



Weekly Newsletter

6th February 2026

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Our values focus for this half-term is **What three gifts?**

Dear Parents/Carers

This week in school, our Reception children enjoyed a workshop day on the theme of *pirates* and it has been lovely to see how this has subsequently transferred into their learning later in the week. They have been junk-modelling treasure chests and telescopes, as well completing other pirate-related artwork, quite a number of children have brought me their pirate writing to look at and pirates, ships and high seas have been evident in their playful learning throughout the week too!



Next week is the last before the February half-term break and the one in which our annual *Be Safe Week* takes place. This augments our personal and social education curriculum with additional learning on safety awareness and including physical safety, safeguarding and online safety. Amongst other class teacher-led activities in class, special activities include the following:

Monday

- Cyber Safety police workshop for parents (8.50am)
- NSPCC assembly for children in Years 1 to 6
- Reception children will be exploring the [NSPCC talking pants materials!](#)
- Year 5 and 6 police cyber-safety workshop

Tuesday

- Safer Internet Day - assembly with Digital Leaders
- Year 5 visit to Hazard Alley

Thursday

- Year 6 visit to Hazard Alley
- PC Alex in Year 2 - how to stay safe at home and outside
- Years 1 and 2 hygiene session

Friday

- Years 1 and 2 hygiene session

Plus

- Road safety training in Reception and Years 1 and 2 at various times throughout the week
- Years 3 and 4 first aid training took place this week due to diary constraints.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Whole Class	For being so enthusiastic when taking part in all the fun activities at the Pirate Workshop.
• Reception Oak Class	Whole Class	For being so enthusiastic when taking part in all the fun activities at the Pirate Workshop.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Luca	For creating some beautiful prints using his own printing tile.
	Finn	For using lovely handwriting in his English work.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Amelia	For working really hard to improve her handwriting and presentation.
	Jessica	For her beautiful work in art exploring the skill of printing.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Ellie	For her contributions in history lessons when explaining which sources of evidence were helpful and unhelpful when investigating The Great Fire of London.
	Alice C	Taking care and pride in her work by presenting her work neatly.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Zac	For showing enthusiasm and sharing his knowledge of the Great Fire of London. Well done!
	Alberto	For trying really hard and showing this through his beautifully presented handwriting. Well done!
• Year 3 Birch Class	Teddy	Showing independence when sewing and painting a seascape scene in our art textiles unit.
	Astrid	Presenting her work neatly and showing confidence in her consistently joined handwriting.
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Alexandra	For using efficient strategies to confidently halve two-digit numbers.
	Annabel	For working really hard to consistently join your handwriting.
• Year 4 Maple Class	Jack	For making good contributions to class discussions when converting tenths to fractions in maths.
	Cleo	For consistently using neat and joined handwriting across the curriculum.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Tzu-Huang	For impeccable handwriting across all her work.
	Rosie	For great explanations of Roman achievements in History.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Eva	For writing a considered and engaging introduction to your non-chronological report using much improved handwriting.
	Colby	For your hard work and excellent understanding when converting metric units of measure.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Erin	For working hard and showing good knowledge when investigating thermal insulators in science.
	Harry	For working hard to keep the size of your handwriting consistent
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Matas	For showing real effort with his handwriting, presentation and taking greater care with spellings.
	Thea	For her creativity and clever work play, using a metaphor to communicate powerful ideas in art.
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Freddie D	For his beautifully presented bar chart, displaying data from our geography field trip to Batford Springs.
	Daisy M	For working incredibly hard to refine her handwriting style and focusing on presentation.
• PE Awards Infants	Florence	For showing lovely control and creativity when creating a sequence of linked skills with a partner in gymnastics. Well done!
	Jack	For showing lovely control and creativity when creating a sequence of linked skills with a partner in gymnastics. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Emma GC	For consistently showing excellent shape and control with her jumping and landing in gymnastics. Well done!
	Marley	For excellent creativity when thinking up dance moves both on her own, and as part of a group. Well done!

Sports Desk

Congratulations to our footballers who visited Roundwood Primary School this week, the A Team winning (their first of the league games) 4-1 and the B Team conceding to a strong Roundwood second side.

Last weekend, seven of our Year 5 and 6 pupils competed in the district cross-country finals at St George's School.



Community Matters

Places available for September 2026

Batford Nursery School

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR CHILDREN

15 and 30 hour sessions
(With the option for additional hours subject to availability)

Extensive indoor and outdoor learning spaces
Forest School and Yoga

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Holcroft Road, Harpenden AL5 5BQ
www.batfordnursery.herts.sch.uk

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Outstanding Provider

Staying Safe

Thank you to all those who have signed up for our parents' cyber-safety workshop, which takes place on Monday after drop-off. Fifty parents have signed-up for this already and it is not too late to sign-up via the *Trips* section in the *Activities* area on Arbor.

Further Information and Reminders

Holiday Clubs running in school over half term

- ✓ [Apex Sports](#) – Sports Activities with Mr George – 16th, 17th, 18th Feb
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – 18th, 19th, 20th Feb
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing with Mrs Ward – 20th Feb

Attendance

Congratulations to Elm and Birch classes who have the best attendance this week, with 98.2% attendance. Do take a look at our [new attendance page](#) for information on how to notify us of absence.

Lunchtime Helpers Spring term 2026

We desperately need helpers!

We are so grateful for the group of volunteers who regularly help in the dining room at lunchtimes. This helps things to run smoothly and provides parents with a real insight into the life of the school! Please find the link below for the lunchtime helpers sign up for the Spring term. If anyone who hasn't helped before would like to, you would be more than welcome and Ms Berhili would be more than happy to guide you through everything. [Sign-up here](#).

Diary Dates

Friday 6 February 2026
9 to 13 February 2026
Monday 9 February 2026
Tuesday 10 February 2026
Thursday 12 February 2026
Thursday 12 February, 3pm
& Friday 13 February 2026, 8:45am
Friday 13 February 2026
Friday 13 February 2026, 2:50pm
Friday 13 February 2026
Monday 23 February 2026
Thursday 26 February, 3pm
& Friday 27 February 2026, 8:45am
Thursday 5 March 2025
Monday 9 March 2026
Wednesday 11 March 2026
Thursday 12 March, 3pm
& Friday 13 March 2026, 8:45am
Tuesday 17 March 2026, 6pm
Saturday 21 March 2026
Thursday 19 March, 3pm
& Friday 20 March 2026, 8:45am
Thursday 19 March, 3pm
& Friday 20 March 2026, 8:45am
Monday 23 March 2026
Tuesday 24 March 2026
24 and 26 March 2026, 3:45 to 7pm
Wednesday 25 March 2026
Thursday 26 March 2026
Friday 27 March 2026, 2pm
Thurs/Fri 23rd -24th April 2026
Friday 15th May 2026
Wednesday 20 May – 22 May
Thursday 4 June
Tuesday 9 June 2026
Thursday 11th June 2026
Monday 29th June 2026
Monday 6 July 2026

FoHBS Quiz Night
The High Beeches Be Safe Week
Reception – Road safety. Y1/2 Emergency Services visit.
Parent Cybercrime Awareness Workshop – 8:50am
Year 5 and 6 Cybercrime Awareness Workshop – Herts Constabulary
Y5 Visit to Hazard Alley (be safe week)
Y6 Visit to Hazard Alley (be safe week)
Year 5 Open Classrooms

House Ambassadors’ Charity Fundraiser
Sit Together and Read event for Reception parents
School closes for half-term break
Y2 Visit to The Monument, London
Year 1 Open Classrooms

World Book Day – dress as a character or for your hobby
Year 5 Science Workshop at Abbotshill School
Year 5 Mayan Workshop
Year 3 Open Classrooms

Spring Music Evening – instrumentalist concert
FoHBS Easter Egg Hunt
Year 6 Open Classrooms

Year 2 Open Classrooms

Mid-year Reports for Reception to Year 5
Spring Festival – invited choir
Parent Consultations for Reception to Year 5
KS2 Speakers’ Cup Final
KS1 Speakers’ Cup Final
School closes for Easter holiday
Year 4 PACCAR
Y6 Hemel Snow Dome
Y6 PACCAR Trip
Class Group Photographs
Reception trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Y3 Kew Gardens
Y5 Young Mariners Visit
Y1 Woburn Trip