



Weekly Newsletter

3 October 2025

Making learning a lifelong adventure

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

Dear Parents/Carers

School Improvement and Governance

Members of the governing body provide strategic oversight and are tasked with both challenging and supporting school leaders. Together with the leadership team and supported by our School Effectiveness Adviser, the governing body continually evaluates the school's performance and plans future improvements.

The first full governing body meeting of the academic year took place last week and the governors approved this year's school development plan. Headlines from this year's plan can be found below and more information can be found on [the school website](#).

- ✓ *Ensuring rigour and challenge in the teaching of reading and writing*
- ✓ *Further embedding mastery approaches to the teaching of maths, including developing fluency sessions*
- ✓ *Developing inclusion through adaptive and responsive approaches to teaching*
- ✓ *Completing a review of the school's vision, values and longer-term priorities*
- ✓ *Preparing for the launch of the new OFSTED Inspection Framework*

I would like to thank our outgoing Chair of Governors, Mrs Anita White, for her service to the school as a member for over ten years and subsequently Chair for the last five. We will miss her.

This Week in School

The last of our Key Stage 2 science workshops took place on Monday and Tuesday this week with our Year 4 pupils have enjoying a hands-on exploration of states of matter. See pictures above. Next week our Year 3 pupils visit Celtic Harmony to learn about life in Stone-age Britain and the children in Year 1 will be finding out all about the history of toys in a workshop in school.

Tonight sees the first FoHBS event of the year with the Year 4 to 6 Film Night, when the children will be watching *Under the Boardwalk*. I do hope they enjoy themselves and thank you to the parents who have organised and or run the event.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

The Governing Body are seeking to appoint a new governor and are looking for someone with a passion for supporting the school in maintaining and continually improving on its existing high standards.

The successful person will be a good team player who possesses the ability to think strategically and creatively. Some experience of education and/or HR would help ensure the governing body maintains a good breadth of skills and experience, but is not essential.

Governors attend four full governing body meetings each year (in the evenings, a mixture of in school and online) and three committee meetings (these may be in school time or evenings), and are expected to visit during the school day a small number of times each year.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Matt Tang, Chair of Governors for further information and an informal chat about the role by Monday 13 October.

chairofgovernors@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk

High Beeches Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and requires all members of its community to share this commitment. As such, all appointments to the governing body are subject to a DBS check.

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Zach	For being such an enthusiastic learner.
	Charlie	For always listening and trying his best.
• Reception Oak Class	Jake	For being focussed during learning through play and being a reliable member of the class.
	Sadie	For making a great start to Reception and following new rules and routines.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Finn	For working hard to improve his handwriting in English.
	Esme	For excellent ideas for a new ending to the story of 'Puffin Peter'.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Hiraya	For always trying hard and doing her best.
	Blake	For her writing based on Puffin Peter. I love your ideas for a new story ending.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Otis	For showing friendship to others through his positive attitude and caring nature.
	Jackson	
	Margot	For her contributions in history lessons by describing how technology has changed over time since sixty years ago.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Harwood	
	Edward	For showing super focus and making an effort in all areas. Well done!
	Evie	For working hard to understand place value and regrouping 2-digit numbers. Well Done!
• Year 3 Birch Class	Eva	For being responsible in her new role as class librarian. Well Done :)
	Isla	For writing and publishing her own story based on 'Mini Rabbit not Lost.! Well done 😊
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Saja	For working confidently and independently in Maths.
	Sienna	For her super attitude to learning across the curriculum – particularly in Science when learning new vocabulary to do with rocks!
• Year 4 Maple Class	Shawn	For planning a detailed persuasive speech in English.
	Phoebe	For engaging well with our science workshop on states of matter.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Joshua	For co-operating well with others and great explanations in the science workshop.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Penny	For demonstrating great enquiry skills in our science workshop.
	Leoni	For creating such atmospheric descriptions using ambitious vocab and poetic techniques.
	Eva	For showing super levels of confidence when answering questions and asking your own.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Casper	For your great understanding and application of multiplying by 10,100 and 1,000.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Louie	For your excellent setting description in English.
	Karis	For settling into High Beeches so well and asking questions to clarify her understanding.
	Amari	For her contributions in class and throwing herself into life at High Beeches.
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Harry	For working so hard in English this week. We have been focusing on using subordinate and co-ordinating conjunctions and Harry has done so well!
	Tommy	For settling so well into his first month of Year Six. I can see how much effort and focus he is putting into his learning!

Sports Desk

Our girls' football team travelled to Wood End School for a football fixture on Tuesday afternoon and to Roundwood Primary yesterday, where they played Crabtree, Wood End and Beech Hyde Schools. Having lost the first match to Crabtree 2-0, they draw their subsequent matches and hope to keep building on this progress.

Community Matters

Two of our local firework displays are offering commission to FoHBS when High Beeches parents book tickets for their events. Please see details below and follow the links to purchase your tickets and benefit our school!

Harpenden Rugby Football Club

Sunday 2 November - Gates open at 4pm and the show starts at 6pm

Join Harpenden Rugby Football Club for their annual community fireworks with a DJ, food village, drinks marquee & entertainment and 25% going to FoHBS! [Buy your tickets here!](#)

Katherine Warrington School

Friday 7 November - doors open at 6pm, fireworks at 7pm

KWS are hosting their fantastic low bang display and there promises to be lots of great music and delicious refreshments on site. Please [use this link](#) to purchase your tickets and 10% of the ticket sales will go to FoHBS!

Supporting Families

Families Hertfordshire Magazine September/October 25 edition can be found [here](#).

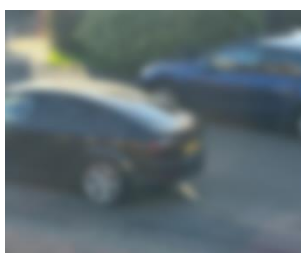
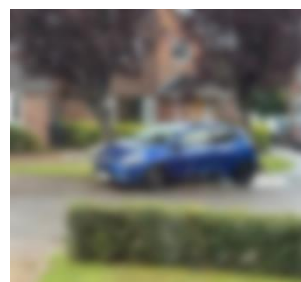
Further Information and Reminders

Parking Update

Unfortunately, we have continued to receive a number of reports this week of inconsiderate parking in Alzey Gardens, Ashwell Park and the entrance to Willow Court. We are working hard to ensure that all parents park safely and without causing an inconvenience to our neighbours. Please see images (right) of some parents' cars blocking driveways, the carriageway and a footpath taken yesterday.

St Albans Parking Enforcement Officers visited twice last week and are promising to visit again. However, they have asked for our help and have informed us that the best way to raise concerns is by sending photographs of the offending vehicles to their direct email address: illegalparking@stalbens.gov.uk.

We would appreciate the help of parents on the ground to do this if and when they are concerned by the manner of a vehicle's parking and have advised our neighbours to do so too



Holiday Clubs for Half Term

- ✓ [Apex Sports](#) – Sports Activities with Mr George – 29th to 31st Oct
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – TBC
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing activities with Mrs Ward – Monday 27th Oct



Parent Consultations

The portal to book Parent Consultations for October 21st and 23rd will open on Tuesday next week the 7th October at 7.45pm. (If you usually have a SEN meeting or one booked already you need not book again).

Attendance

Congratulations to Oak and Birch classes who have the best attendance this week, with 100% attendance.

To notify school of medical appointments or Secondary school visits please complete [this form](#) found on the school website.

Diary Dates

New and amended dates are shown in purple in future newsletters.

Friday 10 October 2025	<i>FoHBS 80's & 90's Disco</i>
Tuesday 14 October 2025	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
Friday 17 October 2025	<i>FoHBS Movie Night - Years 1 to 3</i>
W/b 20 October 2025	<i>Parent Consultations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tuesday 21, 3:45 to 7pm</i> • <i>Thursday 23, 3:45 to 7pm</i>
Tuesday 21 October 2025, 6:45pm	<i>FOHBS AGM</i>
24 October, 4, 13 and 27 November	<i>Open Mornings for entry to Reception in September 2026. Book a place via the school website</i>
Friday 24 October 2025	<i>School closes for half-term break at normal time</i>
Monday 3 November 2025	<i>School opens for autumn Term 2</i>
Friday 14 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 4 Open Classrooms</i>
Wednesday 26 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 6 Open Classrooms</i>
Thursday 27 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 1 Open Classrooms</i>
Thursday 27 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 5 Open Classrooms</i>
Friday 28 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 3 Open Classrooms</i>
Monday 1 December 2025	<i>School closed for Occasional Day</i>
Thurs 4 December 2025, 9:15am	<i>Reception Nativity</i>
Wed 3 December 2025	<i>Year 6 Choir attends Rotary in Harpenden Carol Service at High Street Methodist Church</i>
Saturday 6 December 2025	<i>Provisional date for FoHBS Christmas Fair</i>
Tuesday 9 December 2025	<i>Year 2 Nativity</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1:30pm - Hazel Class</i> • <i>2:30pm - Willow Class</i>
10 December 2025, 6pm	<i>Choir to attend Mayor of Harpenden's Carol Service</i>
Friday 12 December 2025, 2:30pm	<i>Year 1 Christmas Carols around the Tree</i>
Friday 12 December 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 2 Open Classrooms</i>
Wednesday 17 Dec 2025	<i>5pm - KS2 Green and Yellow House Carol Service 6:30pm - KS2 Blue and Red House Carol Service</i>
Thurs 18 December 2025	<i>School Christmas dinner, discos and L & D Christmas Jumper Day</i>
Friday 19 December 2025, 2pm	<i>School closes at 2pm for Christmas holiday</i>