



Weekly Newsletter

25th September 2026

Making learning a lifelong adventure

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

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a busy week across the school, with lots of curriculum enrichment for the children in Year 3 and 4 and some additional pupil leadership opportunities for those in Year 6.

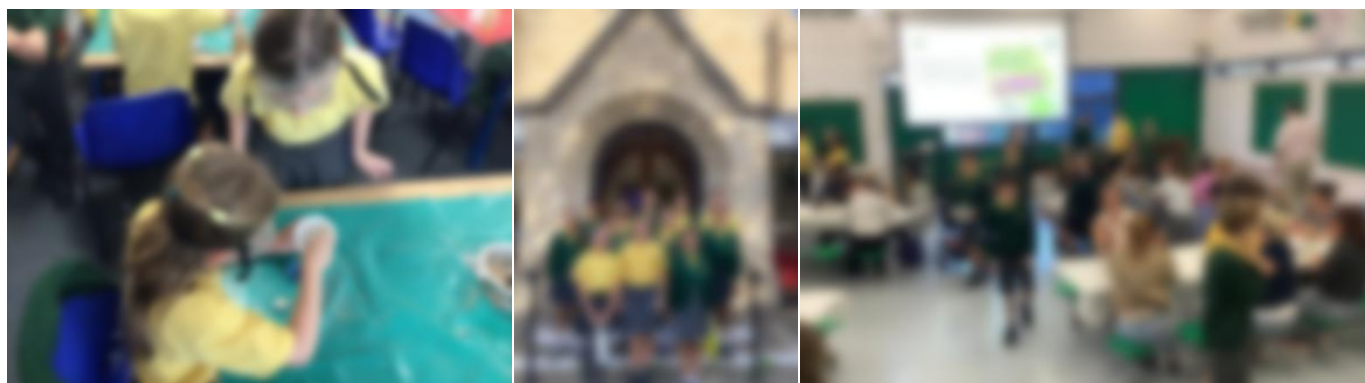
Our Year 3 pupils had their hands-on science workshops this week (picture below), with each class exploring different rocks and their properties for the day. Today Year 4 travelled into London for a trip to the British Museum to see the Egyptian artifacts on display there. These workshops and visits help bring the curriculum to life and will feed into science and history work for the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the children from both Year 3 and Year 4 have also been out and about learning about pedestrian road safety with a representative of the Hertfordshire Safer travel team. Next week, they will be back to do a *Scooterbility* workshop on the playground for our Year 2 classes

Yesterday morning and this morning our Year 6 pupils hosted our MacMillan Big Coffee mornings in school. It was great to see so many parents there. Also yesterday our newly appointed House ambassadors represented the school at the annual Peace Day service at High Street Methodist Church, giving their own presentation on being peacemakers. See images below.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week, which we have been honouring in our celebration assemblies.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Oliver	Always being respectful and looking after our class belongings so well.
	Amaya	Settling into Chestnut class so well and always ready to learn.
• Reception Oak Class	Clara	Always being ready to learn and settling confidently into Reception
	Esther	Quickly settling into school life and following class rules and routines.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Penelope	For being a kind and welcoming friend this week.
	Luther	For always contributing in class and trying his best. Well done Luther!
• Year 1 Elm Class	Tilly	For being an excellent role model who always follows class rules and instructions.
	Charlie	For super sentences describing Peter and Paul from Puffin Peter.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Brody	For working very hard in maths, looking at place value. Well done!
	Ella	For being a sensible and kind member of Hazel class. Well done!
• Year 2 Willow Class	Albert	For an excellent attitude to learning and trying hard in all areas. Well Done!
	Beau	For super writing using commands and conjunctions excellently. Well done!
• Year 3 Birch Class	Evelyn F	For asking carefully thought-out questions during our science workshop. Well done!
	Mollie	Using a range of subordinating conjunctions in her writing this week. Well done!
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Alice M	For being a great listener and joining in really well during our science workshop.
	William	For the kind, thoughtful and warm behaviour he shares with those around him.
• Year 4 Maple Class	Alexandra	For excellent effort and resilience during our maths lesson on regrouping using 'think 100' and 'think 1000'.
	Haris	For making thoughtful contributions to our whole class debate on banning the dark in English
• Year 4 Pine Class	Emily	For working so efficiently in the card-stiffening tests for DT
	Teddy	For his very persuasive arguments in our class debate
• Year 5 Ash Class	Amelia	For a wonderfully inventive non-chronological report using well-crafted sentence structures and accurate punctuation.
	Kody	For excellent work in maths when ordering a rounding decimals.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Josie	For your knowledge and understanding of air resistance in science this week.
	Hannah	For developing your confidence in maths to answer more questions in class.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Amelie	For her confidence when tackling work problems and using bar models to support her reasoning.
	Sam	For demonstrating outstanding determination and resilience when faced with an injury over the last few weeks.
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Leoni	For reflecting well on an independent piece of writing to uplevel and make improvements.
	Emma	For excellent attitude in maths, persevering to arrive at the correct answer.
• PE Awards Infants	Charlie	For great work with his dodging and avoiding this week. Well done!
	Dylan	For great work on this dodging and avoiding this week. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Eleanor	For being so encouraging and positive helping her partner to improve in tennis. Well done!
	Bella	For working really hard to improve her forehand shot in tennis. Well done!



Sports Desk

A group of Year 5 and 6 girls attended the Harpenden Tag-rugby Festival on Tuesday (pictured right) and had a great time by all accounts. Thank you to Mrs Shewbridge for attending!

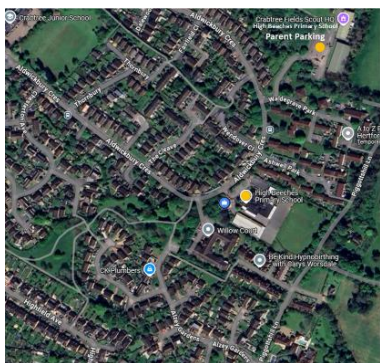
Community Matters

Sir John Lawes School Comedy Night – Friday 13 November 2026

Parents are invited to the SJL Comedy Night, with 10% of any ticket sales going to FoHBS, when you use [this link](#). Tickets cost £20 and it looks like a good night out, just around the corner!

Supporting Families

The Hertfordshire School Nursing team provide a support on health-related matters for children in all Hertfordshire schools. This includes height and weight measuring, vaccinations and mental health screening, as wells in individual referral service. Parents are invited to explore the information in their [Autumn Term Newsletter](#).



Staying Safe

Everybody needs good neighbours... Responsible Parking Around School!

We have been contacted by a number of our neighbours in Ashwell Park who have become understandably frustrated with parking, particularly where parents are causing an obstruction by parking on the pavements outside their houses. Parking in this way obstructs the pavements for pedestrians, especially for those with wheelchairs, prams or pushchairs, and creates a safety risk for other drivers and those crossing the roads. It may also obstruct movement on and off driveways.

Parents are therefore requested NOT TO PARK ON ASHWELL PARK and should use our park and stride facility at Crabtree fields. We would remind parents that the school pays an annual license for use of the carpark and that there is an expectation that those who cannot walk, cycle or scoot from home, should park there.

Public Consultation

By coincidence, Hertfordshire County Council are currently 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](#).



Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Elm 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

Advice from office of product safety

There have been reports of various products with sand in not being safe for use. Please see attached link to check the products that have been listed as recalled on the government website. None of these items are in school. [asbestos - Product Safety Alerts, Reports and Recalls - GOV.UK](#)

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

Thursday 1 October 2026	Burger Day (Packed Lunches sign up via Trips)
Monday 5 October 2026	Pupil Individual Photographs
Thursday 6 October, 7pm	FOHBS AGM
Fri 2 and 9 October 2026	FoHBS Movie Nights
Friday 9 October 2026	Pupil Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 14 October 2026	Harvest festival – King's Pantry Food Bank and Harpenden Hygiene Bank led by Revd John Fellows
Friday 16 October 2026	FoHBS Wine Tasting event
W/b 19 October 26	Parent Consultations – In School Hall - Tuesday 20, 3:45 to 7pm - Thursday 22, 3:45 to 7pm
23 October 2026	School closes for half-term break at normal time
Monday 2 November	School opens for Autumn Term 2
Wednesday/Thursday 11/12 November 26	Y4 Open Classroom 3pm or Y4 Open Classroom 8.40am
Tuesday 17 November 26	Parents invited to Sit Together and Read (STAR!) in Reception
Thursday/Friday 19/20 November 26	Y6 Open Classroom 3pm or Y6 Open Classroom 8.40am
Thursday/Friday 19/20 November 26	Y1 Open Classroom 3pm or Y1 Open Classroom 8.40am
Thursday/Friday 19/20 November 26	Y5 Open Classroom 3pm or Y5 Open Classroom 8.40am
26 November 2026	FoHBS Wreath Making Workshop
Tuesday 1 Dec 2026 9am	Reception Nativity #1
Thursday 3 Dec 2026, 9am	Reception Nativity #2
Wednesday/Thursday 2/3 December 26	Y2 Open Classroom 3pm or Y2 Open Classroom 8.40am
Friday 4 December 2026	School closed for Occasional Day
Wednesday 9 December 2026	Rotary Carols at Methodist Church (Y6 choir)
Thursday 10 Dec 2026, 2:15pm	Year 1 Christmas Carols around the Tree 2: pm - Elm Class 2:30pm - Cedar Class
Monday 14 December 2026	Year 2 Nativity 1:15pm - Willow Class 2:15pm - Hazel Class
Sat 12 December 2026	FoHBS Christmas Fair
Wednesday 16 Dec 2026	5pm - KS2 Red and Yellow House Carol Service 6:30pm - KS2 Blue and Green House Carol Service
Thurs 17 December 2026	School Christmas Dinner and Discos, and L & D Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18 Dec 2026, 2pm	School closes at 2pm for Christmas holiday

Tuesday afternoons and suitable for Y3 upwards.



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