



Weekly Newsletter

24th April 2026

Making learning a lifelong adventure

*Our school value this week is **resilience***



Dear Parents/Carers

Our school librarians led the assemblies on Monday this week, using statistics from our Librarian system to talk about library usage. Did you know that we have over 14,000 books in the school, and that our Y4 cohort are the most frequent borrowers? Congratulations to them! We found out who the most regular borrowers are in each class (from Y2 up) and shared our most popular authors. Thank you to Mrs Homer-Brine, our school librarian, for her support with this.

On Thursday we celebrated St George's Day with those children who attend uniformed organisations, able to come to school in their uniform and a look back at some cine camera footage from the 1960s of a St George's Day Parade in St Albans. Junk modelling in Reception had a St George and the Dragon theme!



CURRICULUM IN FOCUS – *Going Beyond the Three Rs*

Our Year 4 pupils have been enjoying a two-day residential at the Paccar Scout Camp in Chalfont St Peter today and yesterday. This has included archery, a zipwire and climbing wall. As well as the physical skills required for each activity, such activities, alongside having to stay away from home for two days, help to develop independence, problem-solving, communication and teamwork, and help the children become more resilient and face their fears. Thank you to the four school staff who have given up their time (evening and night!) to attend with the children and to former Y4 teacher Mr Peter Edney who has returned as a volunteer helper.



In a similar vein, our Year 6 pupils took part in their Minecraft-based STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) workshops, run on behalf of the Royal Air Force STEM programme, this week, where they each had to plan a response to a natural disaster. Meanwhile our Year 5 pupils have undertaken the Hertfordshire *Bikeability* scheme, which has involved instructor-led cycle training on the school site and then (once assessed as safe to do so) on the public highway. The instructors were really impressed with the children and commented how competent they were to start with and what good progress they have made throughout the week.

Finally, we have renewed our year group displays in the main hall this week to create something of an Art Showcase. Do have a look at the images on the final page.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

**HIGH BEECHES
ART SHOWCASE**

APRIL 2026 see page 6

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

	Amar	For being so keen to write independently. Well done.
• Reception Chestnut Class	Jae	For following instructions carefully when making a paper plate dragon.
• Reception Oak Class	Esca	For imaginative and well-constructed junk modelling.
	Tilly	For always being ready to learn.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Freya	For working so hard in English and always making sure she tries her best.
	Fred	For being a great learning partner and for working well together in phonics.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Kyan	For writing a brilliant letter to Year 2
	Blake	For her positive attitude to learning and for working so hard in class.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Henry	For making a big effort with joining his handwriting this week. Keep it up!
	Aima	For her work in history on explain how Florence Nightingale improved nursing and became a 'significant figure'.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Niamh	For super history participation. Well done!
	Henry	For using super conjunctions to add detail and making a huge effort with handwriting. Well done.
• Year 3 Birch Class	Lyanna	For showing resilience in all areas of her learning and for demonstrating a positive approach in everything she attempts.
	Connie	For an excellent illustrated response to a stimulus in art.
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Sienna	For her growing confidence, sharing her great ideas in class.
	Alfie	For the admirable determination he's put into his learning with a broken arm!
• Year 4 Maple Class	Rose	For asking thoughtful questions during a history lesson on William the Conqueror.
	Lenny	For experimenting with pencil and crayon to create a realistic nest drawing in art.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Thomas	For always trying his best and showing school values in and out of class.
	Rosie	For applying her improved times tables knowledge to find equivalent fractions.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Zain	For showing such resilience this week and taking such pleasure in your achievements.
	Aseel	For writing an excellent motivational poem using assonance.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Louie	For being reflective and taking responsibility for your learning and wellbeing.
	Eddie	For your excellent work on calculating angles on a straight line and around a point.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Ibi	For making insightful comparisons about how the police force has evolved through history.
	Theo	For making thoughtful and effective edits to his biography work.
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Diego	For his kind, courteous behaviour and exemplary manner in the classroom. What a role model you are!
	George	For his excellent contributions during our RAF Minecraft workshop on Tuesday. Well done George!
• PE Awards Infants	Lydia	For her super concentration and technique work in our running practices. Well done!
	Kit	For showing excellent resilience after falling in our running race practices. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	William	For some super work in our practices for long jump. Well done!
	Isla	For her excellent efforts in our running race practices for Sports Day. Well done!

Sports Desk

Congratulations to Thomas in Year 3 who was awarded Harpenden Hockey Club's *Under 10 Player of the Year* at the end of season awards last week!

Community Matters

FoHBS Colour Run – Sunday 17 May 2026

FoHBS have already sold quite a number of tickets for this exciting new event. They will be turning the High Beeches school field into a high-energy, colour-packed fun zone the children won't forget. See this week's FoHBS News for more information, or [click here](#) to book.

Cub Leaders Wanted

Please see flyer below seeking volunteers to help lead at 10th Harpenden Cubs

Supporting Parents

Please see flyer below advertising forthcoming parenting courses from Family Lives

Further Information and Reminders

Budget Setting – Making Best Use of our Resources

Many of our pupils take great care of their belongings and the resources that are provided to them in school. However, sadly, staff do too often report that they observe some children to have a less than responsible attitude towards resources that are supplied to them in school (such as pens, pencils, rulers and glue sticks) from our general supplies budget of almost £20,000 per year. This might involve, losing, breaking or inappropriate use of them.

We are currently setting the school budget for the 2026/27 Financial Year and, following a move towards a National Funding Formula (which gives greater weighting to areas of higher deprivation), the outlook is not as strong as we would have hoped. In order that we are able to focus as much of the budget as possible on ensuring we are well staffed with high quality practitioners, we need to keep the budget for consumable resources to a minimum. We would therefore ask all parents to help their children to understand the importance of looking after and maintaining stationery and other consumable resources.

Attendance

Congratulations to Year 1 and Birch classes who have the best attendance this week, with 100% attendance. More information can be found on the [Attendance and Leave of Absence page](#) of our website.

Groups and workshops coram family lives
Summer 2026

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group
Thursday 14th May to 25th June, 7pm - 9pm
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
Wednesday 13th May to 24th June, 7pm - 9pm | Monday 1st June to 6th July 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 wanting 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.

Getting on with your Pre Teen / Teen (6 weeks) Online group
Friday 5th June to 10th July, 9.30am to 11.30am
Is your teen feeling anxious or isolated? Are you concerned about their mental health and struggling to get help? Join our free online 6-week online group to learn how parents can best emotionally support their teen and feel confident and prepared for whatever challenges might arise.

Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop
Thursday 25th June, 9.30am to 11.30am
This workshop provides parents/carers with practical strategies and tools to effectively foster positive sibling relationships, promote cooperation and manage conflicts between children.

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop
Tuesday 7th July, 7pm to 9pm
This workshop is for parents/carers struggling with conflict within their family life and provides tools to promote a cooperative and collaborative approach to resolving the conflict.

Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop
Thursday 11th June, 9.30am to 11.30am
This workshop helps parents/carers understand what ADHD is, why it makes sense for a child to be anxious if they have ADHD, strategies to help support you and your child, plus signposting to other support that is available.

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. 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.

We build better family lives together
www.coramfamilylives.org.uk
@coramfamilyliveshertsandbeds

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Scouts
10th Harpenden (Methodist)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
CUB SCOUTS,
THURSDAYS,
6:30 TO 8:00PM

READY TO INSPIRE?

- Outdoor leadership
- Teach skills for life
- Build community
- Have fun & make friends

Send us an email at akelaswift@gmail.com

Scouts
10th Harpenden (Methodist)
Wildgrave Park, Harpenden AL5 5SF

We're looking for friendly, energetic adults to help lead our Cubs (8-10.5-year-olds). No experience needed — just enthusiasm. As a leader, your children will receive priority places: Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

Diary Dates <i>New or amended events</i>	
Thursday 30 April 2026	<i>Year 3 class assemblies: 9am Birch Class, 2:45pm Redwood Class</i>
Thursday 30 April, 2:50pm	<i>Reception Sit Together and Read event</i>
Monday 4 May 2026	<i>School closed for Early May Bank Holiday</i>
Thursday 7 May 2026	<i>Year 4 class assemblies: 9am Maple Class, 2:45pm Pine Class</i>
11-14 May 2026	<i>KS2 Tests</i>
Friday 15 May 2026	<i>Y2 class assemblies: 9am Hazel, 2:45pm Willow</i>
Friday 15 May 2026	<i>Y6 Hemel Snow Dome</i>
Sunday 17 May 2026	<i>FoHBS Colour Run</i>
Monday 18 May 2026	<i>Year 1 Knebworth House and Gardens Visit</i>
Thursday 21 May 2026	<i>Year 5 class assemblies: 9am Ash Class, 2:45pm Hawthorn Class</i>
20-22 May 2026	<i>Year 6 Residential - Paccar</i>
Friday 22 May 2026	<i>School closes for half-term break at normal time</i>
Monday 1 June 2026	<i>FoHBS Legoland Trip</i>
Tuesday 2 June 2026	<i>School opens for summer term 2</i>
2 – 12 June 2026	<i>Y4 Multiplication Tables Check</i>
2-5 June 2026	<i>Special Curriculum Week – STEM</i>
Thursday 4 June 2026	<i>Class Group Photographs</i>
8-12 June 2026	<i>Y1 Phonics Screening Check</i>
Tuesday 9 June 2026	<i>Reception trip to Hertfordshire Zoo</i>
Thursday 11 June 2026	<i>Y3 Kew Gardens Visit</i>
Tues 16 June '26, 1:30pm	<i>Y3/4 Sports Day</i>
Friday 19 June 2026	<i>Music on the Field event</i>
Tues 23 June 26, 1:30pm	<i>Y5/6 Sports Day</i>
Wednesday 24 June 2026	<i>Class Group Photographs</i>
Thurs 25 June 2026, 9:15am	<i>YR/1/2 Sports Day</i>
Friday 26 June, 2:50pm	<i>Reception Sit Together and Read event</i>
Monday 29 June 2026	<i>Y5 Young Mariners Visit</i>
Tuesday 30 June 2026	<i>Year 1 class assemblies: 9am Elm Class, 2:45pm Cedar Class</i>
Monday 6 July 2026	<i>Y1 Woburn Safari Park Visit</i>
Thursday 9 July 2026	<i>Transition Day</i>
Friday 10 July 2026	<i>Pupil reports out to parents</i>
Saturday 11 July 2026	<i>FoHBS Summer Fair</i>
14 & 15 July 2026, 6:00pm	<i>Year 6 leavers' production</i>
Mon 20 July 2026, 6pm	<i>Year 6 leavers' event (TBC)</i>
Mon 20 July 2026, 9:30am	<i>HB's Got Talent</i>
Tues 21 July 2026, 9am	<i>Year 6 leavers' assembly</i>
Tues 21 July 2026, 1:30pm	<i>school closes for summer holiday</i>

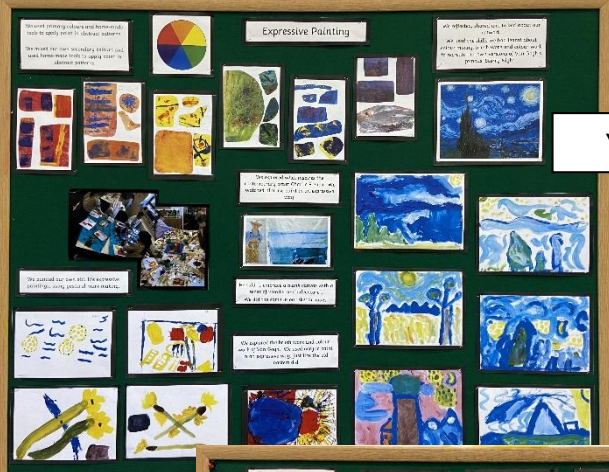
HIGH BEECHES ART SHOWCASE APRIL 2026



Reception



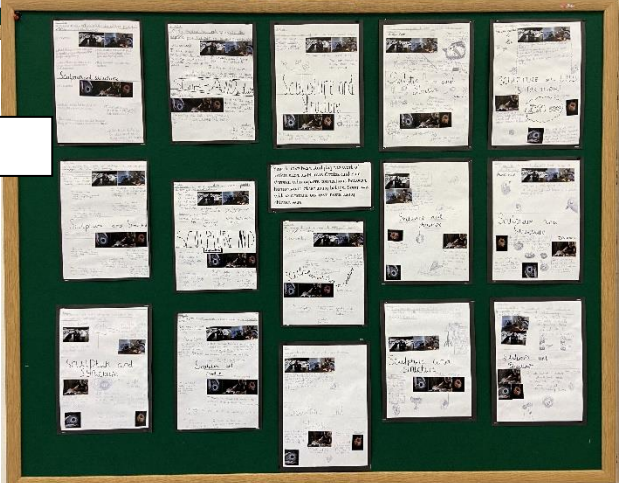
Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6

