



# Weekly Newsletter

9 January 2026

*Making learning a lifelong adventure*

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

Dear Parents/Carers

A very happy New Year to all our pupils and their families. It has been good to welcome the children back to school this week and to hear all about their Christmas holidays. Despite the very cold weather and the presence of a named storm on Thursday and Friday, we have had a very positive week in school and attendance has been good. A great start to the new year!

In our whole school assembly on Tuesday, we explored the story of Epiphany (the visit of the Three Wise Men), looking at the meaning and significance of the three gifts and how we each might apply them to ourselves at the start of the new year. The children were encouraged to reflect on the ways in which they might practise or demonstrate leadership this year (gold for a king), the personal qualities or values they might utilise or develop (frankincense for divinity), and ways in which or something they might sacrifice for the good of others (myrrh for suffering and dying). This included a brief look at the *High Beeches Three Rs (Respect, responsibility and resilience)* in readiness for the relaunch of our school values in the coming months and we will continue to explore these *three gifts* in the coming weeks.

## CURRICULUM IN FOCUS

The school staff have been busy preparing for the new term and began the week with an excellent staff training day which included training for teaching phonics, an exploration of various areas for development in pupils' writing and how to target and prioritise these areas, and further training in adaptive, inclusive teaching. Curriculum overviews for your child's year group are attached with this newsletter.

Following our analysis of pupils' strengths and areas for development in their writing, we have identified that in many cases, despite effective composition, pupils do not excel as much as we would like because of relatively poor 'secretarial' skills – often handwriting and punctuation. For this reason, we are challenging all the children to have a specific focus this term on improving their handwriting. For all children, this is about it being legible and fluent. For some children (particularly in the younger year groups) it will be about ensuring letters are correctly written (starting and finishing in the right place), consistent and proportionate in size, and placed on the line. For older children, it will be about having nice fluid joins, so that the flow of writing (and thinking) is not interrupted by the mechanics of writing. This initiative will be reflected in Headteacher's Awards for the coming term. See overleaf.

## STAFF NEWS

This week we welcome Mrs Amy Nobay who joins the Reception Team, partially replacing Miss Kate Watt, who left at the end of the Autumn term and whom we thank for her work supporting a number of children with complex needs since 2023.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker  
Headteacher



## Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for all their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Milo	For showing such enthusiasm when reading and writing : )
	Rosha	For showing increasing perseverance in all her learning.
• Reception Oak Class	Esca	For trying hard with his writing in phonics.
	Annabel	For good listening and trying hard with her learning.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Alice	For working really hard to apply her knowledge in phonics.
	Alex	For being such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable learner in history.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Lyra	For her brilliant work on ordering numbers in maths
	Ethan	For working hard to improve his handwriting.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Jack	For using neat handwriting in all of his work. Your ascender and descender letter shapes are always clear to see.
	Emily	For showing improved focus and attention in lessons. Keep up the great concentration!
• Year 2 Willow Class	Cara	For careful presentation in her maths book. Well Done!
	Orin	For neat, careful handwriting. Well Done!
• Year 3 Birch Class	Connie	For working hard over the last half term to consistently join her handwriting. Keep it up!
	Elliot	For showing enthusiasm towards our new science topic, animals including humans, and sharing lots of thoughts and ideas.
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Miles	For handwriting – joining his letters and distinguishing between tall and small letters.
	Ryan	For some super participation during lessons including English and French!
• Year 4 Maple Class	James	For engaging well with our first history lesson in the Romans this week.
	Emma	For ensuring her handwriting is neat and readable across the curriculum.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Jolie	For using legible, joined handwriting in all her work.
	Ruba Wali	For demonstrating excellent listening, focus and concentration this week.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Charlie	For staying focused in maths and demonstrating your understanding when ordering and comparing fractions with different denominators.
	Noah	For always joining your hand writing so beautifully which makes it easy to read and understand.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Mia	Working hard on improving your handwriting
	Henry	For working hard on identifying the key features and new learning for a persuasive letter.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Ella	For continuing to develop her handwriting and presentation, supporting the quality of her work
	Harrison	For taking on feedback and making thoughtful improvements to his writing
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Tommy	For coming back to school with an excellent attitude to learning and high levels of concentration.
	Siaana	For beautifully presented work and focus on neat, cursive handwriting.
• PE Awards Infants	Otilie	For some lovely, creative balance work with her partner. Well done!
	Aarin	For some lovely, creative balance work with his partner. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Ellie	For displaying excellent gymnastics with her inventive balance work with her partner. Well done!
	Isla	For displaying excellent gymnastics with her inventive balance work with her partner. Well done!

# HAVE A MINUTE?

## Are You a Parent or Carer of a Child from an Asian Background?

We want to hear about your experiences accessing mental health support for your child

1

Scan the QR Code on this Poster



2

Fill Out a Quick 5 Minute Survey



3

Have Your Voice Heard



Any Questions? Reach out to us on: [sandbox@mindier.co.uk](mailto:sandbox@mindier.co.uk)

Delivered by

### The Sandbox

Free online mental health support for young people



### Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks)

**Friday 23rd January to 6th March, 9.45am to 11.45am**

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



**Tuesday 20th January to 3rd March, 7.00pm to 9.00pm or Monday 9th February to 23rd March, 9.30am to 11.30am**

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

**Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks)**

### Dads Together (6 weeks)

**Wednesday 4th February to 18th March, 7pm to 9pm**

Calling all Dads - join our free online group, come along and receive support from other dads and learn how to change the way you communicate with your child, respond better and feel more in control.



**Tuesday 3rd February to 17th March, 7.00pm to 9.00pm**

Is your teen feeling anxious or isolated? Are you concerned about their mental health and struggling to get help? You may have an FFA, CIN, or CP in place and need more support. Learn how parents can best emotionally support their teen and feel confident and prepared for whatever challenges might arise.

**Getting on with Your Pre-teen or Teenager (6 weeks)**

For more information, call **0204 522 8700/8701**, email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk) or scan the QR code for our online form.

**We build better family lives together**

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

[@familyliveshertsandbeds](https://www.facebook.com/familyliveshertsandbeds)



Funded by Hertfordshire County Council



Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3617762. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: The Annex York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5AD

## Further Information and Reminders

### Contacting the School Office

- ✓ Parents are reminded that all urgent messages and those to do with school dinners, other payments, consultation bookings etc should be communicated via the school office by telephone or email [admin@highbeechees.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highbeechees.herts.sch.uk).
- ✓ Unplanned absence should be notified via the office by telephoning 01582 767966 and selecting option 2.
- ✓ Messages regarding non-urgent, curriculum and pastoral matters can be addressed directly to the year group teams via their email [reception@highbeechees.herts.sch.uk](mailto:reception@highbeechees.herts.sch.uk), [yearone@highbeechees.herts.sch.uk](mailto:yearone@highbeechees.herts.sch.uk) etc

### 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.](#)

### Medicine

We have recently had a number of occasions when children have come to school with medication in their bag. Schools have very strict guidelines on the administration of medicine and children are not expected to be able to manage it independently in the way that they do at secondary school. This is to ensure that the correct dosage is given and that children are not at risk of taking medication belonging to others. For this reason, parents of children who need asthma inhalers or any other prescription medication must ensure that it is dropped off at the school office in the morning and the relevant form is completed.

### Attendance

Congratulations to Hazel and Pine classes who have the best attendance this week, with 99.1% and 100% attendance.

## Diary Dates

*Additions or amendments shown in purple.*

Friday 30 Jan 2026, 2:30pm

Tuesday 3 February 2026

Tuesday 3 February 2026

5 and 6 February 2026

Thursday 5 February 3pm

& Friday 6 February 2026, 8:45am

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

Date TBC

Friday 13 February 2026, 2:50pm

Friday 13 February 2026

Thursday 26 February, 3pm

& Friday 27 February 2026, 8:45am

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

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 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

KS2 Test and *Pacar Residential* Information Meeting for Y6 Parents

Reception Pirate Workshop

Year 6 Mid-year reports to parents

Y6 Parent Consultations

- Thursday 5 February, 2:30 to 5pm
- Friday 6 February, 2pm to 4:30pm

Year 4 Open Classrooms

FoHBS Quiz Night

The High Beeches Be Safe Week

Reception – Year 2 Fire Safety Visits from Hertfordshire Fire Service

Year 5 and 6 Cybercrime Awareness Workshop – Herts Constabulary

2:15pm – Parent Cybercrime Awareness Workshop

Y5 Visit to Hazard Alley

Y6 Visit to Hazard Alley

Year 5 Open Classrooms

Year 3 and 4 First Aid Workshops

Sit Together and Read event for Reception parents

School closes for half-term break

Year 1 Open Classrooms

Year 3 Open Classrooms

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

Y3 Kew Gardens

Y5 Young Mariners Visit