



Weekly Newsletter

8 March 2024

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Our school value for this half-term is



Dear Parents/Carers

So mad March has got off to a packed start this week, with World Book Week and Day, our International Women's Day *Let Girls Play* events today, and a number of other events and activities in between.



World Book Week included a fascinating assembly, led by our school librarians (Mrs Homer-Brian and the pupil librarians – pictured left) on borrowing and book stock statistics. The children have also participated in two online author's workshops, one with Micahael Rosen (who needs no introduction and is pictured with Willow Class above left) and one with James Campbell, author of *Boy Face* and the *Funny Life of* series of books and our dress-up day yesterday (above right with Birch Class). Thank you to all those who helped their children choose and wear a costume, albeit bedtime-story-ware or book character and thank you to the staff too, who (as always) rather seemed to enjoy the

opportunity to dress up themselves!

It has been lovely to see those girls who wanted to participate, in football, PE or other sports kit and to have the opportunity to discuss this with them in class and in assembly, where we looked at International Women's Day was discussed in class and in assemblies and an The Let Girls Play staff vs Y5/6 girls match took place earlier this afternoon, the pupils winning 2-1. Well done girls!



Our Reception pupils had a visit from the **Hertfordshire Constabulary** this week, with two police officers visiting to support their *People Who Help Us* topic. The visitors talked to them about their jobs and showed the children their uniforms, before letting them have a look in their police van. Apologies to near neighbours, who may have wondered who was in control of the siren!

Last week two reams of Year 5 pupils participated in the **HFL Y5 Maths Challenge** after school on Tuesday afternoon. This involved working as a team to solve problems over a number of rounds of memory and number crunching work, competing through Microsoft Teams with 248 other teams from across Hertfordshire. Both teams did really well and this week we heard that the team from Ash has placed in the top 10% and have been invited to participate in the final on 27 March. We have entered this competition every year since its inception and this is the first time we have placed in the final. Congratulations Team Ash!



Thank You

We have recently taken delivery of a trolley of 30 new iPads (pictured overleaf in use by Year 2), which have been kindly donated by the Pollock-Wilkins family to honour the life and career of their mother/grandmother, Bronwen Pollock who served as a primary school teacher for her entire 37-year career and sadly passed away in February. Mrs Pollock was a very early proponent of technology in the classroom and this very generous donation means that we have been able to replace our oldest set of Ipads, ensuring that all the children have access to the latest models and operating system in all 4 of our class sets (numbering 135 Ipads in total) and in addition to a class set of chrome books and one of laptops.



The new set of Ipads and secure trolley was set up a few weeks ago and they are now in active use by all year groups for computing and across the curriculum. For example, only yesterday, I came across some Year 4 pupils using them to take sound and light readings in different locations around the school.

The children will, no doubt, benefit greatly from this legacy and I would like to thank Mr Pollock and Mr and Mrs Pollock-Wilkins, on behalf of the whole school community for their very generous donation.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

Sports Desk

Congratulations to our netball teams for two fantastic wins at home on Wednesday afternoon. This was something of a local derby against teams from Crabtree Junior School with scores as follows: A team - 6-2 and B Team - 10-1 (B Team). Team coach Mrs Shewbridge said, 'The girls are operating really well as a team this year and respond quickly to reflection and feedback. This is our strongest season for some years and we are currently top of the Harpenden league.'

Well done to our boys' football team, who have been busy this week too. They played a league match against Roundwood last Friday, losing 1-0 in a very close fought match, and took part in the Harpenden schools' tournament at Wood End on Tuesday this week, winning 2 games, drawing 2, and losing 1 to Wood End - who went on to win the tournament. Congratulations to them of course!

Supporting Families

Digital Safety

We know that many parents are concerned about the increasing use of smartphones by our children at an increasingly early age. There are well documented risks associated with excessive and/or unsupervised use of smart phones, such as negative impact on children's mental health and wellbeing, risks of bullying or stranger danger and sleep deprivation. A parent has recently made us aware of a campaign by concerned parents to encourage parents of younger children to commit to not giving their children a smartphone until they are 14. More information on this can be found [here](#).

Family Support Courses in Hertfordshire

Please see flyers overleaf for various forthcoming family support courses from Supporting Links.

Headteacher Awards

Today we congratulated the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Lucy	For trying hard and writing super sentences! Well done!
	Toby	For super use of finger spaces and accurately formed letters. Well Done!
• Reception Oak Class	The Whole Class	For their enthusiastic enjoyment and joining in with World Book Day.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Sebastian	For working hard to improve his presentation and handwriting! Well done, Sebastian.
	Elise	For writing an imaginative story with fantastic adjectives and punctuation! Great independent work, well done!
• Year 1 Elm Class	Josh	For showing great confidence and enthusiasm when finding the difference in Maths.
	Lyanna	For trying so hard with her reading. We are really enjoying hearing you read Lyanna!
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Alice	for her vibrant imagination when writing her own highly descriptive short story.
	Amelia	or using her super imagination and creating great suspense in her own short story.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Isla	For showing brilliant learning behaviours. You always try your best and you are willing to help others too. Well done.
	Luna	For making great progress in reading. You have been working hard at home and in school. Well done.
• Year 3 Birch Class	Rafi	For showing a clear improvement in his writing, sitting his letters on the line.
	Lincoln	For working confidently in Maths, comparing and ordering fractions.
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Noah	For his brilliant improvement in handwriting
	Eva	For her resilience when tackling fractions in maths
• Year 4 Maple Class	Luke	For showing resilience in Maths when learning column multiplication
	Daisy	For working hard at her handwriting when writing up a playscript
• Year 4 Pine Class	Luke	For giving clear and thoughtful reasons when answering questions in Guided Reading.
	Yasmin	For working hard to master division with remainders in Maths.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Leo	For his insightful contributions in RE
	Ava	For her diligence and perseverance during our maths assessments.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Megan	For the passion and dedication she brings to her role as a librarian, championing reading throughout the school.
	Francesco	For a well-presented and informative timeline showing Viking rule in Britain.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Emily	For making such progress with handwriting and using consistent joins.
	Sienna	For working so hard to increase your skills and confidence in maths, including excellent explanations to the class.
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Leo	For consistently joining your handwriting neatly across different subjects.
	Arianna	For working extremely hard in Maths and showing a great maturity to your learning.
• PE Awards Infants	Jack	For his excellent targeted throwing this week. Well done!
	Tom	For his good work in our 'Retrieve The Treasure' game this week. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Millie	For her consistence with her batting in cricket this week. Well done!
	Isla	For remaining vigilant while fielding in rounders; noticing the preferred hand of the batter and making the necessary adjustments. Well done!

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Hazel and Maple classes who have the best attendance this week, with 100% and 99.2% respectively.

Communication with School

Please see below the list of email contacts for direct communication with class teachers. These should be used for curriculum related information and queries and to advise year group staff of any pastoral matters. Urgent messages (such as last-minute changes to end of the day collection arrangements) should be communicated directly with the school office.

- reception@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearone@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yeartwo@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearthree@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearfour@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearfive@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk
- yearsix@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk

Diary Dates

Amendments and additions to previously published events shown in purple

11-15 March 2024	<i>British Science Week</i>
14 March 2024, 9am	<i>Year 4 Maple class assembly</i>
14 March 2024, 2:30pm	<i>Year 4 Pine class assembly</i>
15 March 2024	<i>Mufti Day for Comic Relief – Red Nose Day</i>
Monday 18 March 2024	<i>Mid-year reports to parents Wear bright socks to schools to celebrate neurodiversity...!</i>
18 to 22 March	<i>Neurodiversity Celebration Week</i>
19 and 21 March 2024	<i>Reception to Y5 Parent Consultations</i>
21 March 2024, 9am	<i>Year 3 Birch class assembly</i>
21 March 2024, 2:30pm	<i>Year 3 Redwood class assembly</i>
22 March 2024	<i>FoHBS discos</i>
26 March 2024, 6pm	<i>Y5 Choir in Harpenden Schools' Spring Music Festival at the EMC</i>
27 March 2024, 1.15pm	<i>KS2 Speakers Cup Final (finalists' parents invited)</i>
27 March 2024, 6.00pm	<i>Spring Music Evening</i>
28 March 2024, 9.00am	<i>K1 Speakers Cup Final (finalists' parents invited)</i>
28 March 2024	<i>House Ambassadors' Sponsored Bunny Hop Events for Herts young Carers Wear PE kits for the day. Bunny ears are optional!</i>
28 March 2024, 2pm	<i>School closes for Easter holiday</i>
Sunday 7 July 2024	<i>FOHBS Summer Fair – date change due to clash with SJL Festival on Field</i>

TALKING DADS



Supporting Links
Promoting Strong Family Relationships

Thursdays 7.45-9.15pm Online Course: ID 659
18th April - 23rd May 2024

Wednesdays 7.45-9.15pm Online Course: ID 660
5th June - 10th July 2024

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers of all ages, sharing information on:

- Increasing confidence in your parenting.
- Developing a healthy dad/child relationship now and for the future.
- Improved listening and communication skills.
- Effective strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- How to enforce boundaries.
- Being the dad you want to be.

Groups are open to male parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'I can break out of the cycle and make things different for my child.'

Booking essential

Please quote the course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:

07512 709556

bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk



These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

TALKING TEENS



Supporting Links
Promoting Strong Family Relationships

Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm Online Course: ID 657
17th April - 22nd May 2024

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm In Person Course: ID 658

5th June - 10th July 2024 The Reddings Family Centre Harcourt Rd, Bushey WD23 3PE

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 12-19, covering:

- The Teen Brain: Recognising the physical and emotional changes taking place and why behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- Maintaining your relationship with good communication.
- Understanding risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate during a conflict situation.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'Our home is no longer a battlefield. I am less stressed and my teenager speaks to me more. Thank you!'

Booking essential

Please quote the course ID

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TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS



Supporting Links
Promoting Strong Family Relationships

Thursdays 9.45-11.15am Course: ID 651
18th April - 23rd May 2024

Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm Course: ID 652
4th June - 9th July 2024

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children with any additional need from 2-25. Your child does not need a diagnosis to join.

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict, anger and arguments.
- Improve Emotional Regulation
- Explore sensory needs.
- Motivate, encourage and support your child.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage the different needs within your family.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'I have been on a few courses to help me with my son, this was by far the most helpful.'

Booking essential

Please quote the course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:

07512 709556

bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk



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TALKING ANXIETY in TEENS



Supporting Links
Promoting Strong Family Relationships

Tuesdays 7.45-9.30pm Online Course: ID 655
4th June - 9th July 2024

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of 12-19 year olds, supporting you to:

- Understand why young people and adults get anxious.
- Develop strategies to handle anxiety in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anxiety and be able to avoid escalation.
- Reduce stress and tension.
- Encourage resilient behaviour and strengthen relationships in the family.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'This course has helped us all to cope day to day.'

Booking essential

Please quote the course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:

07512 709556

bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk



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TALKING ANGER in FAMILIES



Supporting Links
Promoting Strong Family Relationships

Wednesdays 9.45-11.30pm Online Course: ID 654
17th April - 22nd May 2024

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 0-12, supporting you to:

- Understand why children, young people and adults get angry.
- Develop strategies to handle anger in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anger and be able to avoid escalation.
- Reduce conflicts and arguments.
- Encourage positive behaviour and strengthen relationships in the family.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'Their anger used to scare me. I now feel able to cope with it, and even help.'

Booking essential

Please quote the course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:

07512 709556

bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk



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TALKING FAMILIES



Supporting Links
Promoting Strong Family Relationships

Tuesdays 8.00-9.30pm Online Course: ID 656
16th April - 21st May 2024

Tuesdays 8.00-9.30pm Online Course: ID 653
4th June - 9th July 2024

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 0-12 sharing

- Manage challenging behaviour with consistency
- Encourage positive behaviour
- Build your child's self esteem
- Set and maintain boundaries
- Respond to tantrums and difficult feelings in children
- Develop a strong parent/child relationship.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or

'Every parent should do this course! It has taught me so much about how to deal with family life.'

Booking essential

Please quote the course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:

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