



Primary Newsletter



WELCOME

We begin by welcoming all the new students and families who have joined Wolsey Hall over the last few months. It is a pleasure to have you join us and we hope you settle into your studies and enjoy the courses you are taking.

Our Primary Community website continues to develop and grow, and we are really impressed with all the submissions we receive from our clubs. It is wonderful to see our students embracing creative hobbies like our Art, Cooking, LEGO®, Creative Writing and Nature clubs. This month we had a record number of entries to our photography competition. Well done to everyone who took part! It was fascinating to see reflections of where all our students live in the world, sharing photos of landscapes, animals, activities, and more. I feel incredibly proud to be part of such a global community!

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

Best wishes,
Christine Armstrong, Head of Primary



NEW PHONICS COURSE

Why do we need to know our phonics?

The English language can be very confusing. The same sound can be made in different ways, using different letters. For example, in the sentence below the 'ee' sound is made in five different ways!



The hungry
monkey eats the
green leaf in the
evening.

Phonics teaches children the sounds different letters and groups of letters make in the English language. Understanding phonics helps children to know which letters to use when writing words. It also helps children recognise different sounds and blend these together to read words.

We are delighted to announce that we have released a new course dedicated to the teaching of phonics. It is a skills-based course designed for:

- Children who find spelling and reading tricky. These children may have missed out on Year 1 English with Wolsey Hall.
- Children who have English as an additional language and are wanting to improve English skills. These students may be studying in Year 2.
- Children who are currently learning phonics at a different school but are needing extra support at home.

The course includes lots of videos to share the letters and the different sounds made by combinations of letters being put together, activities and tasks to do at home. It also includes access to a dedicated phonics subscription with phonics games to help your child learn their letters and sounds.

This course covers the same phonics syllabus as Year 1 English at Wolsey Hall so would not be suitable for present or past students of this course. For further information, please speak with your Student Progress Manager, or check out the [course sample](#).

WOLSEY HALL YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Wolsey Hall Young Scientist (WHYS) investigations have been added to our Year 5 and 6 Science courses.

These optional investigations are a new addition to the courses, and provide lots of opportunities for our keen scientists to develop their curiosity and scientific skills.

For those that take on the challenge, you can download your passport from the course, track your investigations, and claim your certificate once you have completed them all. Let's get investigating!



UPPER PRIMARY ENGLISH

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 English courses have had an exciting addition!

Optional Reading has now been added to the courses, providing further opportunities for students to practise their reading comprehension and inference skills.

These activities are for students who would like to undertake further opportunities to improve their understanding of texts that they read.

There is no obligation to do these optional activities, but we hope that our students who choose to use them find them helpful. You have the flexibility to complete some, or all of the tasks, while on the English course.

Part 1 Optional Reading Activities



[THE UPSIDE DOWN LION](#)



[HERCULES THE HERO](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Nine-year-old Naomi wanted to share her experience of when she was involved in the plastic recycling process at the Sustainability Lab in Fairmont, Maldives.

Naomi contributed to all steps of plastic recycling, from bottle washing and shredding to extrusion. By sharing her visit, Naomi hopes that friends around the world will share awareness about how important the message 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' is for our planet.

Well done Naomi - you're a true Wolsey Hall eco warrior!

If your child has achieved something new, why not share it with us? They could feature in our newsletter or on the Primary Community site. Email [Danielle Hilton](mailto:Danielle.Hilton@wolseyhall.com) with brief details and a photo or two.



SHOW AND TELL

We received many wonderful updates about the various achievements you all made last year. Remember, you can see them all in the Primary Community.



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:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| John, age 7, UAE | Reyansh, age 9, India |
| Omar, age 6, UK | Mardhiah, age 8, Saudi Arabia |
| Li Yan, age 4, Malaysia | Zayn, age 7, Qatar |
| Leo, age 7, UAE | Ans, age 8, Pakistan |
| Nicolas, age 7, Philippines | Azka, age 10, Indonesia |
| Noorah, age 7, Saudi Arabia | Ahmed, age 9, UAE |
| Paula, age 7, Ecuador | Evita Natascha, age 8, Spain |
| Reya, age 7, UAE | Asfia Fathima, age 7, Singapore |
| Vlad, age 7, Romania | Mila, age 9, Zambia |
| Tyler, age 7, UAE | Maisey, age 10, South Africa |
| Adira, age 8, USA | Anrich, age 8, Malaysia |
| Youjing, age 5, UK | Avaani, age 8, UK |
| Zunairah Maryam, age 6, Qatar | Kir, age 8, Russia |
| Arjun, age 7, India | Jean-François, age 9, UAE |
| Clarisse, age 8, UAE | Noah, age 8, UK |
| Emily, age 8, Romania | Olivia, age 8, India |
| Hana, age 7, USA | Alexander, age 10, Canada |
| Jasmine, age 8, Oman | Zacharias, age 11, Mozambique |
| Joshua, age 8, South Africa | Aanya, age 8, Oman |
| Kara, age 8, Malaysia | Shiloh, age 8, Malawi |
| Lavinia, age 9, Saudi Arabia | Amelia, age 8, Spain |
| Kelsie, age 9, UAE | Mapepo, age 8, Zambia |
| Mariia, age 8, Ukraine | Lee, age 7, Ghana |
| Nathaniel, age 8, Indonesia | Sadia, age 8, UK |
| Heinrich, age 9, UAE | Haarith, age 10, Saudi Arabia |
| Zaynab, age 9, Saudi Arabia | Adam, age 10, Poland |
| Finn, age 11, Malaysia | Dunay, age 10, Namibia |
| Jean, age 8, Zambia | Nazar, age 10, Cyprus |
| Carlota, age 9, UAE | Leonardo, age 10, Ecuador |
| Wen, age 11, Malaysia | Sam, age 10, South Africa |
| Alina, age 9, Bahrain | Everest, age 10, Indonesia |
| Noa, age 11, Spain | Isabel Leila, age 10, UAE |
| Sirivalli, age 9, Thailand | Elsie, age 10, UK |
| Valentina, age 9, Ireland | Willow, age 10, UAE |
| Zara, age 10, UAE | Uthman, age 11, Nigeria |
| Giselle, age 9, USA | Adel, age 10, Colombia |

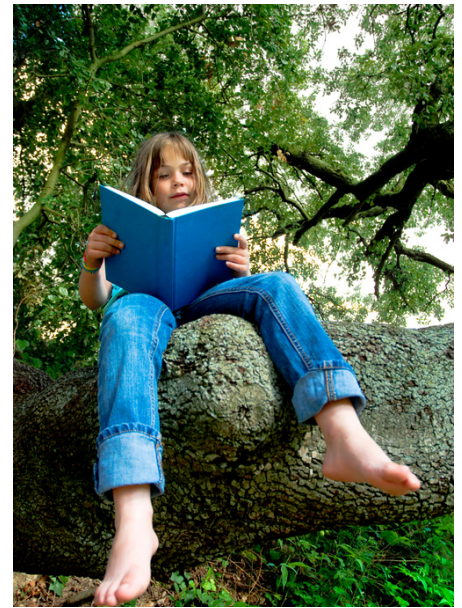
WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION!

In early celebration of World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March, we're asking students to send a photo of themselves reading in an unusual place!

If you prefer drawing to taking photos, why not design a bookmark and send us a photo of it?

The closing date for entries is Thursday 31st March. A winner and runner-up will be selected for both the photo competition and bookmark design. Prizes will be awarded from our new [merchandise store](#).

To enter, please [email your photo](#) entry, along with your full name, age and country of residence.



COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Our recent photo competition called 'My Beautiful Surroundings' was incredibly popular with our students. We were amazed by the quality of entries and choosing the winners proved extremely difficult. You can view the finalists on our Primary Community site.

Many congratulations goes to:

**Lower Primary
WINNER - Arya, age 6
from the Philippines**

**Runner-up: Pranav,
age 6 from India**

**Runner-up: Zara,
age 5 from Oman**

**Upper Primary
WINNER - Maryam,
age 10 from Oman**

**Runner-up: Aeden,
age 7 from Kenya**

**Runner-up: Simina,
age 9 from Romania**



Arya's photo



Maryam's photo

CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

All our students have access to [Fitter Future: Get Active](#). If you haven't signed up yet, ask your SPM to help you.

Your challenge this month is to log on to Fitter Future and do some of the exercises. Can you log in and do some exercise every day? How about every morning before studying, and every afternoon after studying?

Can you be the Fitter Future: Get Active champion, logging in the most and following the exercises? We will be looking out to see who is the MOST ACTIVE of our Primary students. Could it be YOU? Good luck and get moving!

Christine Armstrong
Head of Primary



RESOURCE CORNER

At the [Booktrust](#) website young bookworms and their families will find reading recommendations. There's an entire section dedicated to what authors and illustrators are offering online for children – from illustration classes, read-alongs and even “story starters” to encourage youngsters in their creative writing.



BookTrust transforms lives by getting children and families reading

BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity. Each year we reach millions of children across the UK with books, resources and support.

[What we do >](#)

What's new this week



WHY SHOULD YOUR CHILD STUDY ART?

Arts subjects encourage self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity.

Studying arts subjects also helps to develop critical thinking and the ability to interpret the world around us. Art fosters experimentation more than many other subjects do. It gives children the freedom and choice to create something that is unique to them. It also helps to develop fine motor skills - the ability to make movements using the small muscles in our hands and wrists, which are integral for things like handwriting, cutting, opening and closing things.



In some schools, Art has not been given the time and commitment needed, due to the pressures in other areas of the curriculum. This is a real shame for students, as the benefits of Art are proven. Wolsey Hall has worked with a passionate and dedicated artist to produce Art courses for Year 1 and Year 2 which will inspire, enthuse and develop key artistic skills. If you would like to learn more, either speak with your Student Progress Manager or check out the [course sample for Year 1](#) and [course sample for Year 2](#).

FEBRUARY CLUB THEMES

We're excited to launch a brand new club this month - **Book Club!**

Many of you have asked for this club so we look forward to seeing lots of you joining in. **Budding Bookworms** is for students in Years 3 or 4 and

Bookworms is for students in Years 5 or 6. These are not set strictly though, and you can join either group depending on your reading ability. Discover more, including details of the Book Club meet-ups, on the Primary Community site.

We also have new challenges for our other clubs - **Art, Creative Writing, Cookery, LEGO® and Nature Club.**

The Art and LEGO® Show & Tell sessions are planned for:

Art Club

Show & Tell: Friday 25th February – 9am and 4pm (UK time).

LEGO® Club

Show & Tell: Sunday 27th February – 9am and 5pm (UK time). *Please note the slight change in the afternoon session this month.*

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

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.