

HWCE SPORTS NEWS



All the latest sports stories from
High Wycombe Church of England Combined School

February - March '24

TITLE CHALLENGE IS ON!

LATEST VICTORY SEES WYCOMBE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMBINED
SITTING PRETTY; BUT TOUGHEST
CHALLENGES ARE STILL TO COME

On Thursday 14th March the team travelled to near neighbours Oakridge to play their third league game of the season. Despite Oakridge still seeking their first victory, we knew it was going to be a tough match with our opponents previously drawing against ~~Chipping~~ View and narrowly losing to West Wycombe (who had beaten our most recent opponents, Kings Wood, by a massive 21 goals to nil). Nevertheless, we entered the game in a positive frame of mind.

The pitch was showing the ravages of a long, rainy winter with many a divot and hole, and piece of tree (which we cleared before the game began). It was going to be challenging playing on the uneven surface.

In an unchanged line-up, the starting seven were: Noah in goal, Finley and captain Reuben in defence, a midfield three of Jerry on the right, James in the centre and Alfie on the left and Toba as a lone striker. On the subs bench were Kevin, Arthur and 'super-sub' Harry.

Early pressure had Oakridge on the back foot and, approximately 3 minutes into the game, some fancy footwork on the right-wing from Wycombe's top scorer, Alfie, enabled him to cut inside the Oakridge defender and unleash a shot from 20 yards which beat the Oakridge keeper at his near post. It was a fabulous start!

With still a long time to go, Wycombe knew that it would still take all their guile and skill to secure victory, especially as the surface made the ball, (which seemed surprisingly bouncy) very difficult to control.



Goal machine Alfie – delighted after his latest 2 goals won the game for Wycombe C of E.

As the half continued, Wycombe had the better chances with good runs being made by the midfield and by Toba. However, we couldn't quite get our shots on target and the ball to settle at our feet. Oakridge, on the other hand, demonstrated a very neat passing game when in possession and looked dangerous coming forward, but created fewer chances to score with attacks often snuffed out by some quality tackling from James, Jerry, Alfie and Reuben and some cool calm passing from Finley who played us out from danger well at the back.

For the second half, Kevin came on in place of Finley and Arthur took Toba's place in attack. Oakridge started strongly – obviously spurred on by a half-time talk from their manager. They were finding more and more space and Noah was called on to make a couple of saves when the Oakridge strikers evaded our marking. However, a fabulous 'route-one' ball from the back, saw Alfie through on goal, calmly slotting the ball home for his brace and a two - nil lead for Wycombe Church of England.

Harry then entered the fray moving to the left of midfield in order to make his trademark surging runs down the side-line, with Alfie switching to the centre in place of James.

As time ticked on, Oakridge were looking more and more of a threat and our marking and passing in our own half wasn't entirely going to plan. The game was certainly not over yet, especially when a surging run down the centre saw one of their players beat the tackles of three of our defenders before sliding the ball past Noah to make it 2-1. We were now heading into 'squeaky-bum time' for the last 4 minutes of the match.

Fortunately, a series of High Wycombe corners saw the time left on the clock diminish significantly. With less than a minute to go, Oakridge mounted one last attack which saw them win a corner. They packed the box with their players – including their giant goalkeeper who was brought up for some aerial advantage. However, the shot from the corner sailed over the crossbar and the whistle blew for full time. Wycombe C of E had survived the late pressure to secure a narrow, but deserved, victory.

There are now 2 leagues to go (to be played together on the same night) which will surely be the climax of the season.

The team, as ever, were very respectful to their opponents remaining humble in their victory and all shook hands with each other before heading home.

Thank you once again to the amazing parents for providing support and transport for the team - we couldn't do it without you.

The latest league table is shown below. Only goal difference separates the top two teams who play each other and ~~Chipping~~ View in the last fixtures of the season after the Easter break.

HWDPFA LEAGUE E LATEST LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Goal Diff	Pts
West Wycombe	3	3	0	0	+25	9
Wycombe C of E	3	3	0	0	+12	9
Chipping View	3	1	1	1	-1	4
Highworth Oakridge	3	1	0	2	0	3
Kings Wood	3	0	0	3	-33	0

FOOTBALL TEAM PUTS ON A BRAVE PERFORMANCE BUT ARE UNREWARDED

Leap Year Game Leaves Opponents Leaping with Joy in Friendly Match.

On the afternoon of Thursday 29th February, a team of 8 footballers from Year 5 and Year 6 travelled to Castlefield School for a friendly match. They played superbly and, in several cases, extremely bravely but unfortunately fell to a 2-0 defeat.

As seems typical of the winter we are having, rain came down all day and, at one stage, it looked as if the match may be called off. However, the rain eased up in the afternoon &, to the players relief, the game was given the go-ahead.

The match provided the opportunity for many of our less experienced players to gain valuable game time.

The team of 8 consisted of Isaac in goal, a defensive back three of Emily, Bella and Eva (Girl Power!), Zhenglin and Gervas in midfield and Harry (captain for the day) and Jesse as a strike-force.

From kick-off, our team were on the back foot and under some serious pressure from their opponents – especially their giant centre-forward who towered over our entire team.

Thanks to some resolute defending and some heroic goalkeeping as Isaac bravely made save after save (including one with his face!) we managed to keep the



Our gallant team of Year 5 and Year 6 footballers after the match

scoreline to 0-0 at half-time.

Having survived the onslaught which included a shot that rattled our crossbar and another which incredibly blazed over the bar from about 5 metres out, we hoped that luck was on our side and after a slight re-jiggle of the team which saw Emily and Gervas swap places, we even started to make the odd foray into Castlefield's half and threaten their goal. However, their defence was just as resolute as ours and was very difficult to break down.

Eventually the breakthrough came for Castlefield mid-way through the half when a quickly taken throw-in caught Wycombe

off-guard and the ball was rifled into the net past Isaac's outstretched finger-tips.

More heroics from Isaac soon followed in the shape of a remarkable double-save as he threw his body into the path of two blistering shots earning the plaudits of onlookers from both schools at the end of the game. However, even his heroics couldn't prevent Castlefield's second goal which came with 2 minutes of the match remaining.

Despite the defeat, the team enjoyed the game and were a real credit to the school in the way they demonstrated incredible maturity and sportsmanship.

HWCE SPORTS STARS

DANCING KINGS!

Year 3 pair are fleet of foot when it comes to street dancing.

As I'm sure avid readers will remember, Year 3 boys, Matthew and Ezra, have both featured in our sports report before; proudly showing off their sporting achievements. The latest feather in their cap is their achievement at Urban Strides Dance Academy, which they attend every week to learn and develop skills in street dancing.

The pair have been awarded certificates for 'Most Supportive Family Member' and 'Most Improved Dancer' which were earned after a performance during December.

Street dancing certainly keeps you fit and builds great stamina as well as being a fantastic way to express yourself.

The boys said, "Our teachers are really great and street-dance is the coolest thing ever!"

Look out Ashley Banjo and Diversity – you may have some new recruits soon – or some rivals in the dance world especially as we were lucky to have the inspirational Andy, the founder of Urban Strides, visit us in school for an awesome assembly to tell us all about his story and about the dance academy.



Matthew & Ezra and their certificates

GYMNASTIC FANTASTIC!

Eva in Year 6 has something to celebrate after winning her gymnastic competition on 24th February.

Eva said, "The whole club had to compete in floor, bar, beam and vault disciplines."

"There were lots of gymnasts competing together for the first time. I'm really pleased to have won the gold medal!"



Eva with her gold medal



Andy from Urban Strides in our recent assembly



Hannah proudly shows off her swimming certificate.

SWIM-TEAM MEMBER SUCCESS

Hannah in Year 5, a member of the school's swimming team, celebrated a success of her own from outside of school in early February when she achieved her Stage 7 swimming certificate.

Hannah takes swimming lessons each week and the practice has paid off not just in making it onto the school swimming team but also in achieving this award.

She said, "I had to swim a whole length underwater and 100 metres in three different strokes – breaststroke, backstroke & front crawl." She added, "I am really happy to get my certificate, but will take a break from trying for Stage 8 as it takes such a long time. However, I will still be swimming regularly as it is so much fun."

STAFF SPORTS STAR: MISS JOHNS



Our fantastic Assistant Headteacher, Miss Johns, is the latest to feature as our 'Staff Sports Star.'

As you can tell from the photograph, Miss Johns is a Marathon runner. In the picture, she is shown competing in the London Marathon in 2021, completing the race in approximately 5 hours. She had planned to run in 2020, but the Covid epidemic meant the event had to be delayed and Miss Johns ran a virtual marathon in 2020 instead.

For anyone who doesn't know, a marathon is a running race that takes place over a distance of just over 26 miles – roughly how far it is from school to the outskirts of London! You have to be incredibly fit and have to put in months of training. Lots of amateur runners are sponsored to run marathons in order to raise money for charity.

Miss Johns said, "My friend and I decided to run the marathon together. It was a great way to catch up each week as we did most of our training together. I've run a half marathon in the past but wouldn't say I'm a natural runner. Having said that, I really enjoyed running and training for the marathon."

She continued, "I ran it for 'Momentum' - a children's charity that means a lot to me. They support children with life limiting conditions. It was great to feel the support from the crowd - we both had friends and family there so had lots of support on the day. The weather went from sun to rain/hail and back to sun. It was not great when the hail came down! The hardest bit was around mile 17/18 where there weren't many people around and we were exhausted. The best bit during the race was running over Tower Bridge in the sun having just seen a group of friends and the real highlight was the feeling of accomplishment at the end when we crossed the finish line."

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT!

Reception children shine in their PE lessons

It has been pointed out that the achievements of our youngest pupils are often over-looked and, in an attempt to correct this blunder, we'd like to draw readers attention to our EYFS pupils and all they have achieved in the world of sport and physical fitness in their lessons since joining our school in September.

Summer Term will see them make their first foray into competitive sports as they start to represent their house teams in competitions – and especially during 'Healthy Heroes' Sports Week, however, we thought you'd love to read all about their PE lessons.



Reception class have been exploring different ways to move and use the space around them. Their topic this half term is dance so they have been putting movements together to make a sequence and they are now working towards performing a very simple routine for peers to watch. They really enjoy exploring the different shapes they can make with their bodies and are learning how to use facial expressions too in order to communicate different emotions and tell a story through dance. They have learned how to move to different rhythms in music – moving at different speeds. Great work Reception!

HOUSE TO HOUSE ENQUIRIES

Latest House-point Scores

Year One – Robins – Bat & Ball Skills



1st Bikers, 2nd Skaters, 3rd Riders, 4th Surfers

Year Two – Swallows – Tennis Skills



1st Surfers 2nd Skaters 3rd Riders 4th Bikers

Year Three – Kites - Dance



1st Surfers, 2nd Skaters, 3rd Riders, 4th Bikers

Year Four – Hawks - Dance



1st Surfers, 2nd Bikers, 3rd Skaters, 4th Riders

Year Five – Eagles – Tag Rugby



1st Riders, 2nd Skaters, 3rd Bikers, 4th Surfers

Year Six – Owls - Badminton



1st Surfers, 2nd Skaters, 3rd Riders, 4th Bikers

HOUSE-POINT RUNNING TOTALS

1st		1721 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – JESSE & ELLA 
2nd		1651 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – KEIRA & ALEX C 
3rd		1640 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – LOIS & REUBEN 
4th		1565 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – KHYAN & EMILY 

Our house captains are still looking for ideas for events they could organise in order to demonstrate their leadership skills in school. They have a potential plan for something exciting in the summer term – watch this space – but are always open to suggestions from staff, pupils or parents in the school. Please let them know (via Mr Burgin) of any thoughts you may have about what they can plan in order to serve our school community.

In the meantime, please, if you get a chance, congratulate them on all they are doing. I am enjoying working with them and am sure, as the time draws near, that they will be great ambassadors for our school during Healthy Heroes Sports Week and as they move on to secondary school.