



Weekly Newsletter

30th January 2026

Making learning a lifelong adventure

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

Dear Parents/Carers

THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

Our Year 4 children have enjoyed an activity-packed workshop day in school on Monday and Thursday this week, learning about *Life in Roman Britain* in their *History Off the Page* workshops. Dressed in Roman apparel, they followed the story of Queen Boudica's uprising against the occupying Romans and that of a fictitious spy in the Roman camp. Participating in various hands-on activities, such as metal work and mosaics, and making perfume from native herbs for the bathhouse, they learnt about the many benefits brought to these islands by the Romans.



Next week our Reception pupils will be pirates for the day on Tuesday in their workshop day. I can't wait to see what they get up to!

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a visit to Katherine Warington School on Wednesday to watch the dress rehearsal of their contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As well as inspiring the children to look forward to their move to secondary education, it was great to see quite a number of High Beeches alumni flourishing in the cast and crew of the production.

CURRICULUM IN FOCUS

Also this week, our year groups have completed their latest showcase displays in the school hall. This term they highlight the current writing work undertaken by each year group. Each is based on a quality text that the children explore together and use as a model and stimulus for their own writing. These can be seen on page 5. Look at how the writing progresses as the children move through the school!

LAUNCHING OUR SCHOOL VISION AND VALUES 2026

You will have received a letter from the governing body together with today's newsletter launching our new school vision and values. This outlines the process that has taken place over the past twelve months to review and refresh our vision, values and strategic priorities. These can be seen in the letter and parents can also find out more about the rationale for the changes we have made.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker

Headteacher

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Holly	For writing great sentences in learning through play and literacy.
	Penelope	For great progress in Phonics.
• Reception Oak Class	Astrid	For making a book about pirates and even writing adjectives! “fierce as a tiger” :)
	Alex	For spending a long time making a book about pirates and writing all by himself! :)
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Jake	For using amazing observation skills, spotting links across his learning.
	Sophie	For always using beautiful handwriting and presentation in all of her work.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Phoebe	For working hard in English and taking care with her handwriting.
	Evelyn	For brilliant learning behaviours in all subjects but particularly when talking about books that we are reading.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Noah N	For consistently clear and neat handwriting and taking pride in his work.
	Sarah	For brilliant mark-making in art using a range of painting tools when exploring colour mixing.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Xavier	For trying hard and presenting handwriting beautifully. Well done!
	Edward	For showing creativity in our Art lessons. Well done!
• Year 3 Birch Class	Joshua L	For consistently forming all letters accurately, neatly and presenting his work to a high standard. Well done!
	Eleanor	Making comparisons between life today and life in Ancient Greece by discussing the legacies left behind. Well done!
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Joshua N	For improving the size of his letters and increasing the amount of joins in his published work.
	Jessica S	For always participating in class and sharing a great prediction before our Science investigation.
• Year 4 Maple Class	Elliot	For presenting his writing beautifully when publishing a newspaper article in English.
	Elle	For creating an excellent still life piece in art, showing strong understanding of relative scale and effective colour mixing. 😊
• Year 4 Pine Class	Oscar	For driving himself so, so hard to improve his handwriting recently (keep it up!)
	Ethan	For working hard to catch up and complete his still life painting to a high standard.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Leoni	For consistently using beautifully neat handwriting you can take pride in.
	Chloe	For a beautifully written extract based on our new texts, including adverbials for cohesion and ambitious vocabulary.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Erin	For using such clear and well-presented handwriting in your books this week.
	Henry	For creating a detailed and imaginative plan for your non-chronological report.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Evie C	For showing initiative in her learning, challenging herself, and quietly taking pride in her progress.
	Edward H	For the care, commitment, and pride he consistently brings to his learning. His desire to do well, reflect, and improve shows maturity, and demonstrates real strength and resilience.
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	George N	For displaying such high levels of respect and courtesy at our trip to KWS this week.
	Evie O’G	For her beautifully presented handwriting over the past couple of weeks, thinking carefully about cursive joins and letter size.
• PE Awards Infants	Duaa	For showing great perseverance and bravery with our balance challenges. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Charlie	For his dribbling and control with a basketball. Well done!
	Amelia	For jumping and landing with quality and control. Well done!
	Yasmin	For showing ‘excellent gymnastics’ in both bar rolls and jumping from apparatus. Well done!

Sports Desk

Our football teams played away at Wood End Primary this week. Congratulations to both teams, the B Team winning 5-3 and the A's playing a great game and sadly conceding 1 goal whilst (despite some valiant attempts) not quite managing to get through the Wood End keeper themselves!

Supporting Families

Places Available at Dads' Course



Dads Together

Sign up to our 6-week online group

Are you a dad and feel like you are constantly nagging at your child to get what you need?

Join our free dads together 6-week online group to help increase your confidence in parenting and improve communication and listening skills.

Wednesday 11th February to 25th March 2026

7.00pm to 9.00pm

Online via MS Teams

To book your place, call Louise on **0204 522 8700**, email services@familylives.org.uk or scan our QR code to use our online referral form



Scan Me!

We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk



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County Council



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Registered address: The Annex, York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, AL9 5AD.

Holiday Clubs running in school over half term

- ✓ [Apex Sports](#) – Sports Activities with Mr George – 16th, 17th, 18th Feb
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – 18th, 19th, 20th Feb
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing with Mrs Ward – 20th Feb

February Half-term Cycle Training

Hertfordshire cycle hubs will be running cycle training sessions at venues across the county during the February half-term break. More information can be found on their website.

 [St Albans Cycle Hub C.I.C](#)

Cottonmill Estate, St Albans

Course info: www.stalbanscyclehub.co.uk

 [SEND Cycling Courses](#)

Various locations across Hertfordshire during most school holidays

In partnership with the Herts Disability Sports Foundation, we offer specialist 1 to 1 cycle training for riders with additional needs.

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Hawthorn and Elm classes who have the best attendance this week, with 100% and 98% attendance. Do take a look at our [new attendance page](#) for information on how to notify us of absence.

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.](#)

Parent Cybercrime Awareness Workshop

On 9th Feb we are very pleased to be welcoming experts from Hertfordshire Police into school, who will be speaking to Years 5&6 about how they can keep themselves safe online. They are also running a brief (30 min) talk for parents at 8.50am so if you want to know how to keep your children safe online, please do come if you can. They'll cover passwords, two factor authentication, cyber bullying, sharing of images and recommended ages for social media. They are also happy to answer any questions you might have. We would love to welcome as many of you as possible, so please pop this date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you then.

Diary Dates

Monday 2 February 2026
 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
 Friday 13 February 2026
 Friday 13 February 2026, 2:50pm
 Friday 13 February 2026

Monday 23 February 2026
 Thursday 26 February, 3pm
 & Friday 27 February 2026, 8:45am
 Thursday 5 March 2025

Monday 9 March 2026

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
 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 23rd -24th April 2026

Friday 15th May 2026

Wednesday 20 May – 22 May

Thursday 4 June

Tuesday 9 June 2026

Thursday 11th June 2026

Monday 29th June 2026

Monday 6 July 2026

Year 3 and 4 First Aid Workshops

Reception Pirate Workshop

Year 6 Mid-year reports to parents

Y6 Parent Consultations- Portal opens 20th Jan 7.30pm to book.

- *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 – Road safety. Y1/2 Emergency Services visit.

Parent Cybercrime Awareness Workshop – 8:50am

Year 5 and 6 Cybercrime Awareness Workshop – Herts Constabulary

Y5 Visit to Hazard Alley (be safe week)

Y6 Visit to Hazard Alley (be safe week)

Year 5 Open Classrooms

House Ambassadors' Charity Fundraiser

Sit Together and Read event for Reception parents

School closes for half-term break

Y2 Visit to The Monument, London

Year 1 Open Classrooms

World Book Day – dress as a character or for your hobby

Year 5 Science Workshop at Abbotshill School

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

Y6 PACCAR Trip

Class Group Photographs

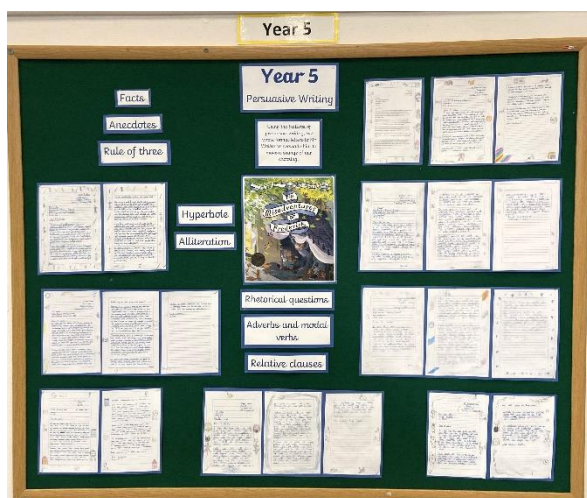
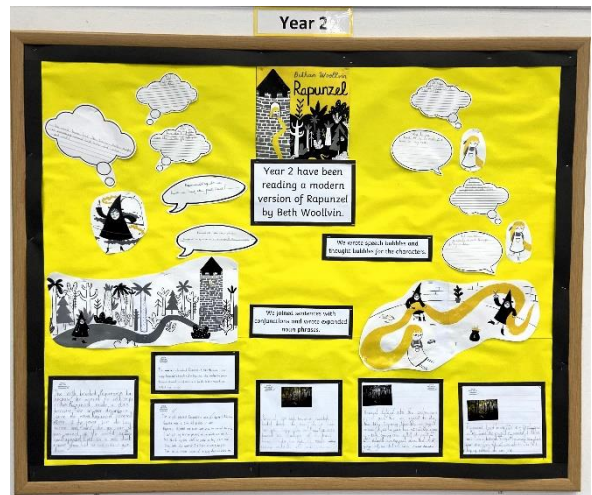
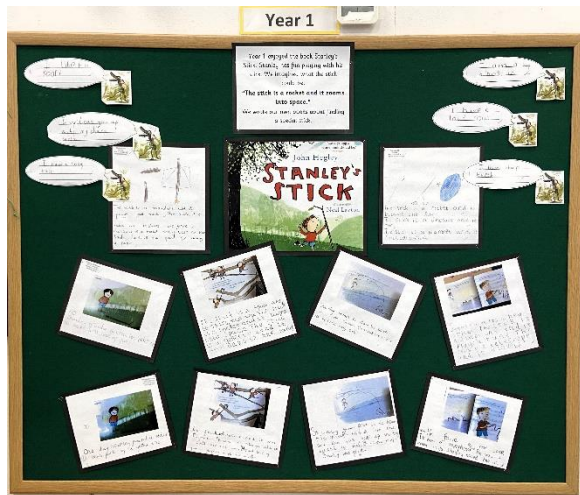
Reception trip to Hertfordshire Zoo

Y3 Kew Gardens

Y5 Young Mariners Visit

Y1 Woburn Trip

Writing Progression at High Beeches





FEBRUARY HALF-TERM CRASH COURSES 2026



**£60 PER
CHILD
FOR THE
WEEK**

**SANDRINGHAM
SCHOOL, ST ALBANS &
ALDWICKBURY
SCHOOL, HARPENDEN**

16 - 20 FEBRUARY 2026



Our crash courses are designed for absolute beginners through to advanced stroke improvers. Minimum age 3.5 years old, no maximum age.

**Choose your time slot between
8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00 or 10.30am**

**To Book Contact Millie Herbert
CALL 07507 038250**

EMAIL milliesmakingwaves@gmail.com

**Or Fill in our online form at
makingwavesswimmingltd.co.uk**

