

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



Wednesday 21st October (4)

Page 1 of 6

Dear Widmer End families,

What a lovely couple of weeks we have had! Year 3 did a wonderful job leading our Harvest assembly, and I was so proud of them. Their enthusiasm, confidence and hard work shone through, and they helped us all reflect on the importance of gratitude and helping others. Well done to Year 3 and the staff who supported them in preparing such a lovely assembly.

It was also lovely to welcome so many of you to parents' evening. These conversations are such an important opportunity to celebrate your children's achievements, discuss their next steps and strengthen the partnership between home and school. There was such a positive atmosphere, and I hope you left feeling informed and proud of the progress your children are making.

I am absolutely delighted to share the results of our recent parent survey. 100% of parents who responded said they would recommend our school to others, and 100% said their child is happy and safe at school. These are amazing results and something our whole school community can feel incredibly proud of. Knowing that children feel happy and safe, and that families have such confidence in our school, means a great deal to us. This reflects the care and commitment our dedicated staff show our children every day, alongside the strong partnership we share with our families.

It was wonderful to see all our Year 5 children arriving at school in their fantastic Viking outfits! They thoroughly enjoyed their workshop, experiencing what life was like as a Viking and bringing their history learning to life.

I wish all our children and families a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back after the break.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 2nd November

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

Wednesday 4th November

- Papaya Workshops for KS2

Thursday 5th November

- 9am Parents' Forum
- Chiltern Rangers Year 4 Visit
- Development Football Match HOME vs High Wycombe CofE

Friday 6th November

- PTA Hot Dog Day

Monday 9th November

- Open Afternoon 1:30pm
- U11s League Football Match HOME vs Manor Farm

Wednesday 11th November

- Armistice Day (see below)
- Great Big Live Assembly

Thursday 12th November

- Pudsey's Coming! Wear Pudsey spots/clothing

Friday 13th November

- Year 1 Bucks Museum Trip
- Year 6 Hazard Alley Trip

Monday 16th November

- Anti Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day!



Awards This Fortnight

Shining Star



Merit Awards



Year R - Imogen & Marshall

Year 1 - Ismail & Jessica

Year 2 - Eddie & Mabel

Year 3 - The Whole Class!

Year 4 - Rose & Deen

Year 5 - Scott & Eliza

Year 6 - Eva & Violet

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

Remembrance Day Reminder - 11th Nov

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.

A magical literary adventure at Widmer End!

Our KS2 children were thrilled to welcome author Pari Thomson to school, who shared her exciting new book, *The Frozen King: A Greenwild Adventure!*

It was a wonderful opportunity for our young readers to discover more about the world of writing, explore their imaginations and get inspired by a real-life author.

Thank you, Pari, for bringing the magic of books to Widmer End!



Attendance

School average this academic year

96.5%

The last fortnight:

Reception - 95.87%

Year 1 - 92.25% - 6 Late Marks!

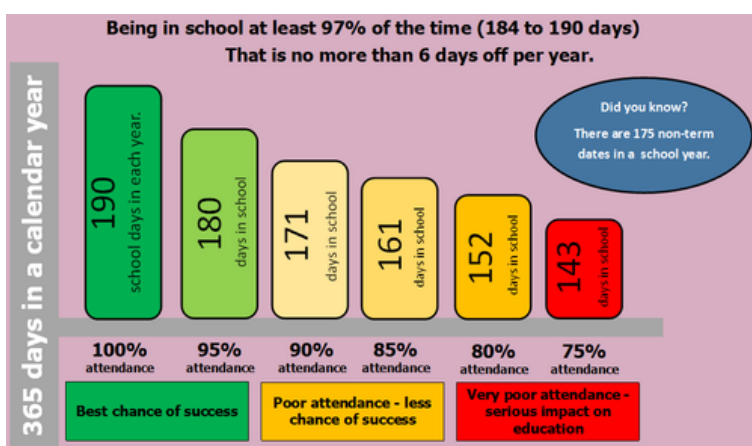
Year 2 - 93.95% - 1 Late Mark!

Year 3 - 93.27% - 6 Late Marks!

Year 4 - 91.83% - 2 Late Marks!

Year 5 - 92.99% - 3 Late Marks!

Year 6 - 96.46% - 8 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!





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>

Mrs Ross-Wood

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

Behind the Scenes: Biscuit Bingo!

There's always excitement in the air when it's time for Biscuit Bingo at Widmer End School!

At the beginning of each school year, every child's name is written on a bingo ball and added to our special tombola. New pupils are added as soon as they join us, so everyone has the chance to take part.

Each week, Mrs Hillier draws six lucky names, and those children are invited to spend some special time with our lovely Headteacher. Over a glass of squash or water and some delicious biscuits, the children get to share the schoolwork they're most proud of, talk about their achievements and enjoy a lovely chat.

Mrs Hillier genuinely looks forward to these moments every week, and judging by the children's smiles, they absolutely LOVE them too!

It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our pupils as individuals, build confidence and remind every child that their hard work and achievements deserve to be recognised.

Who will be our next six Biscuit Bingo stars? 🍪

Pre-School Updates

I can't believe how fast this half term has gone. The children all seem very settled and happy in our environment which is lovely to see.

This half term we have learnt "All about me". So many things to learn about ourselves! We have learnt about how our bodies work, who is in our family, our five senses that we have and especially how to be kind to our friends. Using kind hands and good manners is always a fantastic thing to do from such a young age and we encourage all the children to do this all the time.

Last week, we all worked together with three pumpkins. Once Deborah had cut the top off the pumpkins, we took it in turns to put our hands inside and take out all the seeds. We did think this was a little bit yucky but the job was done as we worked together as a team. We then left the pumpkins to dry a little before deciding what shapes we should have for the features. Once we had decided, Deborah cut these out and now the pumpkins are displayed on the window sill for everybody to see. This was a fun activity and one that all the children really enjoyed. Watching them take turns and helping each other was great.

We have so many more things to learn next half term and so many more activities to carry out. We can't wait to share these with you and enjoy them with you. If you are stuck for an activity, a good turn taking activity to do at home is to play a game with your children. The children love to play a game with us in Pre-School and we are sure this would be the same with you at home.

We hope you have a lovely half term holiday and we look forward to hearing all about the memories that you have made, the places you have been, and all the things you have shared with your families.

Deborah & Tamsin





A Harvest Assembly to Be Proud Of!

What a wonderful Harvest Assembly on Tuesday, from our fantastic Year 3 pupils!

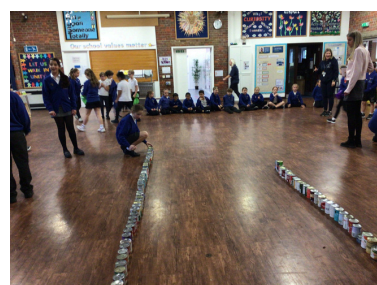
Despite an unexpected change of plans when Mrs Van der Merwe had to go home poorly, our Year 3 children rose to the occasion and delivered a brilliant assembly, delighting the whole school and our very special visitor, Jo, from One Can Trust!

We couldn't be prouder of their confidence, teamwork and enthusiasm. What superstars.

And what a response to our Harvest collection! Our classes have been busy competing to create the longest tin snake, with families generously donating tins to help those in need. We've collected an incredible number of tins, all going towards supporting the vital work of One Can Trust in our local community.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated, to Jo for joining us, and to our amazing Year 3 children for reminding us what Harvest is all about: kindness, generosity and looking after one another.

Get well soon, Mrs Van der Merwe! We're sure you would have been very proud!



Vikings Invade Year 5

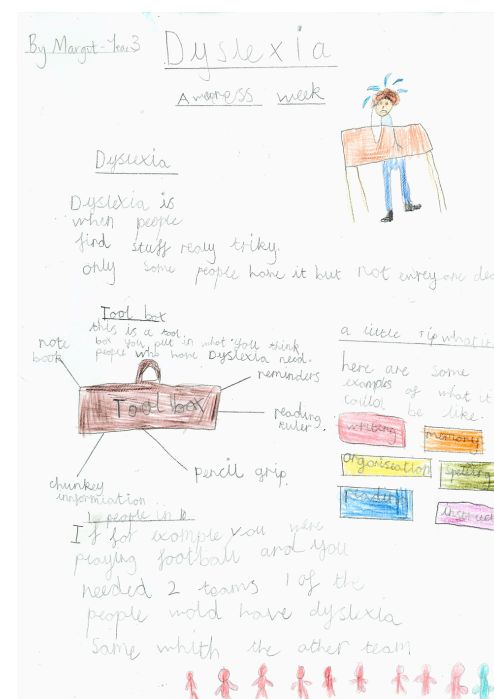
What an incredible day of Viking adventures for our Year 5 pupils!

Today, the children stepped back in time to experience life in the Viking era through an action-packed workshop filled with roleplay, hands-on crafts and plenty of entertainment from our fantastic workshop leader!

History really came to life as the children immersed themselves in the Viking world, learning through doing, exploring and having lots of fun along the way!

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful parents and neighbours who generously gave up their time to volunteer. We genuinely couldn't have done it without you, and we're so grateful for your support.

What a brilliant way to bring classroom learning to life and make history memorable.



Our children have been creating their own Dyslexia toolbox of strategies! We hope they talk to you about this at home.



Healthy Food Inspo: A Better Start to the Day

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 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.

NEW PTA Fundraiser – Halloween Lights! 🧛

We're excited to introduce a brand-new PTA fundraiser in partnership with Lantern & Lore!

These gorgeous, rechargeable Halloween lanterns are perfect for decorating bedrooms, creating a spooky atmosphere or taking trick-or-treating!

Available in two designs – Little Witch and Friendly Ghost – they're just £15 each (usually £19.95), with FREE personalisation.

Even better, £3 from every lantern sold goes directly to our PTA, helping us raise funds for our school!

To order:

Visit lanternandlore.uk and use code WIDMEREND. Simply add your child's name and class/year at checkout. All orders will be delivered together to school.

Order deadline: 25th October.

Thank you for supporting our latest fundraiser!

Celebrating Culture Through Dance!

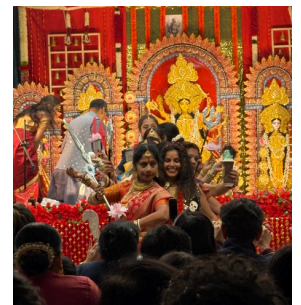
On Saturday, three of our talented Widmer End pupils performed at the Sri Sri Durga Puja celebrations in High Wycombe, organised by the Bucks Baidik Association. Led by our wonderful Mrs Saha, who runs our Indian Dance Club, the children received huge applause, with the audience cheering and dancing along! Their families also enjoyed watching other children and adults perform through dance, singing and prayer.

What is Durga Puja?

Durga Puja is an important Hindu festival, particularly celebrated by Bengali communities. It honours the goddess Durga's victory over the demon Mahishasura, symbolising the triumph of good over evil. The festival brings families and communities together through prayer, music, dance, food and cultural traditions.

At Widmer End, we love opportunities like these to celebrate diversity, experience different traditions and encourage our children to appreciate and respect other cultures and faiths.

A huge well done to our three performers, and thank you to Mrs Saha for making this wonderful experience possible!



We have been awarded a 'Gold rating' as a Smartphone free school. Thank you to all our parents who have embraced this change.



Football Dev Team Smash Their First Match!

We have had a few football matches over the past 2 weeks! A special shout-out to our development team as they smashed their first match, 6-0!

Well done, Boys.



Halloween Disco Success! 🎵

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make Friday's Halloween Disco such a success! It was fantastic to see so many children getting into the Halloween spirit, and we hope they all had a brilliant time dancing the evening away!

A special thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, both familiar faces and those helping out for the first time. We really couldn't run these events without you, and we're so grateful for your time and support.

Thanks also to the brilliant DJ Dan Blaze for keeping the party going! If you're looking for a DJ for your own event, you can contact him at www.djdanblaze.com or on 07957 280396.

Best of all, the disco raised over £450 for the PTA! Every penny raised by the PTA goes back into supporting our school and enriching the children's experiences, helping to fund additional resources, equipment and opportunities that wouldn't otherwise be possible. Events like these aren't just about having fun (although that's a huge part of it!) – they make a real difference to our school community.

Thank you again to everyone who came along, volunteered and supported us. It's only through your support that we can continue making these things happen!

PTA AGM Update

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent PTA AGM and to those who put themselves forward to join the Committee.

We successfully elected six Committee members, which means the PTA can continue operating in the short term. However, we were unable to formally fill the key officer roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Having reviewed our current constitution, we've identified that some of the rules around appointing officers need updating to better reflect how our PTA operates today. Our next step is to propose and formally vote on an updated constitution. Once approved, this will allow us to hold elections for the officer roles and establish a new leadership team.

We will need your support! All parents and carers are encouraged to get involved in the upcoming vote, as approving the new constitution is an important step towards securing the PTA's future. We're also still looking for parents willing to take on the roles of Co-Chair or Vice Chair and Secretary. You don't need any previous PTA experience, just a willingness to get involved and help share the responsibility of running the PTA.

Further communications will follow shortly, explaining the proposed changes, the voting process and how you can get involved.

In the meantime, the AGM minutes, Treasurer's Report and Chairperson's Report are available to view on the school website: www.widmerend.bucks.sch.uk/pta.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we work through these important steps to secure the PTA's future.



**We are a
NUT AWARE
school**