



# Primary Newsletter



## WELCOME

Dear students, parents and families,

Welcome to 2024! For all our families that celebrated over the holiday season, I hope you had a wonderful, joyful time with family and friends.

As we embark on a brand-new year, we embrace the spirit of new beginnings. As we turn the page to a fresh chapter, let's celebrate the chance to create lasting memories with our children through the gift of education, and the freedom homeschooling provides to tailor the learning journey to suit the needs of your child.

This month's 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  
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# ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (E2L) COURSE COMING SOON

We are pleased to share that work on our new course, English as a Second Language (E2L), is nearly complete. The course will launch in January 2024.

Our E2L course is aimed at students at the Upper Primary level, which is typically students between 7 and 11 years old, who may struggle with a first language English curriculum course with Wolsey Hall. It has been developed for students who are looking for a course more focussed on English language skills specifically, to help improve their English language before beginning Upper Primary English at Year 3. On completion of our E2L course, students will be ready to transition to our Year 3 first language English course, having put the foundations of language in place.



We are thrilled to offer this bridging course to help our students thrive at Wolsey Hall. This is a full course and represents one academic year of study in a physical school setting. For further information, existing Wolsey Hall families can contact their SPM, and new families can contact our Admissions team via an [enquiry form](#) on our website.

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## BIG CAT BOOKS E-LIBRARY FOR PRIMARY ENGLISH COURSES

We are delighted to announce that we have added personal login access to Collins Big Cat ebook library to our Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 English courses. This will enable students to access levelled ebooks to read according to their ability, and to take a progressive approach to improving their reading skills. There is guidance for parents too in the library.

Any student joining a Primary English course from Years 1 to 6 is provided with a personal login to the eLibrary.





## 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:

Toby, age 10, Australia  
 Zacharias, age 11, Indonesia  
 Luca, age 6, Botswana  
 Dev, age 10, India  
 Hugo, age 10, Croatia  
 Luna, age 10, Maldives  
 Sophia, age 7, France  
 Allard, age 12, Germany,  
 Odin, age 7, Ghana  
 Putu, age 10, Indonesia  
 Oliver, age 10, Australia  
 Austin, age 10, India  
 Bem, age 11, Kenya  
 Gabriela, age 11, Brazil  
 Adriaan, age 8, Hungary  
 Ryan, age 9, Kenya  
 Carmen, age 12, Ireland  
 Ziza, age 11, Brazil  
 Zoe, age 11, Kenya  
 Elizabeth, age 8, Laos  
 Bethany, age 12, China  
 Sophia, age 10, China  
 Nelia, age 11, Latvia  
 Fenne, age 13, Malawi  
 William, age 13, Australia  
 Hamish, age 6, Jordan  
 Kessler, age 7, Namibia  
 Iris, age 10, India  
 Sveva, age 11, Malta  
 Shaina, age 9, Ireland  
 Muhammad, age 8, Maldives  
 Amiel, age 8, Malaysia  
 Bastien, age 11, Australia  
 Maya, age 10, Portugal  
 Zacharias, age 11, Malawi  
 Agrima, age 10, India

Jane, age 9, India  
 Harriet, age 11, Ireland  
 Rachel, age 11, Kenya  
 Muhammad, age 7, Qatar  
 Claudiu, age 13, Romania  
 Eisa, age 9, Saudi Arabia  
 Noah-James, age 9, Portugal  
 Elijah, age 11, Malawi  
 Iasonas, age 7, Malta  
 Immaculate, age 8, Namibia  
 Joshua, age 9, Saudi Arabia  
 Aira, age 9, Oman  
 Klara, age 7, Malaysia  
 Simina, age 10, Romania  
 Violet, age 6, Philippines  
 Zainab, age 9, Maldives  
 Karmin, age 7, Oman  
 Aliya, age 10, Portugal  
 Juliette, age 9, Panama  
 Noura, age 9, Saudi Arabia  
 Zoe, age 9, Qatar  
 Rares, age 13, Romania  
 Stella, age 5, Philippines  
 Thobela, age 10, Kenya  
 Rifa, age 9, Oman  
 Nathan, age 12, Kenya  
 Salma, age 10, Jordan  
 Lena, age 8, Namibia  
 Aurora, age 4, Philippines  
 Lineo, age 9, Belgium  
 Ian, age 8, Malaysia  
 Jocelyn, age 8, Belgium  
 Nicolas, age 10, Malta  
 Jack, age 10, Portugal  
 Artemis, age 4, Philippines  
 Zahara, age 9, Saudi Arabia



# HAPPY NEW CALENDAR YEAR!

# 2024

Can you believe a new year is here, bringing with it endless possibilities and exciting adventures in our homeschooling journey? Today, let's think about "New Year Resolutions" and how these can help you.

New Year Resolutions are like setting personal goals or making a wish list for the entire year. It's like unlocking a treasure chest of possibilities to become the best version of yourself. Whether you're learning in the heart of the city, nestled in the countryside, or exploring the wonders of a new culture, resolutions can be your global guide to a fantastic year of learning and growing.

In homeschooling, resolutions are your passport to a world of knowledge and fun. Want to read more fascinating stories or become a maths wizard? Maybe you dream of exploring science mysteries or learning a new language. Your resolutions are the keys to unlocking these incredible experiences in your homeschooling adventure.

Here's a universal guide to crafting your very own New Year Resolutions:

- **Dream Big:** Imagine all the incredible things you want to learn and discover this year. Whether it's understanding the stars, creating art, or diving into history, let your dreams reach as far and wide as the corners of the globe.
- **Write Them Down:** Grab a special notebook or create a colourful poster in your language or using cool symbols. Write down your resolutions to create a roadmap for your learning journey.
- **Share with Friends and Family:** Let your family and friends in on your resolutions. They can be your companions on this adventure, supporting you as you work to achieve your resolutions.
- **Take Small Steps:** Resolutions are achieved one step at a time. If your goal is to read more books, start with one and keep going from there! If it's maths, try solving puzzles and make sure you don't give up if you can't do it the first time – make sure to try, try, and try again. Little by little, you'll start to see you get better and better.
- **Celebrate Success:** Every achievement, no matter how small, deserves a celebration. Share your victories with friends and family when you achieve something.



Remember, 2024 is your year to shine! With your own set of resolutions, you can turn everyday moments into exciting adventures in homeschooling and beyond. So, start thinking about what resolutions you are going to make for 2024!

# CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

Can you work out what this everyday object is? It is zoomed in to make it tricky to figure out.



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## RESOURCE CORNER

**Crazy Gears – available on Apple App Store and GooglePlay**

Crazy Gears is a problem-solving game that gets kids thinking critically, problem solving, and exploring physics and other STEM topics. There are no instructions - kids experiment as they figure everything out on their own.



A parents' guide provides background information, definitions, fun facts, and project ideas, though it's not embedded into gameplay. Since there's essentially no instruction, gameplay is accessible to all, no matter what language your child speaks. Parents who don't speak English, however, will not be able to read the handbook.

*Wolsey Hall is not affiliated with this app.*

# FAMOUS HOMESCHOOLER OF THE MONTH

As a child, Agatha Christie was homeschooled and wasn't expected to learn how to read until she was eight years old. However, when she was only five years old, Agatha taught herself how to read, several years before it was expected of her. Agatha and her mother were avid storytellers, and Agatha later wrote in her autobiography that her interest in becoming an author started at 11 years old. This is when she first started to put her stories into words and to have them published in the local newspaper. She also lived with learning disabilities, which didn't stop her from becoming a best-selling novelist.

Agatha Christie is one of the most successful authors of her time. Her detective novels and short stories have sold over four billion copies, and her fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple are known all over the world.



## LIFESKILLS CORNER

Always Know Your Left and Your Right!

It is really important that you know your left from your right, as these are some of the most common words used to explain where things are or should be. When you know your left from your right, you can follow instructions more successfully, such as when someone says, "Put the book on the left side of the table." If you find it difficult to remember which is your left and which is your right then here is an easy trick!



- Hold both hands in front of you with the top sides of your hands uppermost.
- Extend your thumbs and index fingers on both hands to form an "L" shape.
- The hand that makes a natural "L" shape is the left hand. The other hand is the right.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Five-year-old Primary student Antigone recently visited Oxford with her family and spotted a Wolsey window at Christ Church!



## GET IN TOUCH



We love to see what our Primary students are up to, whether it's visiting a new country, learning a new skill or achieving a medal or award in their favourite sport or hobby. If your child would like to appear in our newsletter please get in touch by emailing a few details to your Student Progress Manager.

# THE POWER OF STRUCTURE: WHY FOLLOWING A CURRICULUM BOOSTS HOMESCHOOL SUCCESS

Navigating the educational journey for our Primary students can be both thrilling and challenging. As you are on this learning adventure with Wolsey Hall, consider the significant benefits that come with following a structured course and curriculum:

## 1. Clear Learning Pathways

Our structured curriculum provides a clear roadmap for both parents and students. It breaks down the subject matter into manageable units, offering a step-by-step guide to progression. This clarity eliminates the guesswork, ensuring that essential concepts are covered systematically, laying a strong foundation for future learning.

## 2. Consistency and Routine

Young minds thrive on routine and predictability. Following a Wolsey Hall structured course helps establish a regular learning routine, creating a sense of stability for homeschoolers. Consistent study habits foster a positive attitude toward learning and enhance retention of information.

## 3. Comprehensive Coverage

Our courses are designed by teachers to cover a comprehensive range of topics. This ensures that children receive a well-rounded education in the chosen subject, including both foundational and advanced concepts. It minimises the risk of overlooking essential knowledge areas.

## 4. Developmental Progression

Our curriculum, in line with English National Curriculum and Cambridge, is typically designed to align with the developmental stages of children. It considers their cognitive abilities, attention spans, and interests at specific age levels. This tailored approach ensures that children are engaged and challenged appropriately, promoting optimal learning outcomes.

## 5. Assessment and Feedback

Wolsey Hall has built-in assessments through its assignments to gauge the child's understanding of the material. Regular assessments provide valuable feedback, allowing you to identify areas that may need additional focus. This feedback loop supports targeted interventions and reinforces learning.

## 6. Preparation for Transitions

Following a structured curriculum helps prepare your child for potential transitions, whether it be re-entering traditional schooling or moving to a more advanced level of homeschooling. The continuity in their educational experience facilitates a smoother transition into new learning environments.

## 7. Resource Efficiency

Structured programs such as Wolsey Hall come with a wealth of resources, including textbooks, workbooks, and supplementary materials. This resource efficiency saves parents time and effort in sourcing educational materials, allowing them to focus more on teaching and engaging with your child.

In conclusion, while the flexibility of homeschooling is a wonderful advantage, integrating structured programs into your curriculum can provide a solid framework for academic success. It brings a sense of order to your homeschooling journey, offering clear benefits for both you and your 5-11 year old learners.

Happy homeschooling!



## NEW COMPETITION!

As we celebrate 130 years of Wolsey Hall Oxford, we're thinking of how people commemorate occasions.

We're inviting you to gather some items together to put into a (virtual) time capsule and then take a photo. Imagine someone opening this capsule in 130 years' time – what items can you gather that would give them an idea of your life now? Perhaps you could include something that reflects your hobby? A textbook to demonstrate your favourite subject? Perhaps a family momento?

This is just a virtual time capsule, so you don't need to really bury it somewhere!

One Primary winner will receive £50 and two runners-up will receive a Wolsey Hall t-shirt. Find all the competition details in the Primary Community.



## 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?