



WOLSEY HALL OXFORD  
THE HOMESCHOOLING COLLEGE

# Primary Newsletter



## WELCOME

Dear students, parents and families,

Welcome to the June issue of the Primary newsletter. For many of our students, who have chosen to study using a similar pattern of term times/semesters to physical school environments, then you may be coming to the end of your current academic year of study through Wolsey Hall. We hope that you have enjoyed your courses and plan to have a well-deserved break over the summer months. We look forward to seeing you all again and helping you get started on your next year of study with Wolsey Hall as soon as you are ready!

Our newsletter celebrates all our students and is filled with fun things to do at home, as well as providing tips and advice. We hope that you find this newsletter informative and enjoyable.

Best wishes,  
Christine Armstrong, Head of Primary  
[christine.armstrong@wolseyhalloxford.org.uk](mailto:christine.armstrong@wolseyhalloxford.org.uk)



## PRIMARY CLUBS IN JUNE

We're now accepting entries for the June club challenges!

You can find the new monthly themes in the Primary Community, but if your child wishes to create something else to send in, that is fine too!

It's easy to participate. Simply visit the Primary Community site and the club your child is interested in. Once they have completed their project, email a photo to:  
[danielle.hilton@wolseyhalloxford.org.uk](mailto:danielle.hilton@wolseyhalloxford.org.uk).

You can find the website password in the Primary Community course on Canvas.

*Right: Eight-year-old Ranjini with her flamingo build for last month's LEGO club.*



## CHOIR DELIVERS AGAIN!

The Wolsey Hall choir has performed its latest song "Lean On Me" by Bill Withers. You can [watch their performance](#) on our YouTube channel.

The choir is a lovely way for students to come together and share their love of music. All singing abilities are welcome and there's no audition process to join. Simply email:  
[choir@wolseyhalloxford.org.uk](mailto:choir@wolseyhalloxford.org.uk)



# 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:

Nico, age 12, Hong Kong  
 Ethan, age 11, India  
 Clive, age 8, Indonesia  
 Mmakgosi, age 11, Botswana  
 Valentina, age 10, Brazil  
 Adhikshit, age 10, India  
 Alexander, age 9, Hong Kong  
 Ren, age 10, Indonesia  
 Nissi, age 6, India  
 Robyn, age 5, Ireland  
 Andrew, age 11, Czech Republic  
 Bayzen, age 9, Australia  
 Miles, age 11, Indonesia  
 Huxley, age 6, Kenya  
 Muhammad, age 12, Hong Kong  
 Vivi, age 6, Czech Republic  
 Maitri, age 11, India  
 Sean, age 11, Indonesia  
 Luca, age 13, Kenya  
 Manuela, age 11, Italy  
 Aron, age 8, Japan  
 Tasi, age 9, Kenya  
 Abdallah, age 9, Kuwait  
 Inara, age 11, New Zealand  
 Sarim, age 9, Pakistan  
 John Paul, age 7, Qatar  
 Rafa, age 10, Philippines  
 Nia, age 12, Oman  
 Aron, age 11, Portugal  
 Ariana, age 12, New Zealand  
 Michal, age 7, Poland  
 Ayaz, age 10, Qatar  
 Renzo, age 7, Philippines  
 Sean, age 10, Paraguay  
 Klara, age 7, Portugal

Adam, age 6, Kuwait  
 Ely, age 11, Mauritius  
 Amelie, age 9, Namibia  
 Wen, age 13, Malaysia  
 Gavrail, age 11, Luxembourg  
 Zacharis, age 10, Malawi  
 Micah, age 10, Netherlands  
 Annabel, age 8, Malaysia  
 Helena, age 12, Namibia  
 George, age 13, Netherlands  
 Zoya, age 11, Mauritius  
 Iasonas, age 6, Malta  
 Elda, age 10, Namibia  
 Charlotte, age 6, Luxembourg  
 Maeva, age 8, Mauritius  
 Aydin, age 10, Malaysia  
 Nikas, age 11, Luxembourg  
 Harshana J, age 10, Malaysia  
 Czar, age 10, Malaysia  
 Nicolas, age 8, Malta  
 Talya, age 13, Namibia  
 Victoria, age 10, Netherlands  
 Hofni, age 11, Namibia  
 Maria, age 10, Romania  
 Harry, age 9, Philippines  
 Maryam, age 11, Oman  
 Tanisha, age 6, Philippines  
 Milena, age 7, Poland  
 Musa, age 8, Pakistan  
 Joey, age 10, New Zealand  
 Edward, age 12, Philippines  
 Zainah, age 14, Pakistan  
 Katrina, age 10, Poland  
 Lucy, age 8, New Zealand  
 Jessica, age 9, Philippines

# THE STORY OF EMMA

Once upon a time there lived a child named Emma. She was a bright and curious young girl who had a unique way of learning. She was homeschooled by her parents, using Wolsey Hall as her learning provider, and she absolutely loved it. Every morning, Emma woke up to the gentle sunlight streaming through her bedroom window. With a joyful smile on her face, she would eagerly jump out of bed and make her way to the kitchen, where her parents would be waiting for her. Together, they would enjoy breakfast while discussing the exciting lessons planned for the day ahead.

Emma's homeschooling journey was filled with adventure and exploration. Instead of sitting in a classroom, she had the freedom to learn in various locations. Some days, her family transformed the living room into a science laboratory, conducting fascinating experiments. Other times, they would venture outdoors to study, marvelling at the world around them.

One of Emma's favourite aspects of homeschooling was the opportunity to dive deep into subjects that fascinated her the most. Whether it was English, History, or Art, she could spend as much time as she desired, immersing herself in books, videos and hands-on projects. She was never rushed or limited by the constraints of a traditional school curriculum.

Emma's parents recognised her passion for music, so they arranged for her to take piano lessons, and her homeschool experience was also enriched with valuable life lessons.



She learned practical skills like cooking, gardening, and caring for their pet dog Max. Every day brought new growth and discoveries.

As Emma progressed, she discovered a sense of independence and self-motivation. She developed strong organisational and time management skills, and took responsibility for her own education. With the unwavering support of her parents, Emma felt empowered to pursue her dreams and follow her own path.

The love and warmth of her homeschooling environment nurtured Emma's creativity and allowed her to embrace her individuality. She flourished in a space where her unique talents were celebrated, and her ideas were valued. She was free to explore her passions with enthusiasm.

Emma's homeschooling journey was a beautiful tapestry woven with love, curiosity and endless possibilities. With a heart full of gratitude and a mind filled with knowledge, Emma cherished her experience learning with Wolsey Hall Oxford.

# LIFE SKILLS CORNER

Everyone should know how to make a simple, sweet biscuit! One of the easiest biscuits to make is the classic drop biscuit. Here's a simple recipe for fork biscuits (don't forget to have an adult help you with any hot elements).

## Ingredients:

100g (1/2 cup) butter (softened)

50g (1/4 cup) caster sugar

150g (1 1/4 cup) self-raising flour

## Equipment

Measuring scales or cups/spoons

Baking tray and baking/parchment paper

Spoon for mixing

Mixing bowl

Wire rack for cooling

## Instructions:

1. Pre-heat your oven to 180 degrees /160 degrees fan and prepare your baking tray by lining it with baking or parchment paper.
2. In a large mixing bowl, beat the butter and sugar together with a wooden spoon (or a hand held mixer) until it is all well combined and smooth.
3. Add the flour and mix it in with a spoon.
4. Knead it all and bring it together into a soft dough that doesn't crumble apart.
5. Roll small pieces of dough (the size of a walnut or teaspoon) into round balls. place on your baking tray, leaving space between them for spreading.
6. Dip a fork in cold water and press down on each ball of biscuit dough in turn to flatten each biscuit and make an imprint.
7. Bake in the oven for 12-15 minutes until they are golden brown.
8. Remove the fork biscuits from the oven and leave them to cool on a wire rack.



# FAMOUS HOMESCHOOLER OF THE MONTH

Betsy DeVos served as the 11th United States Secretary of Education from 2017 to 2021.

DeVos, born Elisabeth Prince, came from a family that valued education and entrepreneurship. She was homeschooled during her early years and received personalised instruction tailored to her needs and interests. Her parents, both strong advocates of school choice and educational reform, played a significant role in her education.



*Copyright: Twitter*

As a homeschooled student, DeVos had the flexibility to explore her passion for education and civic engagement. She became actively involved in her community, working alongside her family to promote education policies that emphasised choice and quality education for all students.

DeVos's homeschooling experience fostered her interest in education reform, which later became a focal point of her political career. She became a leading advocate for school choice, charter schools, and voucher programs, aiming to expand educational opportunities for students across the country.

In 2017, DeVos was appointed as the Secretary of Education under President Donald Trump's administration. During her tenure, she focused on promoting policies that supported school choice, alternative education pathways, and empowering parents to make decisions regarding their children's education.

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## RESOURCE CORNER: MAGIC PIANO

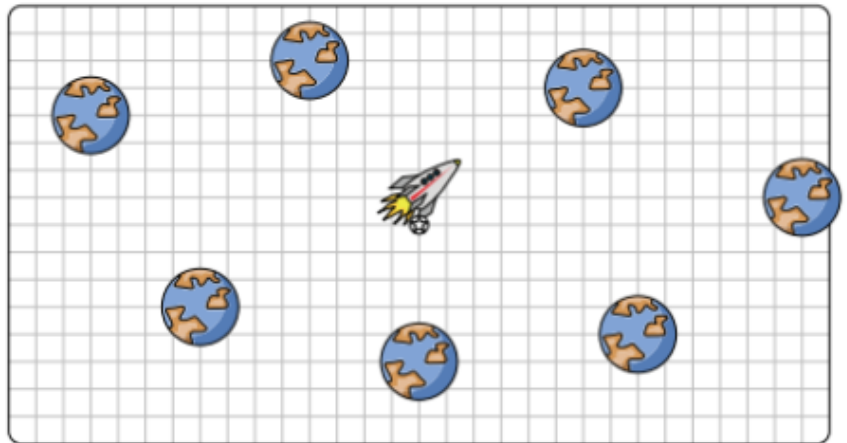
With everything from Bruno Mars to Mozart, this nifty little magic piano guides you through playing a variety of tunes on its three keyboards, by following beams of light with your fingers. Best for children aged 7+. Magic Piano by Smule is a downloadable app for Apple and Android.



*Wolsey Hall is not affiliated to this app*

# CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

On which planet is the astronaut's home base? To find out, start from the star in the middle and follow your way around the map using the clues below.



(1) Go East:  $15 - \square = 6$

(2) Go North:  $4 \times \square = 12$

(3) Go West:  $7 \times \square = 14$

(4) Go South:  $9 + \square = 17$

(5) Go West:  $8 + \square = 14$

(6) Go South:  $8 + \square = 10$

(7) Go West:  $18 - 8 = \square$

(8) Go North:  $7 \times \square = 63$

(9) Go East:  $10 - 6 = \square$

(10) Go North:  $11 - 7 = \square$

(11) Go East:  $16 - \square = 8$

(12) Go South:  $\square + 5 = 14$

(13) Go West:  $3 \times \square = 21$

(14) Go North:  $4 - 2 = \square$

(15) Go East:  $9 + \square = 12$

(16) Go North:  $12 - 6 = \square$

(17) Go West:  $\square + 9 = 14$

(18) Go South:  $6 + \square = 15$

(19) Go West:  $10 - \square = 4$

(20) Go North:  $6 \times \square = 48$

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Five-year-old Eden, who lives in the Philippines, developed an interest in riding horses after reading a book in her Wolsey Hall English lesson named 'Pick your Queen'. She learnt that queens are often good at horse riding.

The next day, along with her parents, she visited an equestrian centre to try it out for real and discovered she loved it. In just six classes, she was able to ride a horse all by herself and even learnt how to jump a cross pole.

She has been commended as a quick learner and the youngest rider in that centre!

# THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM APPROACH

The flipped classroom is an instructional strategy that reverses the traditional model of teaching. In a typical classroom, students receive direct instruction from the teacher during class time and then complete homework or assignments independently outside of class. However, in a flipped classroom, the learning activities are reversed. Students are first introduced to new content or concepts outside of a classroom setting, usually through pre-recorded videos, online resources, or readings. They can access these materials at their own pace and convenience, allowing them to review the content as many times as needed to grasp the information. The Wolsey Hall learning platform promotes a flipped classroom approach, and there are many benefits to this.

- **Personalised Learning:** Students can learn at their own pace and revisit materials as needed. This approach allows for personalised learning, ensuring that each child can grasp the content fully before moving on.
- **Active Engagement:** Children actively engage with the material, and this hands-on approach enhances their understanding and retention of the subject matter, rather than passively listening.
- **Individual Attention:** With the tutor acting as a facilitator in a flipped classroom, there is more opportunity for individual attention. Students can receive direct feedback and guidance, addressing their specific learning needs and challenges.

- **Flexibility and Convenience:** Students access learning materials at their own convenience. They can watch video lectures or review readings at a time that suits them best. This flexibility helps them manage their time effectively and promotes independent learning skills.
- **Deeper Understanding:** By introducing new concepts outside of class this enables students to delve deeper into the subject matter. They can ask questions, seek clarifications, and engage in critical thinking, resulting in a more profound understanding of the topic.
- **Parent Involvement:** Parents can become more involved in their child's learning process. They can review the materials alongside their child and discuss the content together. This involvement strengthens the parent-child bond and provides opportunities for meaningful conversations about academic subjects.
- **Preparation for the Future:** The flipped classroom model aligns with real-world scenarios where self-directed learning and active participation are highly valued. By engaging in collaborative activities, problem-solving and independent study, students develop skills that are crucial for their future success.

Overall, the flipped classroom model allows students to take ownership of their education while benefiting from the guidance and support of their tutors.



## ART EXHIBITION NOW LIVE

The Superheroes virtual art exhibition is now [live on the Wolsey Hall website](#).

Thank you to all the Primary students who took the time to enter their artwork. You all did amazingly well, what creative talent we have!



Adhrit, age 5, India, Superhero Dad



Luca, Year 5, Super Glitch

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We have Wolsey Hall students in over 125 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? You may also like to follow our [Facebook page](#).



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



We often feature our students' achievements on our [Instagram](#). Why not follow and engage with us there too?