

Newsletter – 4.4.25



PTA SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA

THANK YOU for your support! We raised £281.50 yesterday with some cakes still to be sold after-school today at pick up!

A huge thank you to everyone that attended, for donations of cakes/ money and for getting fully involved. It was so lovely to see everyone out in the sunshine on the field yesterday taking part in the clue hunt, socialising and playing. See the winners of the Spring outfits below.

In other exciting news, we have appointed Miss Emma Dendy as the permanent school business manager (SBM). She is already working as an SBM in another school so brings a wealth of experience to William Penn. We will be wishing Mrs Janet Lees a fond farewell on Friday 25th April. She has been an incredible asset since joining in September 2023 and we will miss her greatly!

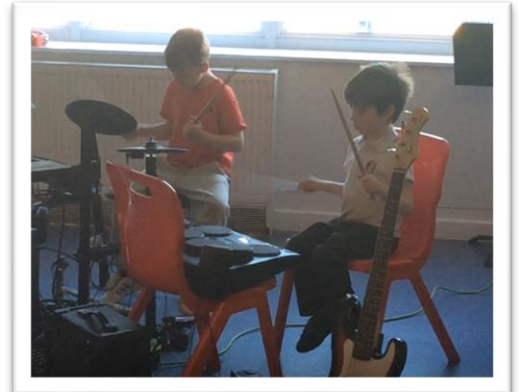
Have a wonderfully relaxing break and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 22nd April.



I ROCK CONCERT SUCCESS!

The end of another term brought with it another SMASH HIT concert from our IRock bands. We are thrilled that almost a quarter of our school take part in this confidence building, musical extravaganza each term. The children, from different year groups, performed hits including songs by George Ezra and OneRepublic. We couldn't be prouder of our band members. If you would like your child to join or have a trial, please go to www.irockschool.com/enrol

Mr Hindhaugh



School Council:

Restorative Practice

At William Penn School we often talk about Restorative Practice (RP), but what is RP and why do we use it? As a school, we have revisited RP in our assemblies and would like to inform the wider community about it. At William Penn School, we believe it is important that children feel safe and have a positive environment to play and learn in. We also believe in the importance of respecting children's views.

RP and Peer Mentors

Here at William Penn we have 'Peer Mentors'. The job of the Peer Mentor is to provide advice and support and serve as role models for younger children and peers. Peer mentoring provides a positive experience for people who may benefit from help, attention and support from a peer mentor. The children are also extremely proud of their 'Silver: Rights Respecting Schools Award' which embeds children's rights in the school's policy, practice and ethos. This calm, restorative approach to behaviour is at the heart of our school. Our Quaker Values promote Peace, Equality, Friendship, Integrity, Simplicity and Reflection.

School Council interviewed each other to find out what they think of RP and to provide you with more information about it.

School Council's discussion about RP

What is RP?

"RP is Restorative Practice," Charlie, Y4.

"RP is when you think about a fall out," Beaux, Y2.

"It is a way to reflect on things you have done wrong," Arthur, Y3.

"With RP you learn how to show respect to each other by listening to each other," Lola-Rose, Y2.

How does it help you at school?

"It helps people reflect on what has happened," Rory, Y6.

"The idea is that we can listen to both sides of the story, so everyone gets listened to," Summer, YR.

"The Peer mentors, in the older years, can help the younger children by asking the RP questions to sort out any problems," Kingsley, Y1.

"It helps us to solve differences," Oscar, YR.

Why do we use it?

"We use RP to make sure it doesn't happen again," Arthur, Y3.

"We use it to restore friendships," Charlie, Y4.

"We use it to reflect on what we have done," Beaux, Y2.

"Adults and children at William Penn School try not to shout but sort things out by talking," Lola-Rose, Y2.

How does it work alongside our values?

"You have to be truthful and be kind like our value, integrity," Kingsley, Y1.

"Friendship, because it helps friends be friends again after a fallout," Oscar, YR.

"It includes all of our values," Summer, YR.

"Peace and reflection because you get to reflect in quietness," Rory, Y6.

Why tell the parents about it?

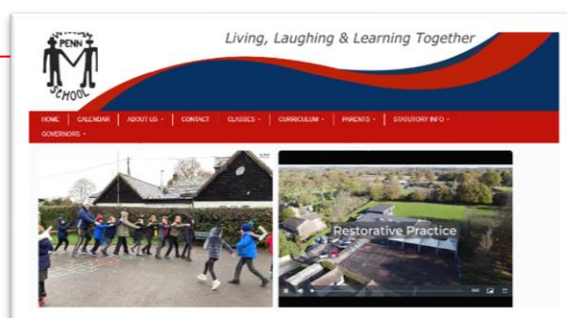
"It gives parents an idea of how we help each other at school and they know how the school support us," Arthur, Y3.

"So the parents can use it at home if they want to sort out problems," Charlie, Y4.

"Because RP helps to improve our school," Beaux, Y2.

"Then the parents know how we sort out our problems at William Penn School," Kingsley, Y1.

For more information please see our Restorative Practice video on the righthand side of the homepage on our website - [William Penn Primary School - Home](http://www.william-penn-primary-school.co.uk)



Fry Class Recorder Performance

On Monday 24th March, the children of Fry class were finally able to put all their lessons into a performance to be proud of. Over the last 10 weeks, children in Fry class have been having recorder lessons with Mr Chalk from West Sussex Music Service.

They have worked so hard during their lessons to learn how to play the recorder. On the day, they were able to show off all their hard work to their parents in an amazing performance. They dazzled us all with their wonderful singing and beautiful playing. We were even treated to a special solo performance from Layla S who played a tune called 'Melody' on her flute.

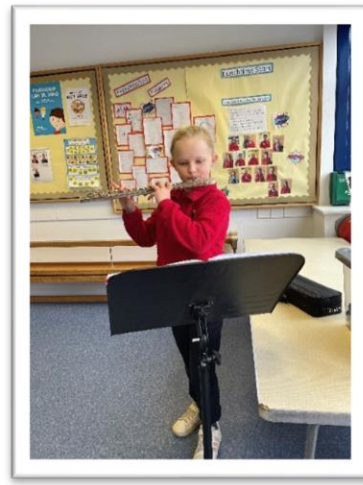
Fry class have thoroughly enjoyed their music lessons this term and we look forward to welcoming Mr Chalk back into school in the Summer Term where he will be teaching JBB children how to play the clarinet.

"I enjoyed performing the Eye of the Tiger, I liked the singing part," - Layla B.

"I liked performing to my parents," - Marnie L.

"I liked all of it; the lessons, the performance and Mr Chalk," - Arthur.

"I liked learning the recorder and meeting Mr Chalk," - Violet.



Key Stage 1 visit Wakehurst

Last week, Cadbury and Fox visited Wakehurst as part of their Science topic this term where they have been learning about plants.

Poppy writes: Wakehurst is a sweet and beautiful garden with a seed bank with seeds from all around the world. There are lots of animals and the plants are different too.

Jackson writes: Wakehurst is a perfect place for wildlife. Loads of people come to Wakehurst to see the fabulous plants. Loads of pheasants live there and there are many fun things for schools to do.

"I loved going on a coach to do our learning outside!" Evie.

"It was so nice to see the beautiful colours on the tall trees in Spring," Zara-Grace.

"It was great fun planting our own seed," Oscar.





Egyptian Museum Visit

On Friday 14th of March, Fry class were lucky enough to welcome Petra from Horsham Museum who gave us all a fantastic morning learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. We had two workshops, 'A day in the Life of an Ancient Egyptian' and 'Mummification'. Petra had brought in a lot of artefacts from Ancient Egypt such as jewellery, pots, a shabti and even a piece of 5000-year-old bandage from a mummified body.

The second workshop involved the whole class having a different job to help mummify a body. This was a very interactive session and was engaging for all. It helped us to understand the very detailed process of mummifying a body and how complex every stage was. We have all loved our Ancient Egypt topic and this was a great way to finish of our learning for the term. A big thank you to Petra from Horsham museum and to our parents for supporting this visit.

"I liked that Petra brought in loads of artefacts and the mummification was so fun," – Pippa.

"I liked that she brought in a shabti because we were learning about them the day before," – Tiffany.

"All of it was cool because we got to see it all close up - in a museum it would all be behind glass," - Marnie J.

"The mummification was good because we all got to do different jobs to help mummify the body," – Amaris.



STOP THE PRESS! PARENT WORKSHOP WITH MR HINDHAUGH! How to use: Times Tables Rock Stars

Are you a parent of a child in Y2,3,4,5 or 6? Interested in finding out how to use Times Tables Rock Stars? Do you want to introduce it to your child? Can you tell your gigs from your jams or your studio from your garage?

Come to this short, informal workshop with Mr. Hindhaugh on Thursday, 1st May from 3.20-3.45pm.

During the session, Mr. Hindhaugh will go through the different game modes, how to get the best from TTRS, how to earn coins to spend AND what you are looking out for to achieve the all important '6 second answer' - which is the national expectation for all children at the end of Y4.

Attendance matters: Government Blog – The DfE Education Hub 14.3.25

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/03/14/>

Every day at school counts. The evidence is clear - even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and future prospects.

Since the pandemic, we've seen school absence rates rise. Before COVID-19, the overall absence rate was 4.7%. This jumped to 7.6% in 2021/22 and by 2022/23 had only come down slightly to 7.4%. Census data for this academic year will shortly be published, but although daily data shows that progress is being made, there is still a long way to go.

Even more concerning is the rise in persistent absence – this means missing more than 10% of school days. The number of children who are persistently absent has nearly doubled since the pandemic. Severe absence – meaning missing more than half of school – has more than doubled from 0.8% to 2%.

How attendance affects attainment

Recent research by the Department for Education shows just how closely attendance and attainment are linked. **At primary school**, children who attend school nearly every day in Year 6 (95-100% attendance) are 30% more likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90-95% of the time.

The link is even stronger at secondary school. Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar pupils attending 90-95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days a year reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around 50%.

The long-term impact on earnings

Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education – it can impact future earnings too. Persistently absent pupils in secondary school could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with near-perfect attendance. For each additional day of absence between Years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of £750 in future lifetime earnings.

What can you do?

As a parent or carer, you have an important role in making school attendance a priority. Only keep your child off school when they are genuinely too ill to attend. Book medical appointments and holidays outside of school time whenever possible. And talk to your child's school if you're having difficulties with attendance.

However, it's important to recognise that children with long-term medical conditions, serious mental health challenges, or special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may encounter additional obstacles. For those experiencing complex barriers to attendance, schools should engage in compassionate discussions with both children and their families, collaborating to provide tailored support that meets their specific needs.

Exciting News: "Mission Masterpiece" Art Day at William Penn School!

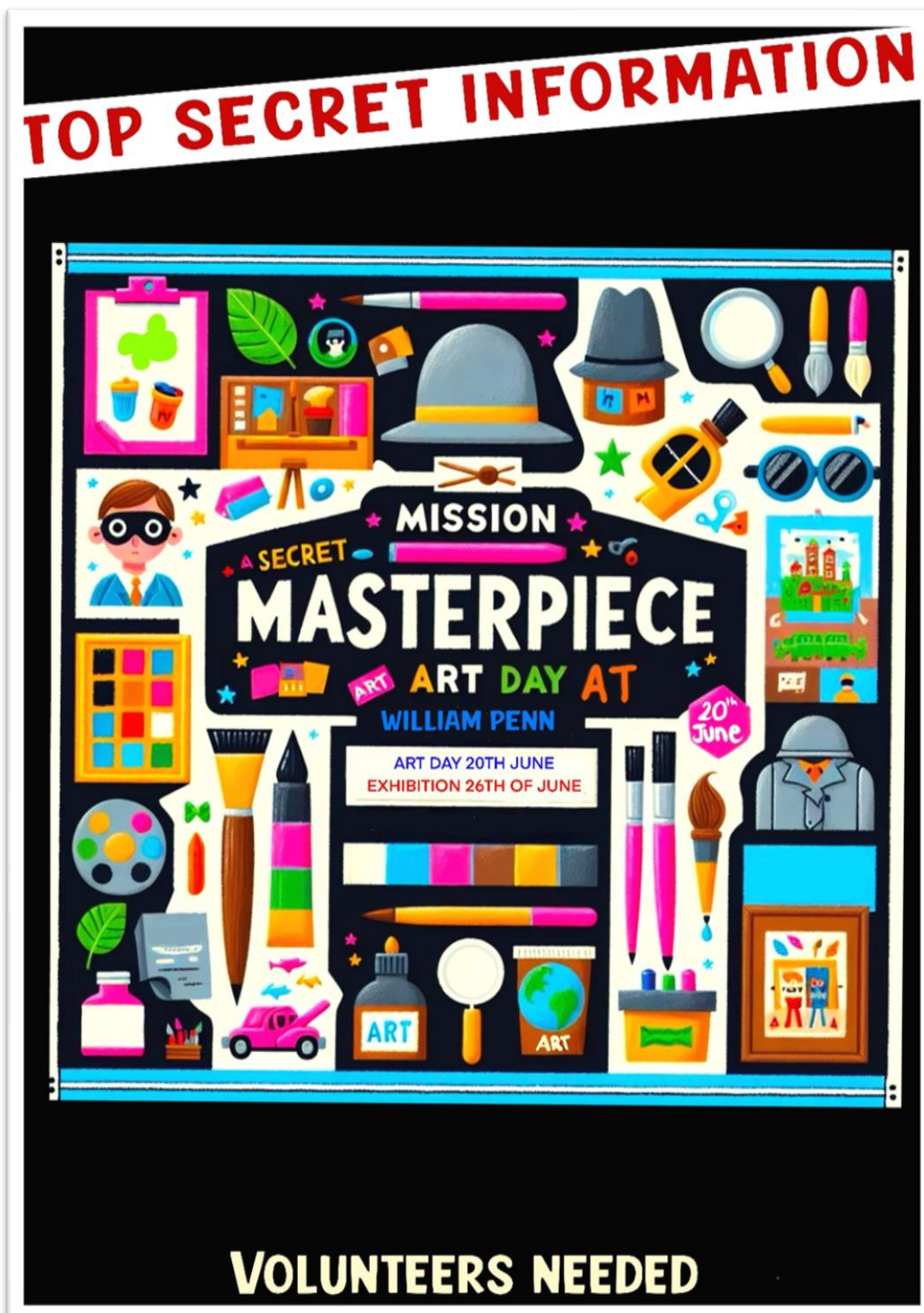
We are thrilled to announce an upcoming event that promises to be a highlight of the school year – "Mission Masterpiece" Art Day! On June 20th, our students will embark on a creative adventure, transforming into secret agents on a mission to create their own masterpieces.

We are also excited to invite parents to an exhibition of the students' artwork on June 26th after school. This exhibition will not only showcase the incredible creations of our students but also serve as a fundraiser for the school. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase their children's artwork. Additionally, the PTA will be hosting engaging glass painting activities and providing delicious refreshments during the exhibition to make the event even more enjoyable for everyone.

To make "Mission Masterpiece" Art Day a success, we kindly ask for parent volunteers to assist us with activities and support the students on June 20th. Your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

We believe "Mission Masterpiece" will be a fantastic opportunity for our students to express themselves, explore the freedom to create, develop their artistic skills, and have fun. We look forward to seeing the incredible creations they will produce!

Stay tuned for more details, and thank you for your continued support.



28.3.25	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Golden Children	Oscar For working so well with your partner in PE. Your confidence is growing every week! Super effort!	Cory You have had a term of real growth. You are more independent, more ready to learn – and I love it!	Jackson I have been really impressed at the amount of writing you have completed over the past two weeks. Keep up this effort, it will pay off!	Marnie J For working so hard in maths this week. It has been great to see you contributing in class and you seem to have really mastered some of our tricky maths lessons this week. Well done!	James For some absolutely amazing presentation in ALL subjects this week. Your joined-up handwriting is incredible. You should feel very proud! Well done James!	Dexter For such a mature approach to your learning. You have applied yourself in every test and your hard work is reflecting in your scores. Keep it up Dexter!	Michael For settling into life at William Penn so well and so positively. You show such a great attitude to learning and want to succeed. Well done!
Lunchtime Stars	Jessica For setting a good example amongst her peers and showing great kindness to others			Marnie L For being helpful, she is always polite and ready to return lost items to children.			

4.4.25	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Dojo Winners	Evie Every day you come in ready to learn. You persevere with your work and always try your hardest! Cadbury class love your caring and friendly attitude – keep it up!	Poppy This is very much deserved. Your knowledge, understanding, questioning and learning behaviour are fabulous. I am so proud of your progress and the person you are becoming. Well done!	Beaux When I think of being 'ready to learn' – it's YOU! Thanks for showing us all how it should be done, first class all the way.	Pippa You are just incredible! You work hard every day, you always have a smile on your face and a truly admirable 'can do' attitude. Seeing your light bulb moments in maths this term has been an honour. Well done Pippa! Keep being you!	Charlie You are the Year 4 Dojo winner. You have had a fantastic term and you are so deserving of this! You have really matured in your approach to learning and school in general. It has been such a pleasure to see this amazing change in you. Superstar! Keep it up!	Indie You thoroughly deserve this award Indie! You have worked incredibly hard this term, and it really shows with all the progress you have made. You also bring such humour to JBB class, and you always know when the time is right for a laugh and when it's not, and that is a real skill! Fabulous effort Indie, well done!	Spencer Your self-confidence has grown so massively this term, and you should feel extremely proud of yourself. Your dedication to learning and supporting all of your friends has been a real delight to see. Keep this up and you will smash through the SATs and then enjoy the summer term!
	King/Queen of the Dojos George – The King of the Dojos! This is just a tiny recognition of your amazing effort this term. You are incredibly polite, caring and respectful to everyone in school. You are setting the highest example in JBB, and dozens of younger children look up to you as a shining light. Congratulations George!						

Achievements Outside of School

Congratulations to Fraser and Max who both were awarded medals from their rugby tournament in Horsham.

Congratulations to Sasha for achieving Stage 1 in swimming and earning a badge and certificate.

Well done to Archie, Arthur and Maxwell, who all completed their first Beavers sleepover on Saturday 15th March. This is a huge milestone for them all and the boys are all so proud of their achievement. They each received a certificate and a sleepover badge to sew on their uniform.



Diary dates for the Summer Term

April 2025	
22 nd	Summer Term commences
30 th	Class photographs
May 2025	
5 th	Bank Holiday
w/o 12 th	Test Week for Years 5&6
23 rd	May Day Celebration and family picnic: 12:00pm
26 th – 30 th	Half term
June 2025	
4 th	Welcome Meeting for new parents 7pm
5 th	New intake taster sessions 1:00 – 3:00pm
6 th	May Day Celebration Rain Off 1.30pm
12 th	New intake taster sessions 9:00 – 11:00am
20 th	Mission Masterpiece Art Day
26 th	Mission Masterpiece Art Exhibition
27 th	Sports Day 1.30pm
30 th	Science Day
July 2025	
4 th	Sports Day Rain Off 1.30pm
6 th	Horsham Children's Parade
13 th	PTA Summer Fayre
14 th	Annual Pupil Reports to Parents
16 th	KS2 Leavers disco: 3:30 – 4:30pm. Year 6 Pizza and award ceremony: 4:30 – 5:30pm
TBC	Years 6 Visit to the Blue Idol
18 th	William Penn End of Year Leavers' Assembly: 1:00pm Last day of term: 1:30pm finish
21 st	INSET DAY school closed to pupils
22 nd	INSET DAY school closed to pupils