



# Primary Newsletter



## WELCOME

Dear students, parents and families,

Since the last Primary newsletter was published, here in the UK we marked the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which many of you may have seen news of around the world. There is no disputing her dedication to her role or her commitment to a life in service to her country.

Here at Wolsey Hall, we feel very fortunate to be able to serve our students, families and communities who seek access to quality education, and it brings us great joy to share in the success of all our students.

We continue to develop courses to meet the needs of our students and to further enrich our offering – we are passionate about homeschooling and helping students to thrive.

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 you enjoy reading it.

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



# IMMERSIVE READER FUNCTION

You may have noticed a new button at the top of each course on our Canvas Learning Platform called Immersive Reader.



The Immersive Reader function allows you to view the text on the Canvas page differently to the norm and has lots of helpful features.

## TEXT SETTINGS

- Change the font size on the screen.
- Change the font to calibri, sitka or comic sans.
- Change the background colour to aid reading.
- Increase the spacing between letters and words.

## GRAMMAR OPTIONS

- Split words into syllables to help with reading and sounding out.
- Choose to automatically highlight nouns, verbs, adverbs, and/or adjectives to aid understanding.

## READING OPTIONS

- Highlight text by line, 3 lines or 5 lines to help reading focus.
- Use the translate tool which has a huge range of language options – simply choose a language and swipe the 'by document' button.

## AUTO READING OF THE TEXT

- When in Immersive Reader mode, at the bottom of the screen, there is a circular play button. Click this and the Canvas page will be read out to you.
- The speaker with a cog (next to the play button) enables you to choose a male or female voice, as well as change the speed of the narration.



# UPPER PRIMARY MATHS TEACHING VIDEOS

Our Years 5 and 6 Maths courses already have a wealth of resources within them, including videos, weblinks, printables, and subscriptions to aid and support learning and understanding.

Both MyMaths and MathsWatch provide a wide range of videos that are available to Wolsey Hall students. However, we want to support our students and parents even more!

We have created and added over 60 Wolsey Hall Maths videos to these two courses to support the learning. We have another 100 videos to add over the coming weeks and months.

We are also developing Maths videos for Years 3 and 4 courses, and it won't be too long until you see these being added. We are sure that our new videos will help to accelerate learning for our students.



## LEARNING SUPPORT

If your child has a special educational need, we offer a variety of options, including advice and specialist support for specific learning difficulties.

These services are all conducted via video call. Find out more about learning support on our [website](#).





# 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.

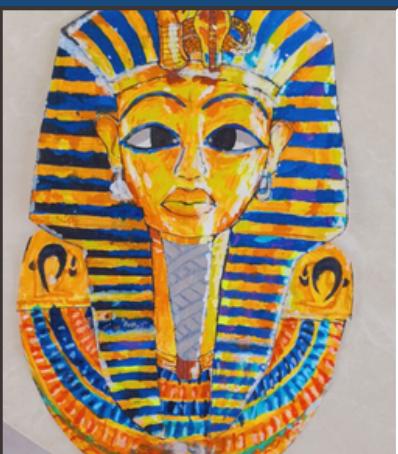
This month we are saying hello to:

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nea, age 8, Australia                 | Jayla, age 7, USA             |
| Umar, age 10, Bangladesh              | Warda, age 9, UK              |
| Chimamanda, age 9, Canada             | Pariza, age 10, Australia     |
| Elizabeth, age 11, Congo              | Mzwandile, age 8, Botswana    |
| Louis, age 7, Ecuador                 | Dakota, age 7, China          |
| Abdullah, age 7, Cote D'Ivoire        | Valentine, age 10, Colombia   |
| Yeva, age 10, China                   | Sophia, age 6, France         |
| Julian, age 8, Ecuador                | Arunabh, age 9, India         |
| Chloé, age 11, France                 | Nythik, age 7, India          |
| Aashritha, age 8, India               | Kiara, age 6, Italy           |
| Nava Adrianti, age 10, Indonesia      | Celeste, age 7, Kenya         |
| Misha, age 10, Ireland                | Elizabeth, age 7, Laos        |
| Anneke, age 9, Japan                  | Abdallah, age 8, Kuwait       |
| Jia Shin, age 10, Malaysia            | Madhava, age 10, Malaysia     |
| Karim, age 7, Oman                    | Zainab, age 8, Maldives       |
| Edward & Evelyn, age 7, Philippines   | Mishele David, age 9, Namibia |
| Dadalau, age 10, Romania              | Iasonas, age 5, Malta         |
| Mark, age 9, Russia                   | Lisa, age 8, Netherlands      |
| Zainab, age 8, Saudi Arabia           | Sarim, age 9, Pakistan        |
| Andile, age 7, Uganda                 | Kiev Charles, age 7, Qatar    |
| Alivia, age 10, Turkey                | Tommy, age 9, Portugal        |
| Berné Lucian, age 9, UAE              | Olive, age 7, Qatar           |
| Isabella, age 8, UK                   | Piotr Edward, age 8, Poland   |
| Phat, age 6, Vietnam                  | Emma, age 10, Romania         |
| Darie, age 8, Romania                 | Ziza, age 10, Spain           |
| Salma, age 9, Saudi Arabia            | Daniel, age 8, Romania        |
| Jhaswin, age 10, Singapore            | Zayn, age 8, Qatar            |
| Spencer, age 10, Seychelles           | Amelia, age 7, Poland         |
| Levi, age 9, Tanzania                 | Zara, age 6, Oman             |
| Nicolas & Salome, age 10, Switzerland | Ben, age 7, New Zealand       |
| Oliver, age 10, Uganda                | Filip, age 7, Mexico          |
| Rafiga Alexa, age 7, Turkey           | Abdulrahman, age 10, Kuwait   |
| Avaani, age 9, UAE                    | Misha, age 10, Ireland        |
| Muaadh, age 6, Zimbabwe               | Roman, age 9, Cyprus          |
| Max, age 9, USA                       | Umar, age 10, Bangladesh      |
| Tyme, age 10, Thailand                |                               |

# OCTOBER CLUB CHALLENGES

Many of our Primary aged students love to join in with the clubs we offer.

A big thank you to everyone who took part last month. Which challenge will your child take on in October? Head to the Primary Community to discover all our clubs and full instructions for taking part. You can find the links in your child's Canvas account, under 'Primary Community' course.



**ART CLUB**  
(includes monthly Show & Tell)



**BOOK CLUB**  
**CHOIR**  
**CHESS CLUB**  
**COOKERY CLUB**  
**CREATIVE WRITING CLUB**



**ECO CLUB**  
**LEGO® CLUB**  
(includes monthly Show & Tell)



**PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Year 5 Wolsey Hall student Radu recently achieved first place in the kata team in the World Karate Championships in Italy!

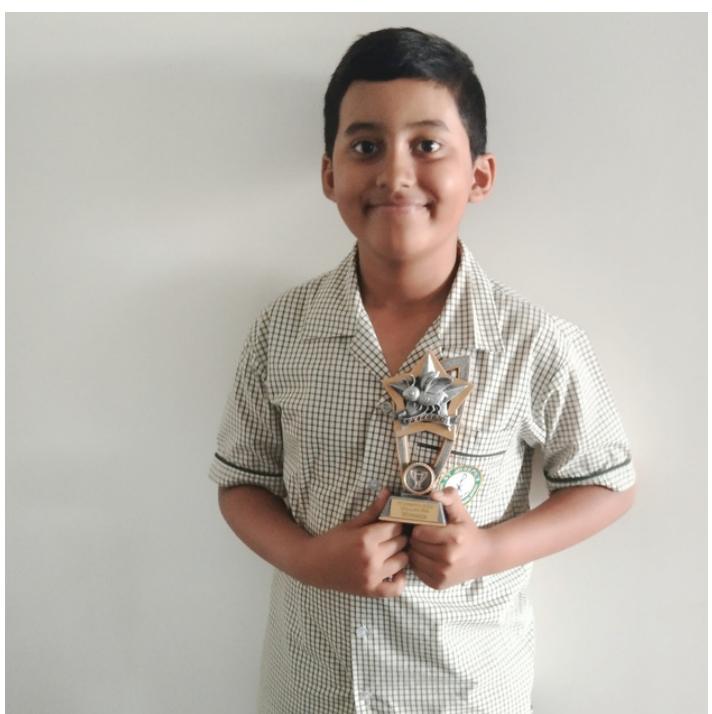
He also won a bronze medal in the kumite team at the same competition. Well done Radu, that took some dedication to your sport!



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Wolsey Hall has students from all over the world learning with us in different ways.

Nine-year-old Arunabh attends a local school in Australia. He is also enrolled in Wolsey Hall courses to supplement his learning and to follow his passions. Arunabh recently won the Spelling Bee in his school. A great achievement!



# THE BENEFITS OF MINDFUL COLOURING

Deciding to undertake some family colouring activities has many benefits for children.

## Hand-eye Coordination

As your child moves through their learning journey, they will be asked to do more complicated actions, requiring increased control and skill. They will need to use a pencil, pen or other tools such as scissors, glue or paint. This means that their hand-eye coordination and pencil control will also develop. You can help with this by spending some time colouring with your child. It allows them to practice their pencil grip and control, and their fine motor skills.

Remember that drawing carefully inside some lines can be extremely tricky for younger children, so keep encouraging them. You can act as a great role model by showing them how to hold a pencil and how to draw within the lines - if they see you doing it, they're more likely to want to copy.

## Building Confidence

Colouring together can be a great way to develop confidence and a sense of achievement. Being willing to 'have a go' develops resilience, realising that practice makes perfect. In addition, as their pencil control grows, your child will start to have more 'success' in their colouring.

## Relaxation

As well as all the benefits to your child's pencil control, hand-eye coordination and confidence, colouring together is also a great way for your child to relax. As adults, we're told about the benefits of mindfulness and time spent de-stressing, but this time can be just as useful for your child.

Whatever's happened during the day and whatever they're thinking about, colouring is a great chance for them to have some time unwinding. It's also good fun!

## Developing Language and Vocabulary Skills

The time spent with your child colouring can be a fantastic opportunity to talk together and explore different vocabulary. You and your child could talk about the pictures that you're colouring - What can they see? How is the character feeling? What is the character holding? Next time you need a break from lessons at home, consider printing some different colouring pages online and enjoy this relaxing family activity that offers so much more.

*Adapted from Twinkl Online*



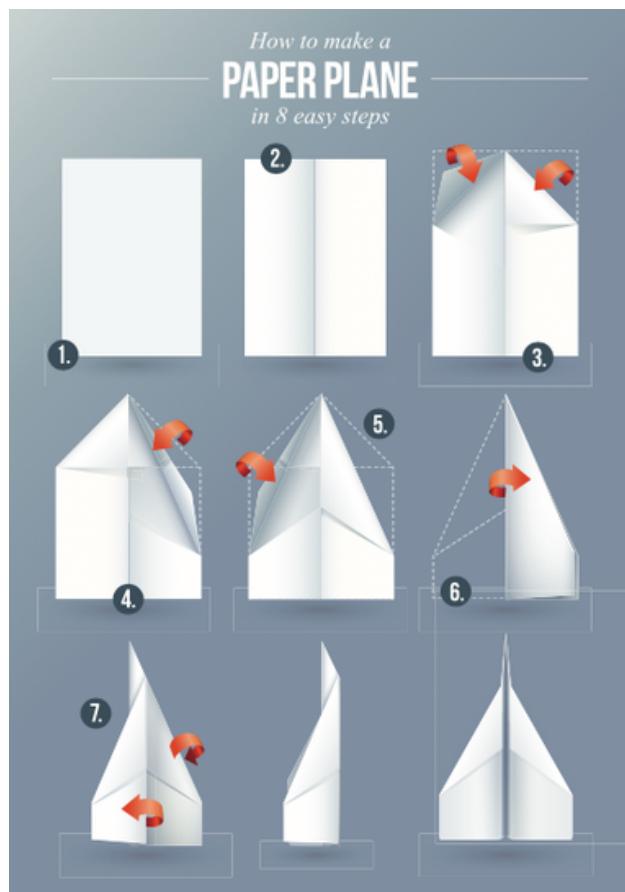
# LIFE SKILLS CORNER

**Everyone should be able to make a good paper plane.**

They are fun to make, good to build with friends, provide an easy competition to have with friends and family (the best design, the furthest flown, the highest flier), and can teach you Science, Maths and Engineering.

You never know when you will be asked to make a paper plane to compete with others so why not try different designs and test them out now? Be prepared to make the best plane when you need it!

You can watch this [video demonstration](#) of making paper planes  
(Leads to external site.)



## CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

Can you complete our Wolsey Hall themed wordsearch?

Find and circle each of the words from the list underneath the square. Words may appear horizontally, vertically or diagonally, but will always be forwards.

Good luck! The answers will be in next month's newsletter.

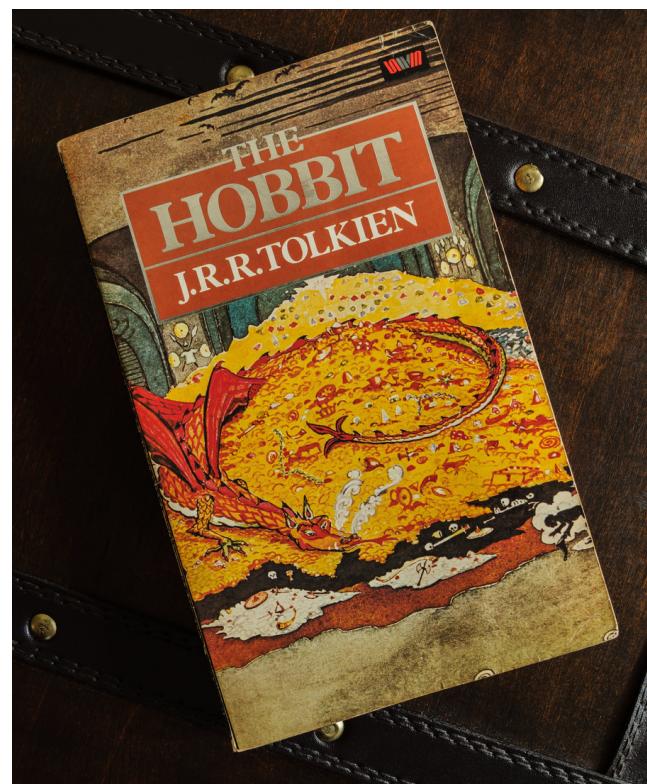


wolsey hall wolsey owl community learning maths  
success homeschooling competitions virtual library  
science clubs english canvas

# FAAMOUS HOMESCHOOLER OF THE MONTH

J.R.R. Tolkien wrote popular books of fantasy fiction. The most famous of his books are 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings'.

Tolkien was homeschooled by his mother. She homeschooled both of her children, "Ronald" (as Tolkien was known by family members) and his brother Hilary, with Ronald being a particularly intense and enthusiastic learner. He especially enjoyed botany as well as drawing and languages. Latin was a part of his very early education, as he could read and write fluently by four years old. Tolkien went on to study at Oxford University and later taught there.



## RESOURCE CORNER – CLIMATE KIDS

This NASA project covers a wide range of topics including weather, climate, atmosphere, water and energy. It also explains how connected different aspects of the earth's climate are by showing the impact that one has on all the others. In addition to games, activities, and videos, your child can learn more about green careers, too.

*Wolsey Hall is not affiliated to this site in any way.*

# HOMESCHOOLING ON THE RISE IN THE UK

**Following consultation with more than 100 UK councils, calculations indicate that homeschooling figures are up by 27.3% in the UK since 2018.**

These recent figures, obtained through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, show that despite Covid-19 restrictions easing up, and schools re-opening, many parents have opted to continue homeschooling their children. We have seen many families choosing to stay with us long after their local schools reopened.

Wolsey Hall Oxford Principal, Lee Wilcock, comments: “What seems very apparent is that those parents who chose to try homeschooling for the first time during Covid-19 have realised how beneficial online learning can be. Homeschooling allows children to learn at their own pace and at a time which suits them. It is a much more child-centred approach to education than is available in a traditional classroom.”

2022 statistics show that there are now more than 71,515 homeschoolers in the UK – up from 59,559 in 2018 and 22,408 in 2013.

Of course, the pandemic is not the only reason parents opt to homeschool their children. At Wolsey Hall we've found that some of the most common reasons for parents to choose homeschooling include:

- Lack of progress or underachievement at mainstream schools;

- Frustration with teaching standards in mainstream schools;
- Concerns for their child's safety/bullying;
- Behavioural issues that are not suitably dealt with in mainstream schooling;
- Medical reasons/disabilities that inhibit a child's ability to learn in a conventional environment;
- Travelling and expat families;
- Gifted/higher learning potential students or those who are elite athletes/in the performing arts.

It is also interesting to note that the well-being survey we conducted in August – and completed by 343 parents – concluded that 91.5% of parents believe that their child's well-being has improved since they opted to homeschool.



# VIDEO COMPETITION UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who entered our latest video competition.

We are busy going through all the entries and uploading the submissions of those who have given consent to our YouTube channel. You will be able to watch them all on there.

We will be announcing the winners and runners-up in due course so keep a look out in your emails if you entered!

We'll be launching our next competition before the end of the year.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Have you joined our parent forum? This platform is specifically for parents of Primary aged students and is a space for you to connect with each other, start discussions, share tips and advice. You can [sign up here](#). We have over 180 parents registered on the forum so far, so why not get chatting?



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?