match to bring home the trophy! We are incredibly proud of all our players.

We would love to host a Year 3/4 tournament too, although many other schools don't start their netball clubs quite as early as we do. Perhaps that's one of the secrets behind Widmer End's netball success! Starting young certainly seems to be paying off. Well done to everyone who represented our school so brilliantly!

Pre-School Updates

We can't believe how lucky we have been with the weather. So many sunny days and lots of outside play.

We have continued to learn about ourselves and our bodies. The children have learnt about their five senses and all the different ways we use these.

One way to use our senses was taking part in the drama workshop. They used their touch, listening and looking throughout the session.

Now the weather is starting to change a little, we have also been talking about autumn. So many different things can be found at this time of year and we thank you for all the leaves, conkers, pine cones etc that have been brought in to share with all the children. Lots of creations have been made using these during different activities!

Have a lovely weekend,

Deborah & Tamsin





Spotlight On SEND!

Dyslexia Awareness Week – 5th–11th October

This week is Dyslexia Awareness Week, providing an opportunity to raise awareness and understanding of dyslexia and how it can affect children's learning. Next week, classes will have an opportunity to think about this learning difference and consider what tools can help in the classroom.

We use Nessy in school to support many children with reading and spelling. Teachers will soon benefit from the school training offer, and now parents can access their free training to learn more about dyslexia and ways to support their child at home.

[Understanding Dyslexia training](#)

Mrs Ross-Wood



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

Bucks Radio Visit

We had a very exciting visit from Bucks Radio this week! They put some of our Year 6 pupils in the spotlight, asking a series of silly, spooky and Halloween-themed questions. There were some odd answers, plenty of giggles and perhaps a few questionable Halloween facts along the way! 🎃

Watch this space for when this show airs!



Remembrance Day - Wednesday 11th Nov

As Remembrance Day approaches, we take time to reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who have served, and continue to serve, our country.

This year, eight of our Year 6 pupils will have the honour of representing Widmer End School at the community Remembrance Day service, held at the war memorial outside Widmer End Village Hall. They will join local residents to pay their respects, share readings and poetry, and take part in this important occasion of remembrance.

The service will take place on **Wednesday 11th November**, with everyone gathering from **10:45am**. It will include prayers, readings and poetry, followed by light refreshments in the Village Hall. Should the weather be wet, the service will take place indoors.

All families and members of our school community are warmly invited to attend.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 representatives and look forward to seeing them play their part in bringing generations together to remember those who gave so much for the freedoms we enjoy today.

We will remember them.

World Egg Day

Today, Year 1 celebrated World Egg Day with a little creativity! The children enjoyed colouring their very own egg outlines, letting their imaginations run wild with a wonderful range of colours and designs.

World Egg Day is a great opportunity to celebrate this everyday food and learn a little more about where our food comes from. Who knew eggs could inspire so much creativity?

We think our budding artists have done an *egg-cellent* job!





Healthy Food Inspo: Let Children Get Involved

A healthy breakfast helps children start the school day ready to learn. Mornings can be busy, but breakfast does not need to be complicated or take a long time to prepare.

This fortnight's idea: Make breakfast more balanced

Try including a wholegrain carbohydrate, some protein and a portion of fruit. Simple ideas include:

- Porridge topped with sliced banana or berries
- Wholegrain cereal with milk and chopped fruit
- Wholemeal toast with scrambled egg
- Natural/Greek yoghurt with fruit and oats
- A toasted wholemeal bagel with soft cheese

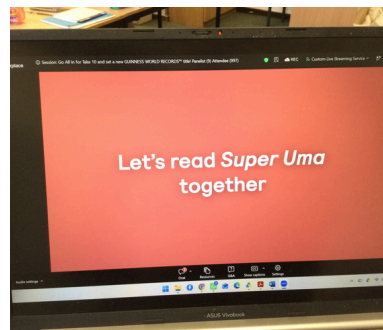


Family challenge: Ask your child to choose and help prepare one healthy breakfast this weekend. If mornings are rushed, try getting bowls, spoons and other ingredients ready the night before.

Please remember that we are a nut-aware school. Food brought into school must not contain nuts or nut-based products, and families should always consider their child's individual dietary and allergy requirements.

Reading together for a world record!

On Thursday 8 October, our school took part in an exciting GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ attempt for the most people reading online in 12 hours. Organised by the National Literacy Trust and the British Council, the event brought readers together to celebrate the joy of reading. We were delighted to play our part—what a wonderful way to share our love of books!



Superheroes to the Rescue!

Our Pre-School, Reception and Years 1, 2 and 3 children enjoyed some fantastic superhero workshops with Drama4All!

Each class took part in a fun-filled, half-hour session, bringing their imaginations to life through role-play. From stepping into the shoes of superheroes to acting out exciting adventures, the children had a wonderful time exploring their creative sides.

Who knew we had so many little superheroes hiding among us? Perhaps we should keep them on standby for our next school emergency!



U11s Football Matches 'Kick Off'

This Monday, 9 very excited Year 5 and Year 6 boys donned the Widmer End football kit to represent our school for our first league match of the season.

We played Kingswood School at home, giving us time to warm up and feel 'at home' instantly.

Mr Vincent and Mr Glewis kindly volunteered to coach the boys and referee the match, ensuring the boys came away with a nail-biting 2-2 draw.

Thank you to all the parents that came to support the boys, you enjoyed the last sunny match and are hopefully bracing for the autumnal weather to hit.

Our next match is this coming Monday, for our U11s development league team, also against Kingswood. Let's hope for a win for Widmer!





Right of the Month - October

October's 'Right of the Month' is Article 2: All children have these rights. The UNCRC applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, no matter what family they may come from. The new Rights Reps announced this right in assembly and shared information about the many celebration events this month which celebrate non-discrimination and inclusivity. Black History Month, ADHD Awareness Month, Dyslexia week and World Mental Health Day are celebrated.

United Nations Day on the 24th October reminds us that all children have the rights in the convention. World Food Day and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty highlight how we must use our voices to stand up for those children around the world who are not able to enjoy their rights.



Behind the Scenes: Our School Governors

Have you ever wondered who helps make the big decisions at Widmer End School? Who makes sure we're spending our money wisely, providing the best possible education and planning for the future? Alongside our fantastic staff and leadership team, there's a dedicated group of people working behind the scenes who play a vital role in school life: our governors!

This week, our Governing Body held its first meeting of the academic year, so we thought it was the perfect opportunity to shine a spotlight on what they do. Our governors are a dedicated group of volunteers, including parents, staff and members of the wider community, who give their time and expertise to help Widmer End School be the very best it can be. At the first meeting of the year, governors typically review the school's priorities, discuss pupil achievement, safeguarding, finances and staffing, and look at plans for the year ahead. They work closely with Mrs Hillier and the senior leadership team (SLT), offering support, asking important questions and making sure decisions are always made with our children's best interests at heart.

Governors bring a wealth of experience, fresh perspectives and valuable skills from outside education. They help shape the school's long-term direction, oversee how public money is spent and hold school leaders to account for educational standards. Much of their work happens quietly behind the scenes, but their contribution makes a real difference to the opportunities and experiences we can offer our pupils.

We are incredibly grateful to our governors for the time, commitment and care they give to our school.

Want to know who's helping guide Widmer End? Visit our [Governing Body page](#) to meet our governors and learn more about their roles.

World Mental Health Day

School life can be busy, busy, busy! That's why it's so important to take time to slow down and look after our mental health.

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a guided meditation session, giving them a chance to pause, relax and recharge.





Black History Month - Bringing History to Life!



What an exciting week we've had at Widmer End School celebrating Black History Month!

On Monday, children from Year 1 to Year 6 enjoyed fantastic Virtual Reality (VR) workshops, bringing important moments in Black history to life.

Our pupils stepped into the world of Mary Seacole, experienced the Civil Rights Movement, explored life on a space station whilst learning about Mary Jackson, discovered the inspiring work of Martin Luther King Jr. and even rode a bus alongside Rosa Parks!

We've been searching for a suitable Black History Month VR experience for three years, and it was certainly worth the wait! The children were captivated and thoroughly engaged. You can see what your child experienced, [here](#).

On Wednesday, we continued our celebrations by joining the Great Big Live Assembly, reflecting on Black history, celebrating achievements and exploring equality, respect and inclusion.

These experiences are part of how we enrich our pupils' education at Widmer End School. By offering opportunities beyond the everyday curriculum, we encourage children to appreciate different cultures, understand the world around them and recognise the importance of treating everyone fairly.

Our activities also reinforce fundamental British Values, particularly democracy, individual liberty and mutual respect, alongside the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, including Article 2 (freedom from discrimination), Article 12 (the right to be heard) and Article 29 (respect for others, their cultures and rights). We want our pupils to grow into thoughtful, compassionate young people who understand that everyone deserves respect and has the potential to make a difference.

Please ask your child what they've learnt about Black History Month so far! We hope these experiences will spark some wonderful conversations at home.



Westminster Speaker

Key stage 2 was very fortunate to be visited by Micheal Carmody (a former Widmer End pupil), who now works in Westminster for the Labour Party.

He gave a really interesting talk about his job role and the path that took him there. It is so valuable for our pupils to gain experience of life outside of school and gain a greater understanding of the wider world. The pupils were fascinated to see how democracy works and bring about change. Who knows, maybe we have a future Prime Minister in our school?

I am looking forward to welcoming a range of visitors with different jobs to our school over the coming year to further show our pupils what is out there for them beyond school!

Mrs Oxby

