



Primary Newsletter

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Welcome

It is incredible to think we are entering the final quarter of 2021 - what an interesting year it has proven to be, with many of us still working within the Covid restrictions. Wolsey Hall continues to feel privileged to be helping so many students around the world with their studies, and we are incredibly proud of our students and the resilience they have shown.

It has been wonderful to see how active our families are on the Primary Community site, and the calibre of submissions to our club challenges has been a delight to view. If you haven't visited our Community site yet, please check it out.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. We know that many of our students are still affected by Covid in their countries, so please be safe and look after each other.

Best wishes,
Christine Armstrong, Head of Primary



New space themed competition!

Our next Primary competition has launched and this time it's space themed to tie with World Space Week, which took place from 4-10th October.

There are two categories students can choose from to enter:

1. **Can you create a model of the solar system?** You can create it however you wish – perhaps using LEGO, clay modelling or junk modelling.

OR

2. **Can you write a poem about visiting space?** How would you get there? What do you think you would see? How would it feel?

The closing date for entries is **Tuesday 30th November**. Our judging panel will select a winner and runner-up for both Lower Primary and Upper Primary in each category who will receive a prize.

Competition entry details can be found on the Primary Community site. Remember you can find your login details in your Primary Community course on Canvas.



New Humanities course

Our new Lower Primary Humanities course has launched.

During the course children will:

- Develop their knowledge of the key human and physical features of their local area alongside developing their early fieldwork skills.
- Explore how life is different in contrasting locations across the world.
- Learn about events and significant people from world history.
- Explore different aspects of how everyday life has changed over time.
- Develop chronological understanding and begin to consider the different interpretations of history.

This course covers the requirements of the UK Key Stage 1 English National Curriculum for Geography and History over two years.

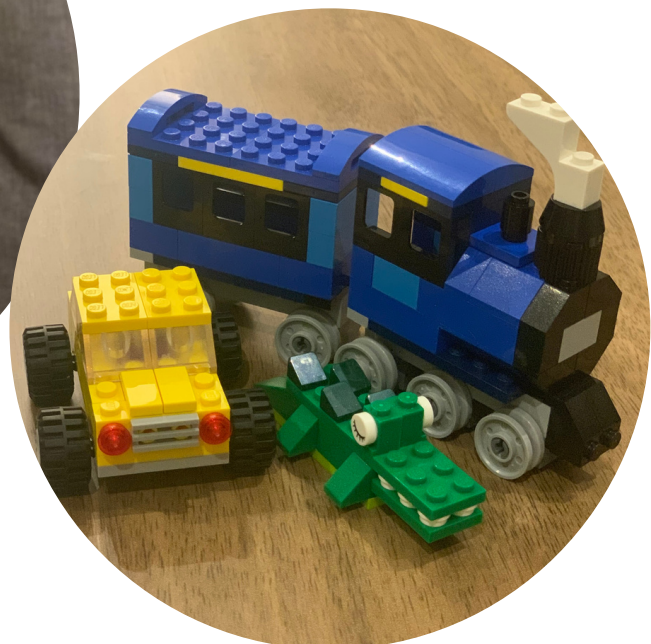
Spotlight On...

Sisters Ellie (11) and Callie (9) are studying with Wolsey Hall in the USA. They're really enjoying their studies and have got back into the swing of their second year after a long summer break with a 'welcome back to school' day. They have both recently joined in with the live club Show and Tells and especially enjoyed meeting other Wolsey Hall Primary students.



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Five-year-old Yousif from Saudi Arabia is in Year 2 with his brother Hasan. Yousif says: "I love to play with LEGO and play video games with my brother. I like to read about space and the human body, and when I grow up I want to be an engineer."



If you are interested in your child being featured in our Student Spotlight please email our Head of Primary Christine Armstrong.



HELLO!

Student Shoutouts

Each month we say 'HELLO' to some of our Primary students around the world. Keep working hard and making us, your family and yourself proud.

This month we are saying hello to:

Aidan, age 6, UAE	Sarim, age 8, Pakistan
Alexander, age 7, Germany	Moosa, age 9, Oman
Celeste, age 6, Kenya	Evie, age 9, Albania
Emilio, age 6, UAE	Berné Lucian, age 8, UAE
Jabar, age 7, Azerbaijan	Tadiswa, age 9, Zimbabwe
Jane, age 7, India	Kaeden, age 8, Greece
Jia Hui, age 6, Malaysia	Ana Cristina, age 8, Romania
Lea, age 6, Slovakia	Monty, age 8, UAE
Lilliana, age 6, UAE	Jacob, age 8, Cyprus
Maria, age 5, Romania	Leora, age 10, Seychelles
Miguel, age 6, Portugal	Sakurako, age 9, India
Talha, age 6, Saudi Arabia	Adrian, age 8, UAE
Chalice, age 8, Thailand	Moza, age 10, Indonesia
Danni, age 7, Singapore	Firdaus, age 9, Saudi Arabia
Ellen, age 8, Germany	Clare, age 9, Slovakia
Ethan, age 8, Zambia	Lea, age 10, Ukraine
Hala, age 8, Qatar	Jake, age 8, UK
Joaquín, age 7, Ecuador	Liev, age 9, Namibia
Jude, age 8, USA	Phoenix Fox, age 9, Indonesia
Shani, age 7, UAE	Alex, age 9, UK
Muntasir, age 7, Egypt	Beatrice, age 9, UAE
Sophie, age 6, China	Lalaka, age 10, Malaysia
Umar, age 7, UAE	Ammar Bamidele, age 10, UAE
Yunatifa, age 6, Philippines	Samar, age 9, Oman
Kaela, age 11, Georgia	Islam, age 11, Iraq
Jaslyn, age 10, USA	Ezra & Raphael, age 11, UK
Kriya Aum, age 10, Indonesia	Erin, age 12, South Africa
Ely, age 10, Mauritius	Liam, age 12, Mauritius
Adam, age 10, Saudi Arabia	Bronwyn, age 12, South Africa
William, age 10, UK	Sarah, age 13, Turkey
Saruda Giulia, age 10, Italy	Rhea, age 15, India
Sofia Maria, age 10, Romania	Charmaine, age 13, UAE
Ryan, age 11, South Africa	Erhardt, age 15, South Africa
Calum, age 10, Singapore	Kenseie 16, India
Asmi Amol, age 11, India	Henry, age 11, UK
Charis, age 11, UAE	Hanna Daise, age 12, UAE

October Club Themes

Our new club themes for October are well underway. Has your child decided to join in with any?

Art: Can you draw a sloth? Watch Art Leader Rachael's tutorial for inspiration.

Creative Writing: Write an acrostic poem using your name to tell us about your favourite things.

Cookery: Bake some bread. You could try our Hedgehog rolls recipe or one of your own.

LEGO®: Build a hotel. Watch LEGO leader Emilie's video to get started.

Nature: Build a wormery with our simple step-by-step guide.

If your child is joining in with the Art or LEGO® club themes this month, why not come along to our next Show & Tell sessions? They're a great way for your child to show to share what they have made, explain how they did it and meet other Primary level students.

Art Club

Show & Tell: Friday 29th October – 9am and 4pm (UK time).

LEGO® Club

Show & Tell: Sunday 31st October – 9am and 4pm (UK time).

You can find the Zoom details by visiting our Primary Community site. The October password can be found in your child's 'Primary Community Course' on Canvas.



Lilah, aged 10 from Malawi, baked her bread using chilli and salt flakes that she made first.



Zunairah, aged 8 from Pakistan, sent in her sloth picture for Art Club.



Anna, aged 6 from Indonesia, created a hotel for her LEGO® characters.

Student Challenge of the Month

Young learners should read at least once every day. There are a range of texts that we can read, such as books, magazines, comics, blogs, newspapers and more.

Your challenge is to read every day at a time when you are not doing your schooling, i.e. using your own free time to read something. Why not start a diary to keep a record of what you are reading and how long you are reading for? If you read for 20 minutes every day in November that would be 600 minutes of reading! That's 10 whole hours of reading!! How much reading can you do in your own free time?



Resource Corner

The Monster Hunt App is available on Apple and android. This App is suitable for young learners and helps to improve their memory with simple, quick, and fun games to play. A winning combination of simplicity, creativity, and gameplay makes this the most enjoyable memory improvement game yet for the whole family.

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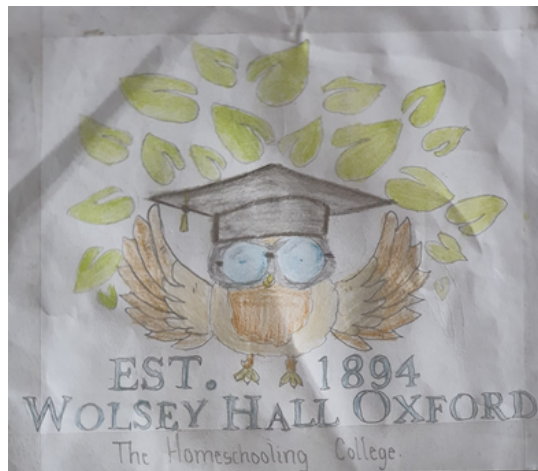
Competition Winners Announced!

We were very impressed with the entries we received for our first Primary Community competition. We asked you to design a Wolsey Hall Owl and we received such wonderful ideas. Choosing the winners proved extremely difficult so we decided to select three overall winners with two runners up. Congratulation to the winners! And a big thank you to everyone who entered.

★ The Winners ★



Anastasia, age 9, Ukraine



Juwayriyan, age 11, UK



Yusuf, age 7, UAE

Runners up



Fatima, age 11, Malaysia



Eisa, age 7, Saudi Arabia



Handwriting is good for you!

Some of our families have asked why we want our students to handwrite their assignments instead of typing them (although there are some assignments where typing is allowed) as their children prefer to use a computer or tablet. Not only is handwriting a necessary lifeskill, but it is also preparing our younger students for their exams when they are older as they will need to handwrite these. But handwriting isn't just about exams.

Handwriting is an extremely important skill, and it aids a person's development and understanding in several ways. Here are some of the ways that research has shown handwriting helps us:

- Writing by hand helps to improve memory function.
- It promotes learning and cognitive development and leads to a higher measure of learning that students who type do not achieve.
- It forces the student to think more deeply about the material being written and this leads to a better understanding of the content.
- Typing is quick and that tends to lead us into choosing the less diverse or interesting words, whereas handwriting, being slower, gives the student the opportunity to think more clearly about the most appropriate vocabulary to use.

- Not learning cursive handwriting may hinder the brain's optimum potential to learn and remember.
- Cursive handwriting stimulates certain parts of the brain that are important for memory and the ability to encode new information, thus facilitating a better understanding of the information.
- Handwriting activates the 'reading circuit' in the brain, facilitating a better understanding of what the children read.
- It improves the fine motor skills in the hand.
- It helps with spelling. The autocorrect function when typing means that children often fail to notice when they spell a word incorrectly.

So, whilst we know that handwriting assignments can seem like an onerous task for our young learners, we know that it is helping them in so many ways; some of which are more obvious than others.

By Tina Hemphill – Primary Tutor

Sources: [Elemental](#) and [Psychology Today](#).

If you would like to suggest a topic for our Parent Spotlight section, please email [Christine Armstrong](mailto:Christine.Armstrong@...).

Parent Forum

It was wonderful to see so many of our Primary parents signing up for our new Parent Forum. Have you joined yet? It's easy to do and offers a great new way to connect with other Primary Wolsey Hall families. Share homeschooling problems and challenges, offer advice and tips, and find others in your country. You can find the link to sign up in your child's Community Canvas course.

Virtual Library

Our Virtual Library is very popular with our students. With hundreds of fiction and non-fiction titles to choose from, your child is bound to discover new books they enjoy. This is the perfect time for them to join in with this month's Reading Challenge!

To start, simply [register](#) your child for an account and then they can borrow up to 10 books at a time.



Community Support

We have Wolsey Hall students in 120 countries. Are you making the most of our opportunities to connect with other homeschooling families worldwide?



Our Primary Level Parents [Facebook Group](#) is a private group to connect with other families, share ideas and information. Have you joined yet?



Our [YouTube channel](#) is full of videos from students and their families who are sharing advice and tips for successful homeschooling.



Our chess club can be found on the Community site and is open to students aged 5 and older. It is an opportunity for you to meet other Wolsey Hall students and play chess together.