Widmer End Community Combined School & Pre-School Newsletter

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2026 – 2029 Rights Respecting Schools UNITED KINGDOM unicef Silver Rights Aware

Dear Families,

As always, there has been so much happening across the school, and I have been incredibly proud of our children and the way they continue to represent our school.

This week, our Year 6 pupils represented Widmer End at the Armistice Day service. They took part with such maturity and respect, laying a wreath on behalf of our school and reading a poem beautifully from memory. They spoke with such confidence and clarity that everyone present could hear every word. They were an absolute credit to our school, and I could not have been prouder of them.

We were also delighted to welcome more prospective families to another very successful Open Afternoon. Once again, our wonderful Year 6 pupils showed families around the school, speaking with enthusiasm and pride about life at Widmer End. Our visitors were incredibly impressed by what they saw, and it was lovely to receive such positive feedback. There really is no better advertisement for our school than our children!

Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed a visit from Papaya, taking part in engaging and interactive workshops focused on screen time, digital habits and social media. These sessions encouraged children to reflect on their relationship with technology and make positive, informed choices before the pressures surrounding smartphones and social media become an increasing part of their lives. Such important learning in today's digital world! All of our pupils have embraced being a smartphone free school since September, which I am so pleased about.

We were also thrilled to welcome a very special visitor this week – Pudsey Bear! What a wonderful surprise for the children to find Pudsey waiting at the school gate to welcome them! Whilst Children in Need is always a fun occasion, the importance of this cause cannot be underestimated. Rising poverty, inequality and mental health concerns mean that more children than ever need support. Sadly, BBC Children in Need can only fund one in six organisations that apply for help, leaving approximately half a million children and young people without the support they need. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to this incredibly important cause.

We were delighted to welcome Chiltern Rangers, who very kindly planted a rowan tree in our school grounds, traditionally believed to bring good luck! They also delivered a fascinating talk to Year 4, linking to their rainforest topic and exploring the important work they do to protect our environment. The children also learnt about challenging gender stereotypes and the exciting career opportunities available to everyone.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I share the news that Mrs Weaver will be leaving us at Christmas to take up an exciting new role and promotion. Mrs Weaver does an enormous amount for Widmer End, much of it behind the scenes, and she will be a huge loss to our school. Whilst we are incredibly sad to see her go, we are equally delighted that she has secured such a wonderful opportunity to continue growing and developing professionally. We are working hard to ensure a smooth transition, but there is no doubt that she will leave some very big shoes to fill! I know you will join me in congratulating her and wishing her every success. We will miss her enormously.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the winter sunshine.

Mrs Hillier

Awards This Fortnight

Shining Star





Merit Awards



Year R - Theo, Millie, Esther & Jenson
Year 1 - Eva, Freddie, Orla & Lyra
Year 2 - Freddie, Owen, Aadhya & Alfie
Year 3 - Poppy, Darcey, Margot & Riley
Year 4 - Albert, Maisie, Louise & Elsie
Year 5 - Noah, Niamh, Asher & Emma
Year 6 - Cassie, Emily, Idris & Lara

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



We're Hiring!

Are you ready for a new challenge? Could you thrive in a busy, fast-paced school office, juggling a variety of tasks while keeping a smile on your face?

We're looking for a friendly, organised and proactive Receptionist / Administrator to join our team. You'll be much more than a friendly face at the front desk - you'll play a vital role in the day-to-day running of our school, supporting our children, families, visitors and staff and helping make a difference to our whole school community.

Whether you're looking for a fresh career challenge or know someone who would be perfect for the role, we'd love you to spread the word!

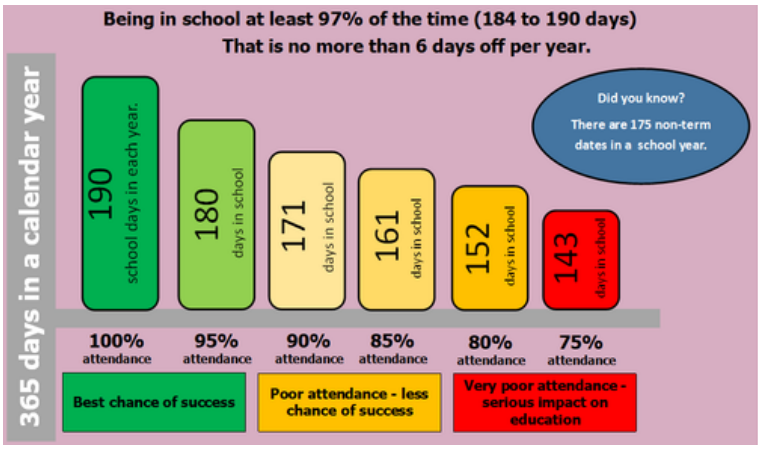
Find out more and apply via MyNewTerm HERE.

Attendance

School average this academic year **96.4%**

The last fortnight:

Reception - 95.22%
Year 1 - 94.91% - 9 Late Marks!
Year 2 - 95.27% - 2 Late Marks!
Year 3 - 96.09% - 7 Late Marks!
Year 4 - 93.75% - 2 Late Marks!
Year 5 - 97.5% - 2 Late Marks!
Year 6 - 98.37% - 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 are still adding items so are grateful for your support.

This week, we really need more football socks, as having two teams representing the school is worthy of fresh ones!

Thank you!

amazon

Dates for your Diary - Extended

Monday 16th November
- Anti Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day - Wear odd/crazy socks!

Wednesday 18th November
- Anti-Bullying Workshops - Years R-6 (Please donate via Arbor trips)
- Radio Christmas Assembly

Thursday 19th November
- Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop in the hall

Friday 20th November
- Reception Trip to the Amersham Museum
- Year 4 Trip to Verulamium
- Anne Marie Neatham KS2 Careers Talk

Monday 23rd November
- UK Parliament Week
- Greg Smith MP Assembly

Thursday 26th November
- Open Event for Prospective Parents - 6pm

Friday 27th November
- PTA Mufti Day for Tombola Donations - details to follow

Monday 30th November
- Flu Vaccinations - Whole School
- Christmas Tree Arriving This Week!



Wednesday 2nd December
- CofE Church Assembly

Thursday 3rd December
- Indian Dance Assembly - Parents Invited
- Pre-School New Starters Settling In Sessions

Friday 4th December
- Elfridges & Christmas Craft Day
- Set-up for the Christmas Fair - please volunteer with the PTA

Saturday 5th December
- PTA Christmas Fair

Monday 7th December
- 9:30am KS1 Christmas Performance Dress Rehearsal

Pre-School Updates

Welcome back to Pre-School after half term. We hope you all had a fantastic break making precious family memories.

And so, as we enter Autumn 2, the countdown for Christmas has begun. We have already started learning our Christmas songs. There is a little bit of excitement about this too which is lovely to see.

This week, in Pre-School we have learnt about Diwali, the Festival of Light. The children all made fantastic Divas by using colourful paper and sequins to decorate their candles. These are on display in Pre-School at present which helps to brighten up the room.

We have also talked about Remembrance Day and how important it is that we think about those who have to go to fight for us. One activity that we incorporated into this was numbers. The children were fantastic at putting the correct amount of pegs onto the right number poppy. We used numerals 1-10 for this actively and then counted further if we were able.

Thursday saw Pudsey Bear visit us. We were able to wear Pudsey clothing to Pre-School which was great. We talked about those who are less fortunate than ourselves and how we can help them.

What a busy week we've had. I wonder what we will learn about next week.

Deborah & Tamsin



Right of the Month



November's 'Right of the Month' is Article 24: Every child has the right to good quality healthcare, clean water and healthy food. Children also have the right to learn about health and wellbeing so that they can stay safe and healthy.

There are lots of special awareness and celebration days linked to this right throughout November. Road Safety Week and Anti-Bullying Week remind us how important it is to look after both our physical and mental health, keeping ourselves and others safe.

World Toilet Day may sound funny, but it is a very serious issue. Around 3.5 billion people around the world do not have access to safely managed sanitation. This reminds us how lucky we are to have access to clean water and proper sanitation, and how important it is that everyone has these basic rights.

Children in Need and World Children's Day also take place this month. Both help to raise awareness of children's needs and remind us that every child, everywhere in the world, deserves to have their rights protected, to feel safe and to have the opportunity to thrive.

Please talk to your child(ren) about their rights learning next week, their voice is so important and they will have lots to tell you!

Anti-Bullying Week



As part of Anti-Bullying week next week, we will be showing classes age-appropriate material from the NSPCC to all classes in Years 1-6.

The KS1 videos are 20 minutes long, with the KS2 videos being 30 minutes long. The theme is Speak Out.Stay Safe. Details are as follows:
The films provide a meaningful way to support children and young people to speak up, share their experiences, and know they will be heard. The videos will give information to children about:

- Children's right to be safe.
- The importance of speaking out about worries or concerns.
- How safe adults can help.
- Where children can turn for support, including Childline.
- How every child can play a role in creating a safer, kinder school community.

All Widmer End staff have had enhanced safeguarding training and are aware of procedures to follow if a child discloses safeguarding issues.

Resources for parents can be found **HERE**.



Healthy Food Inspo: A Colourful Lunchbox

Adding a mixture of colours to a child's lunchbox is a simple way to include a wider range of fruit and vegetables. Different colours provide different nutrients, and variety can make lunchtime more interesting too.

This fortnight's idea: Eat a rainbow
Try adding one or two colourful choices alongside your child's usual lunch. Ideas could include:

- Red pepper or cherry tomatoes
- Carrot or cucumber sticks
- Sweetcorn or sugar snap peas
- Sliced apple, pear or satsuma segments
- Berries, grapes or melon pieces

Family challenge: Ask your child to choose a fruit or vegetable they have not tried for a while. They could help wash, chop or pack it ready for lunch.

Please cut food into suitable sizes for your child's age, particularly grapes and cherry tomatoes. Remember that we are a nut-aware school, so food brought into school must not contain nuts or nut-based products.



Remembrance

Some of our Year 6 pupils proudly represented Widmer End School at the Remembrance Service at Widmer End Village Memorial on Wednesday. They spoke their poem beautifully and did us all proud, showing great confidence and respect during this important occasion. Afterwards, they enjoyed a well-deserved slice of cake! We are incredibly proud of them all.



HILDRETH'S
HOME & GARDEN CENTRE

Once again, Hildreths have donated a Christmas tree to Widmer End School. They have a great range of high quality non-drop trees, so please do support them this Christmas. Thank you!

Wycombe High School – Festive Frost Fair

You are warmly invited to join Wycombe High School as they celebrate their 125th anniversary with a festive Frost Fair on Saturday 28th November 2026.

Enjoy a wonderful selection of local market stalls selling gifts, crafts, jewellery, books, treats and much more, alongside delicious refreshments and live music performed by students.

Entry is free, but tickets must be booked in advance via Eventbrite: whsfrostfair.eventbrite.com.

A lovely opportunity to get into the festive spirit and support a local school!

Dr Challoner's High School - Admissions Policy Consultation

Parents and carers may be interested to know that Dr Challoner's High School is consulting on proposed changes to its Admissions Policy for September 2028 entry.

The consultation runs from 9th November 2026 to 8th January 2027. Parents and carers are invited to read the proposed policy and share any comments or feedback directly with the school.

You can view the proposed policy here.

Comments should be emailed to admissions@challonershigh.com, using the subject **Admissions Policy 2028**, for the attention of Mrs Jo Barnes, Head's PA.

Year 1 Bucks Museum Visit

Year 1 had a wonderful day on their school trip!

In the morning, the children enjoyed learning about toys from the past. They explored the different materials toys were made from, practised describing them and had great fun matching old toys with their modern-day equivalents.

In the afternoon, inspired by our learning about The BFG, the children used a variety of interesting items from the museum to create their very own dream bottles. There were some wonderfully imaginative creations!

The children were a credit to the school, and the museum staff commented on what a delight they were. Everyone had a fantastic day full of learning, creativity and fun!

Miss Davis







Spotlight On SEND!

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

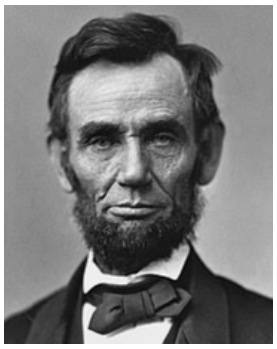
A Special Visitor

Thank you for all your donations in aid of Children In Need this week! Our special visitor was very grateful!



Value of the Term

Trust



"The people, when rightly and fully trusted, will return the trust."

In our Monday Values assemblies, children began to learn about our next value: Trust. Our new inspirational person was Abraham Lincoln. Children learnt about how Abraham was born in a hut on a farm in Kentucky. Mrs Marshall talked about how he was not able to read and write and, after working in his youth on a farm and as a postal worker and shop keeper, he studied to become a lawyer without even going to law school! An amazing achievement! Abraham Lincoln was nicknamed 'Honest Abe' and the children learnt how this meant that he was fully trusted by his community - as a shopkeeper, he chased someone down the road with missing change and, later, when he became the president of the USA, he worked tirelessly to abolish slavery and maintain an effective government. He was very popular amongst his people as they put complete faith and trust in him.

Year 6 Hazard Alley Trip

Year 6 have had a great trip to Hazard Alley today where we learnt about hazards in life followed by a really informative classroom session on safe internet use and what to do if things go wrong. Children we given the opportunity to make 999 calls and are now fully equipped to make life changing decisions in the event of an emergency. They are such a delight to take out, they were engaged and so respectful.

Well done year 6. Please ask them about their trip as I am sure they have some invaluable advice to share.

Mrs Oxby

