



Weekly Newsletter

11th September 2026

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Our school value for this half-term is  **confidence**

Dear Parents/Carers

This Week in School

We have come to the end of our first full week back since the summer break and today we celebrated the very positive start made by all the children in our first Celebration Assemblies of the year. See overleaf for this week's Headteacher Award winners.

Similarly, it has been wonderful to see our new Reception children going full-time from Wednesday this week and coping so well. They will be tired and, as always, will be helped by plenty of sleep and good routines.

Yesterday, Alfie Watts, winner of series 4 of *Race Across the World*, visited us and lead an assembly all about his *Brighter Days are Coming TukTuk challenge* undertaken in May this year to raise money for *Young Minds*, a charity that specialises in supporting young people's mental health. During the assembly, Alfie recounted the many ups and downs of his journey from London to North Cape, including breaking down 10 minutes into his journey, his (legal) race with the police in the Netherlands to prove the roadworthiness of his TukTuk and the immense sense of pride he felt when he had successfully completed his journey. Throughout he spoke to the children about the importance of being brave in taking on challenges, believing in oneself when things are tough and the ripple effect that small acts of kindness can have. His motto for the fundraiser was 'Brighter Days are Coming', something that inspires hope about the future and a theme explored in our whole school assembly earlier in the week. He left us feeling inspired and with the belief that we can all do incredible things if we work together.



Alfie's visit to the school was free, but if you would like to help him reach his target of raising £100,000 for *Young Minds* then donations can be made [here](#).

We are grateful that so many parents were able to attend our Meet the Teacher sessions, which took place over the last week. Your support for your children's learning and development really does make a huge difference. The presentations from these sessions are now available on the [year group pages](#) of the school website.

Looking Forward

Please note that our annual harvest festival has been confirmed as Wednesday 14 October (not Monday 12th, as originally stated). As usual this will be led by Rev John Fellows, who is a member of our governing body and an associate minister at high Street Methodist Church, and we will be collecting donations for both the King's Pantry Food Bank and Harpenden Hygiene Bank.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	All of Chestnut	For settling in so well and having a great week.
• Reception Oak Class	All of Oak Class	For making a really super start to full-time school.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Milo	For a great start to year 1, trying his best and contributing every day.
	Eliza	For working so hard in English this week.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Emma	For contributing ideas in every lesson. Well done!
	Jonah	For a great start at High Beeches. Well done!
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Jessica	For settling into year 2 and always showing respect and kindness.
	Benji	For writing an amazing descriptive paragraph using conjunctions in English.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Miller	For showing resilience and trying his best. Well done!
	Willow	For trying hard, getting on with tasks and completing tasks in the time given. Well done!
• Year 3 Birch Class	Edward	For showing enthusiasm towards our new science topic, Rocks.
	Margot	For producing some excellent writing in English based on our story, 'Mini Rabbit Not Lost'.
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Noah C	For his great Mini Rabbit setting description where he took time to make improvements to his finished sentences.
	Imogen R	For working well with concrete resources in Maths.
• Year 4 Maple Class	Harry	For making excellent contributions during our first science lesson on solids, liquids and gases.
	Dulcie	For showing positivity and resilience during our maths lessons on estimations this week.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Robbie	For talking about his understanding of place value so well this week.
	Emelia	For asking the BEST questions about a number line in maths.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Joshua	For writing a beautifully descriptive piece of work using multi-clause sentences.
	Alex	For such a positive start top the year with great learning behaviours.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Dylan	For settling quickly and showing a great attitude for learning.
	Maria	For your enthusiasm and hard work this week.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Jacob	For his effective use of dialogue to convey character
	Ellis	For throwing himself into Year 6 life with positivity and enthusiasm – a great start to the year!
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Sara	For returning to school so positively and showing impeccable learning behaviours – well done Sara!
	Roman	For independently writing a fantastic and atmospheric passage using dialogue.
• PE Awards Infants	Daphne	For showing great listening and effort in every exercise in PE this week. Well done!
	Jae	For showing great focus and effort in PE this week. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Amelia	For listening to and actioning coaching points to help her improve her dribbling and control with a football. Well done!
	Benjamin	For excellent passing and control work in our football session. Well done!



Making healthy school lunches easy!



Helping children make healthier choices at school doesn't have to be complicated. A few simple changes can build healthy habits and help your children stay energised and ready to learn throughout the day. Here's a few tips to help you get started:

Tip 1:

Pack some healthy snacks

Including a healthy snack in your child's lunchbox, like a preferred fruit or plain popcorn, can help them stay energised throughout the school day and make nutritious choices easier.



Tip 2:

Know what options are available

Take a look at your child's school lunch menu together and talk about the healthier choices available. Exploring the options in advance can encourage children to try new foods and make balanced choices at lunchtime.



Tip 3:

Talk about healthy choices

School lunchtimes can be a great time to encourage independence and positive decision-making. Agree simple goals together and celebrate healthy choices throughout the week.



Want more healthy lifestyle support?

Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here
or
Click to find
out more



hrt.maximusuk.co.uk

* Our courses are designed for families with children aged 5-15



Just Play

Fun is the fuel for learning

Girls football club

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Friday 3:15 - 4:15

This is a private club, do not contact the school with enquiries or to book a place

The course will run for 13 weeks

Dates of the course are Friday 11th 18th 25th ~~September~~ 2nd 9th 16th 23rd October 6th 13th 20th 27th November 4th 11th December. Please be aware of the prompt start time so that children have full enjoyment of the session.

Please note for health & safety reasons the children are required to wear appropriate sporting attire. The cost of the club is £78. TRY YOUR FIRST SESSION FOR FREE, if you would like to continue the full amount must be paid. Places are limited and will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.

Want to make a booking?

TO BOOK A PLACE PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS COLMAN ON 07805213978, JOE FRANKLIN ON 07725062581 OR EMAIL JUSTPLAYUKSPORTSCOACHING@GMAIL.COM.

Please note that sessions may be rescheduled if we unfortunately have to cancel a session, sessions will always be rescheduled for the next available Friday in the calendar. We will not provide a refund for any rescheduled sessions, you can request our terms and conditions via the email above.

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Oak and Birch classes who have the best attendance this week. More information can be found on the [Attendance and Leave of Absence page](#) of our website.

Lunchtime Helpers

Thank you to everyone who has been able to find time to volunteer at lunchtimes in school this year. It's a great way for parents to see another aspect of the children's school day and for the children to see some familiar faces. We always need help, so please [sign up via this link if you can](#). Thank you

Diary Dates *NB new or amended dates are given in purple*

Thurs 24 Sept 2026, 1:30pm	<i>Year 6 Leaders to Harpenden Peace Day Service.</i>
24 & 25 September 2026	<i>Y6 pupils host MacMillan Coffee Morning</i> <i>Thursday 24 Sept, 9am – Rowan Class</i> <i>Friday 25 September, 9am – Sycamore Class</i>
<i>Thursday 1 October, 7pm</i>	<i>FOHBS AGM</i>
Fri 2 and 9 October 2026	<i>FoHBS Movie Nights</i>
Monday 5 October 2026	<i>Pupil Photographs</i>
Friday 9 October 2026	<i>Pupil Flu Vaccinations</i>
<i>Wednesday 14 October 2026</i>	<i>Harvest festival – King's Pantry Food Bank and Harpenden Hygiene Bank led by Revd John Fellows</i>
Friday 16 October 2026	<i>FoHBS Wine Tasting event</i>
W/b 19 October 26	<i>Parent Consultations</i> <i>Tuesday 20, 3:45 to 7pm</i> <i>Thursday 22, 3:45 to 7pm</i>
23 October 2026	<i>School closes for half-term break at normal time</i>
Monday 2 November	<i>School opens for Autumn Term 2</i>
26 November 2026	<i>FoHBS Wreath Making Workshop</i>
Friday 4 December 2026	<i>School closed for Occasional Day</i>
Tuesday 1 Dec 2026 9am	<i>Reception Nativity #1</i>
Thursday 3 Dec 2026, 9am	<i>Reception Nativity #2</i>
Wed 2 December 2026	<i>Rotary Carols at Methodist Church (Y6 choir)</i>
Thursday 10 Dec 2026, 2:15pm	<i>Year 1 Christmas Carols around the Tree</i> <i>2: pm - Elm Class</i> <i>2:30pm - Cedar Class</i>
Monday 14 December 2026	<i>Year 2 Nativity</i> <i>1:15pm - Willow Class</i> <i>2:15pm - Hazel Class</i>
Sat 12 December 2026	<i>FoHBS Christmas Fair</i>
Wednesday 16 Dec 2026	<i>5pm - KS2 Red and Yellow House Carol Service</i> <i>6:30pm - KS2 Blue and Green House Carol Service</i>
Thurs 17 December 2026	<i>School Christmas Dinner and Discos, and L & D Christmas Jumper Day</i>
Friday 18 Dec 2026, 2pm	<i>School closes at 2pm for Christmas holiday</i>

Groups and workshops **coram** family lives

Autumn 2026

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group

Monday 5th October to 16th November, 7pm to 9pm OR
Friday 6th November to 11th December, 9.30am to 11.30am

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our online 6-week group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group

Tuesday 6th October to 17th November, 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online 6-week group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Dads Together (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 4th November to 9th December, 7pm to 9pm

Are you a dad who feels you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online 6-week group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop

Wednesday 21 October 9.30am to 11.30am

Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop

Monday 9 November 9.30am to 11.30am

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop

Wednesday 25 November 7pm to 9pm

It's a Dad's Life Online Workshop

Thursday 26 November 7pm to 9pm

Navigating the Storm (Teens) Online Workshop

Wednesday 2 December 9.30am to 11.30am

For more info, please contact **Louise** on **0204 522 8700/8701** or email **services@coramfamilylives.org.uk** or scan the QR code for our online form.

All our programmes provide support, information and resources to parents, carers and adult family members in Hertfordshire so they can help their children reach their full potential.



We build better family lives together

www.coramfamilylives.org.uk  **@coramfamilyliveshertsandbeds**

Coram Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: Coram Family Lives, Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ

Funded by
Hertfordshire
County Council

