



## Weekly Newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

*Making learning a lifelong adventure*

Our school value for this half-term is

*Happiness*  
**School's out for summer!**

Dear Parents/Carers

We have reached the end of another successful academic year and have enjoyed our annual HBGT, with a range of acts from singing and dancing to stand-up comedy and even some synchronised swimming (see pictures above), yesterday and our end of the year assemblies and awards (see below), today.

I would like to thank the whole school community, the children and their families, the staff team, members of the governing body and those who volunteer for FoHBS or help in various ways in school, for their very many contributions to the life of the school. This is what it is to be the High Beeches family: working together to be the very best we can be.

### Our Leavers

Today we say *goodbye* to our Year 6 pupils (pictured overleaf), who have enjoyed a number of leavers' events over the course of the last week, marking this rite of passage. Last Tuesday, Revd John Fellows led our traditional *Moving On* Assembly, in which pupils were given the opportunity to reflect on their time at primary school and to mark the journey they are making from one phase to another. Revd Fellows shared the blessing overleaf which summarises beautifully our hopes for all of our leavers. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, in two casts, the children transported us to telly-land with their leavers' production *I'm an Eleven-Year-old – Get Me Out of Here!* It was a joy to behold with such a high standard of acting, singing and dancing, with some excellent gags and even their own interrupting headteacher! Congratulations to all involved in this wonderful production.

Yesterday evening, children, parents and staff enjoyed our annual leavers' celebration on the field, organised by the parent reps and other parents and this morning the children presented their own moving leavers' assembly, exploring, through images and memories, their journey from Reception to Year 6 and beyond. This was also an opportunity to award individualised certificates of achievement to each of our leavers, before giving our traditional awards to a small number of children, who are named overleaf.

We are so proud of them all. They are ready to continue their adventure and we send them with lots of love and wish them every success in the future as they prepare for the start of their secondary education in September. We will miss them.

### Staff Leavers

Today we are also saying *goodbye* to five members of the staff team today. Miss Ella Champken has made a very strong contribution to our provision as class teacher in Year 6, as well as to our curriculum across the school, particularly in history and art, and leaves us for a post at James Marks Academy, a new and growing secondary specialist school in Welwyn Garden City. Miss Lucy Tinker, who has taught in Year 3 for a number of years and during that time has brought a real enthusiasm for the performing arts and contributed to the development of PE and sport at High Beeches, is taking up a post at Bowmansgreen Primary School in London Colney.

We are also saying farewell to three of our teaching assistants. Mrs Sabrina Shafer, who has worked principally as a one-to-one teaching assistant, leaves us to further develop her *Baking Buddies* business and Mrs Hannah Gomes, to use her child psychology training in a role in the NHS.

Lastly, Mrs Karen Haines, who is retiring from her TA role, after an amazing 19 years at the school. Mrs Haines has worked across the Key Stage 2 year groups, supporting teachers and pupils in a variety of ways. She has a real passion for vulnerable pupils and, a seasoned camper, has been a stalwart of the residential trip.

We will miss them all and I am sure parents would like to join me in thanking all of our staff leavers for all they have given during their time at the school and to wish them every happiness and success in their various ventures and adventures!

## School Buildings

Following our recent extension and alterations programme, we have successfully bid for funding from Hertfordshire County Council to completely renew the heating and hot and cold-water systems to the Orchard Building (the older of our two buildings). This will ensure the building is fit for purpose and as efficient as possible for the years to come. The work will begin over the course of the school holiday. The works will continue during the first half of the autumn term, when the contractors will start working after the end of the school days, each day and into the evening. As before, we will need to make space for storage and delivery of materials and for a small number of contractors' vehicles which may result in our having to make some temporary changes to access to the school carpark. We will keep parents informed of this as and when necessary.

**And Finally...** I would like to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing school holiday and to thank all those who have sent end of term good wishes or gifts. We are very grateful for your support.

School re-opens on Thursday 4 September. I would like to remind parents of children who will be in Years 5 and 6 in September that they should notify their teachers via the year group email early in September if their child is permitted to walk to and from school alone. From September, we will be a *smartphone free school*. This means that, should the parents of those pupils in Years 5 and 6 who are permitted to walk to school wish their child to carry phone, it will need to be of the non-smartphone type.

We look forward to seeing everyone then.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker  
Headteacher

They will soar on wings like eagles,  
They will run and not grow weary,  
And they will walk and not be faint



## End of the Year Awards

This week we awarded our traditional *Leavers' Awards* as follows.

<i>Boys' Sports:</i>	Teddy	<i>Girls' Sport:</i>	Isla	<i>Drama Cup:</i>	Chloe
<i>Writing Cup:</i>	Agnes	<i>Arts Cup:</i>	Jamie	<i>All Rounder:</i>	Cameron
<i>Resilience:</i>	Ruby	<i>Perseverance:</i>	Luella	<i>Values Shield:</i>	Callum

In addition to this, we have also presented our *End of the Year Awards* for English, mathematics and school values for pupils whose achievement really stands out in each area in Reception to Year 5. This may reflect outstanding progress from a starting point of greater challenge or simply for consistently high levels of attainment. Congratulations to the following pupils:

• <b>Reception Chestnut Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Hiraya	<i>Maths:</i>	Benji	<i>Values:</i>	Evelyn
• <b>Reception Oak Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Miller	<i>Maths:</i>	Jake	<i>Values:</i>	Rachel
• <b>Year 1 Cedar Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Eleanor	<i>Maths:</i>	Sarah	<i>Values:</i>	William
• <b>Year 1 Elm Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Mollie	<i>Maths:</i>	Alex	<i>Values:</i>	Charlie
• <b>Year 2 Hazel Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Sebastian	<i>Maths:</i>	Elise	<i>Values:</i>	Sadie
• <b>Year 2 Willow Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Emily	<i>Maths:</i>	Ted	<i>Values:</i>	Tom
• <b>Year 3 Birch Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Rafe	<i>Maths:</i>	Jerez	<i>Values:</i>	Tzu-Yun
• <b>Year 3 Redwood Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Josie	<i>Maths:</i>	Omar	<i>Values:</i>	Elle
• <b>Year 4 Maple Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Erin	<i>Maths:</i>	Liliana	<i>Values:</i>	Angus
• <b>Year 4 Pine Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Sara	<i>Maths:</i>	Christopher	<i>Values:</i>	Reenie
• <b>Year 5 Ash Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Monty	<i>Maths:</i>	Thomas	<i>Values:</i>	Elizabeth
• <b>Year 5 Hawthorn Class</b>	<i>English:</i>	Cailey	<i>Maths:</i>	Ariadna	<i>Values:</i>	Mohammed



**HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL**  
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

# Teddy Bears' Picnic

Wednesday 6th August, 11am-2pm, Rothamsted Park

- ★ Cha Cha Chimps
- ★ Little Gym
- ★ Bouncy Castle
- ★ Sandy Art
- ★ Face Painting
- ★ Storytime
- ★ Teddy Bears' Hospital
- ★ Soft Play

Free to attend - the most exciting event of the year for preschoolers and their bears!

Kindly sponsored by

**the children's clinic**

**Nursery on the Green**  
Day Nursery and Preschool

# TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS



**Wednesdays 9.45 - 11.15am Online Course ID: 770**  
17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2025  
Delivered online using Zoom

**Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm Face-to-Face ID: 771**  
5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025  
Reddings Family Centre, Harcourt Road, Bushey, WD23 3PE

**A 6-week group for parents and carers of children 2-19yrs with any additional need. Your child does not need a diagnosis.**

- Understand your child's behaviour
- Develop strategies that really work
- Reduce conflict and increase co-operation
- Improve emotional regulation
- Explore sensory needs
- Increase your child's resilience
- Manage the different needs within your family

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'I have been on a few courses to help me with my child but this was by far the most helpful'

### Booking essential

**Please quote the course ID**  
To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:

**07512 709 556**

[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)

[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)

These courses are provided free to participants by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund

Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

## Further Information and Reminders

### Attendance

We are proud to be able to confirm that our overall attendance for the school year is 97%. This compares to a national average in primary schools of 94.9% and means we are in the top 5%. Well done everyone.

### Holiday Clubs

- ✓ [Apex Sports](#) – Sports Activities with Mr George – 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of August, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Aug
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing activities with Mrs Ward – 24<sup>th</sup> July, 27<sup>th</sup> Aug
- ✓ [Chess Club](#)



## Diary Dates

Thursday 4 September 2025

*School opens for autumn term*

Thursday 11 September

*Reception pupils begin full days*

5 to 11 September

*Year Group Meet the Teacher Sessions:*

- Friday 5 September, 8:50am - Year 6
- Monday 8 September, 8:50am - Year 5
- Monday 8 September, 2:30pm - Year 2
- Tuesday 9 September, 8:50am - Year 3
- Tuesday 9 September, 2:30pm - Year 1
- Wednesday 10 September, 8:50am - Reception
- Thursday 11 September, 8:50am - Year 4