



Weekly Newsletter

18th September 2026

Making learning a lifelong adventure

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

Dear Parents/Carers

This Week in School

This week the children in Years 1 to 6 took part in National Fitness Day. Following a special assembly to introduce the initiative on Monday morning, this involved pupils and teachers looking for opportunities for extra bursts of physical activity throughout the day on Wednesday. The initiative promotes the importance of fitness for our physical health and mental wellbeing and classes were awarded points for each burst of activity with bonus points if members of staff joined in. I even joined in with a couple of sessions myself and, despite not being a natural mover, felt my mood lifted by the resulting burst of endorphins!

Congratulations to Ash Class who came second with 1500 points and to Willow Class who were the overall winners with 1900 points.

Also this week our Year 4 pupils enjoyed a hands-on science day in each class with our visiting science expert, Andrew Berry. The children explored *states of matter* and followed an *escape room* style sequence of science investigations, each finding the key to the next activity. They particularly enjoyed setting a rocket off on the playground as their final task turning solid to liquid and then gas! See pictures below.

The children in Year 3 will be having science workshops next week and will be exploring rocks...



Next Week in School – An Invitation

Parents and other family members are invited to attend our MacMillan Coffee mornings, hosted by our Year 6 pupils next Thursday or Friday morning after drop-off. An annual tradition, this is an opportunity for parents to informally get together and for us to support this important cause as a school community. Parents are required to sign up via Arbor/Activities/Trips so that we can cater and are expected, where possible, to bring a reusable coffee flask for their drink. Year 6 families are kindly providing cake and parents can make a donation to MacMillan on the day.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Ravi	For an excellent jumping and landing in PE.
	Daisy	For being such a kind member of Chestnut class and a good friend.
• Reception Oak Class	Thomas	For making a fantastic start to school, quickly following rules and routines and class expectations.
	George	For settling into school life quickly and making a great start to full-time school.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Elias	For some excellent instructions writing with bossy verbs and careful handwriting.
	Aria	For making such a wonderful start to her time at High Beeches!
• Year 1 Elm Class	Toby	For producing interesting spiral sketches in art using a range of media.
	Lucas	For writing clear instructions on How To Be A Gardener.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Kyan	For working hard to write part of a story and going back through to edit.
	Carys	For being a kind member of Hazel class and helping her peers
• Year 2 Willow Class	Freya	For aiming high and trying hard, a great start to Year 2. Well done!
	Lettie	For a positive start to her new school and trying hard. Well done.
• Year 3 Birch Class	Finn	For showing care and pride with his handwriting – Well done!
	Ava	For working super hard with place value in maths – Well done!
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Freida	For excellent ideas in history about change and continuity between the Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic periods.
	Charlie	For using subordinating conjunctions to extend his sentences – great writing!
• Year 4 Maple Class	Sadie	For wiring a gripping short narrative based on ‘Arthur and the Golden Rope’ in English.
	Miles	For his superb engagement with our science workshop on states of matter.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Ian	For working really hard on rounding in maths this week.
	Ellie	For her fantastic graphic novel in English.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Carys	For settling into Ash class beautifully and trying your best in lessons.
	Tzu-Yun	For being such a conscientious learner in all subjects and giving excellent explanations in Maths
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Jack	The confident and positive approach you take to every challenge
	Libby	For your excellent first paragraphs to your mythical creature non-chronological report
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Freddie	For making thoughtful edits to his writing and consciously choosing effective language.
	William	For confidently explaining vocabulary and thoughtfully using ideas from our class text in his writing.
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Oscar	For having the courage to start work again – Oscar took the initiative to start over with a piece of writing when it was not quite meeting the overall aim. very responsible!
	Lily-Mae	For her exceptional attitude towards learning – it is a pleasure to have you as part of sycamore class!
• PE Awards Infants	Cora	For great work on her dodging and avoiding in PE this week. Well done!
	Ravi	For some great jumping and super-steady landing in PE this week. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Felicity	For trying really hard to make improvements with her forehand play in tennis. Well done!
	Margot	For some great work on her dribbling and turning in football this week. Well done!

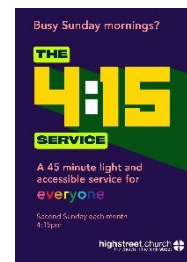
Sports Desk

The sporting calendar kicked-off this week with the Harpenden Girls’ Football tournament. Congratulations to the Year 6 girls who travelled to Woodend Primary for their first match and returned victorious, following Leoni’s goal, which resulted in a 1-0 score line!

Community Matters

The 4:15 @ High Street Methodist Church

The 4:15 service is an all-age service that takes place once a month, perhaps unsurprisingly, at 4:15pm on the second Sunday of every month, designed to be accessible for busy families who may have sporting or other commitments on a Sunday morning. For this term, they take place on 11 October, 8 November and 13 December 2026. More information can be found [here](#).



Gang Show



Harpenden Gang Show returns to the Eric Morecambe Centre for its 77th Show from **Tuesday 12th January 2027 to Saturday 16th January 2027**

Tickets on sale from 5th October 2026



Scan here for tickets



Staying Safe

Hertfordshire County Council are seeking public views on where 20mph speed limits may be appropriate in Harpenden. More information about the proposal, together with a survey link can be found [here](#).

Supporting Families

Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops – October to December 2026

Please see the attached flyer promoting a series of evening workshops on Microsoft Teams supporting children and parents with emotional wellbeing. Topics covered include self-esteem, resilience, sleep difficulties and emotional literacy and regulation.

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Cedar and Pine 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>
Monday 5 October 2026	<i>Pupil Individual Photographs</i>
<i>Thursday 6 October, 7pm</i>	<i>FOHBS AGM</i>
Fri 2 and 9 October 2026	<i>FoHBS Movie Nights</i>
Friday 9 October 2026	<i>Pupil Flu Vaccinations</i>
Wednesday 14 October 2026	<i>Harvest festival – King’s Pantry Food Bank and Harpenden Hygiene Bank</i> <i>led by Revd John Fellows</i>
Friday 16 October 2026	<i>FoHBS Wine Tasting event</i>
W/b 19 October 26	<i>Parent Consultations – In School Hall</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>
<i>Wednesday/Thursday 11/12 November 26</i>	<i>Y4 Open Classroom 3pm or Y4 Open Classroom 8.40am</i>
Tuesday 17 November 26	<i>Parents invited to Sit Together and Read (STAR!) in Reception</i>
<i>Thursday/Friday 19/20 November 26</i>	<i>Y6 Open Classroom 3pm or Y6 Open Classroom 8.40am</i>
<i>Thursday/Friday 19/20 November 26</i>	<i>Y1 Open Classroom 3pm or Y1 Open Classroom 8.40am</i>
<i>Thursday/Friday 19/20 November 26</i>	<i>Y5 Open Classroom 3pm or Y5 Open Classroom 8.40am</i>
26 November 2026	<i>FoHBS Wreath Making Workshop</i>
Tuesday 1 Dec 2026 9am	<i>Reception Nativity #1</i>
Thursday 3 Dec 2026, 9am	<i>Reception Nativity #2</i>
<i>Wednesday/Thursday 2/3 December 26</i>	<i>Y2 Open Classroom 3pm or Y2 Open Classroom 8.40am</i>
Friday 4 December 2026	<i>School closed for Occasional Day</i>
<i>Wednesday 9 December 2026</i>	<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,</i> <i>and L & D Christmas Jumper Day</i>
Friday 18 Dec 2026, 2pm	<i>School closes at 2pm for Christmas holiday</i>

Tuesday afternoons and suitable for Y3 upwards.



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