



Weekly Newsletter

28 March 2024

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Our school value for this half-term is



Dear Parents/Carers

What an active last week of term we have had, as always! Highlights this week have included two concerts (The Harpenden School Spring Festival, where our Y5 singers joined the massed choir of almost 120 children from across the town and a combined concert band from the town's secondary schools, plus our own music evening last night, where our instrumentalists entertained us with solos, duets, trios and ensembles of mostly woodwind, but also including violins and a French horn), two Speakers' Cup finals, a visit from the Harpenden fire brigade to our Reception classes and our House Ambassadors' sponsored bunny hop today. Pictures of many of these events and more overleaf...

The sponsored bunny hop is in aid of Carers in Hertfordshire – Young Carers, and the children and staff did really well today, managing to dodge the rain (if not the mud – sorry parents!) to complete the requisite number of circuits of the track for each year group. Bess and I managed to join in for a few laps too. The JustGiving page has already raised almost £1,800 and if parents or friends and family would still like to give, [the fundraising page](#) will remain open for the next week or so. Thank you everyone.

Our Speakers' Cup finals took place yesterday afternoon (Key Stage 2) and this morning (Key Stage 1) and it was lovely to see family members for each finalist in the audience along with the rest of the school. Congratulations to the finalists representing each class as follows:

Year 1	Joshua PW Lev SophieW Emmie	Year 3	William Leoni
		Year 4	George Theo
Year 2	Alex Joshua Ella William D	Year 5	Elise Rhea
		Year 6	Logan Sienna

The speakers spoke on a diverse range of subjects, from ADHD to Star Wars and from the Premier League to Pythons, and each was engaging and informative. The staff jury selected an overall winner for each and a further *highly commended* for infant and junior sections. For infants, these were Ella (highly commended for her talk on *pythons*) and Sophie (overall winner for her talk on *Roald Dahl*). For juniors, Sienna (highly commended for her talk on *allergies*) and Logan (overall winner for his talk on *earworms – stuck song syndrome*).

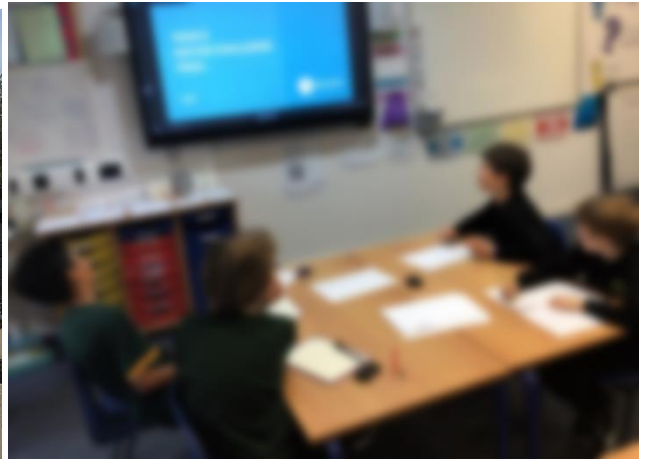
I would like to wish all the children and their families a very happy Easter and would like to thank our fantastic staff team who have worked so hard with the children this term, not only for developing challenging and engaging learning experiences for them, but also for supporting the many events and activities that have taken place in recent weeks and that go beyond the normal curriculum.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker

Headteacher

The Week in Pictures



Headteacher Awards

So many congratulations. Firstly, congratulations to Erin from Year 4 Maple Class who visited the Town Hall yesterday to be presented with her prize for the short story competition by the mayor. Secondly, congratulations to the team of mathematicians from Year 5 Ash Class who participated in the final of the HFL Y5 Maths Challenge yesterday afternoon. They were selected to participate in the final (along with 28 other) out of the 300 teams who entered the initial stage of the competition and came a very, very respectable 7th place! Brilliant! Lastly, today we also congratulated the following children who were nominated for headteacher awards this week.

- **Reception Chestnut Class** Bella For using her phonics when writing sentences. Well Done!
Xavier For super investigation skills while exploring magnets. Well done!
- **Reception Oak Class** Jamie For making great progress with phonics and reading digraphs in words.
Oliver For making great progress with his independent reading and writing.
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Sadie For writing a brilliant explanation text about spring and for even doing extra planning in her own time!
Sienna For trying hard in phonics and reading with expression! Well done!
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Ellie For a super start to your explanation text about Spring. Well done!
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Hektor For an excellent investigation into measuring mass. Well done!
Joshua For preparing and presenting a superb speakers cup on Harry Potter. Your confidence shines through beautifully!
Alexandra For preparing and presenting a fascinating speakers cup on Winiarski with a big smile on her face!
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Hannah For working really hard in class and at home and making good progress.
Emma For demonstrating excellent cookery skills and working well as a group to make vegan cheese scones.
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Eva For showing resilience and positivity when sewing a pencil case.
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Hugo For using a familiar poem to write an effective version of his own
Emma For her creativity and resilience when designing and creating a pencil case.
Darcie For working hard to master both whip stitch and running stitch in DT.
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Harry For working hard to improve his presentation and handwriting
Clara For writing a very descriptive and well-structured poem in English
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Cadiz For using fronted adverbials to write a lovely poem about daffodils.
Elizabeth For carefully formed handwriting with correct joins.
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Asher For his detailed and well-structured biography on the life of Marie Curie.
Calvin For his continued enthusiasm for learning and hard work to improve his writing.
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Jessika Making great use of cohesive sentence structures to write an interesting biography of Marie Curie
Isla Making the extra effort to join her (already very neat) handwriting.
- **Year 6 Rowan Class** Caleb For working hard in maths and taking pride in your progress.
Henry For fantastic focus in maths – checking answers carefully and explaining your reasoning.
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Oliver For working fantastically in a group whilst undertaking a science investigation.
Hunter For working really hard to unpick tricky maths questions all to do with finding the mean.

Message from the Governing Body – Annual Survey Closes tomorrow (29 March 2024)

Thank you to those who have already completed our annual parent survey. The survey comprises of 19 tick box questions and an opportunity at the end to provide more information or details if parents wish. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete and parents can do so by following [this link](#).

Supporting Families

Celebrating and Understanding Neurodiversity

Thank you to the parents involved with our neurodiversity week, last week. Special thanks to Gemma Randall, who was part of the group who set up the umbrellas and whom I understand has been sending links out via WhatsApp groups and to Erin for her posters with QR codes that have been displayed on the school fences.

Parents may also be interested to know that we are developing a stock of books about neurodiversity for parents and families to borrow and these are now displayed in the main entrance foyer, where parents can browse and sign out any that they wish to read at home.

Holiday Activities

Please see attached information on new *Creative Crafters*, a new offering run by Mrs Sarah Ward, on a trial basis, in the second week of the Easter break, and *LET's Perform* drama and musical theatre courses running over the summer holidays. As with Apex Sports and Baking Buddies, both are run by school staff but operating independently from the school and hiring our facilities during school holidays.

Community Matters



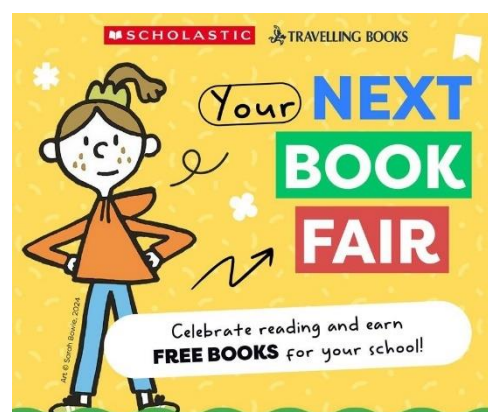
Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Elm and Rowan classes who have the best attendance this week, with 99% and 98.1% respectively.

Book Fair

The fantastic Scholastic book fair will be in school during the week after the Easter holidays (17 to 21 April 2024) and parents will be able to browse and buy outside the front entrance (or inside the dining area, if weather dictates) at the end of each day after school.



Diary Dates

Amendments and additions to previously published events shown in purple

Mon 15 April 2024	<i>School opens for Summer term</i>
6 May 2024	<i>School closed for Early May Bank Holiday</i>
13-17 May 2024	<i>KS2 Tests</i>
22-24 May 2024	<i>Year 6 Residential</i>
23 May 2024, 9am	<i>Year 5 Ash class assembly</i>
23 May 2024, 2:30pm	<i>Year 5 Hawthorn class assembly</i>
24 May 2024	<i>School closes for half-term break</i>
4 June 2024	<i>School opens for Summer term 2</i>
3 – 21 June 2024	<i>Y4 Multiplication Tables Check window</i>
7 June 2024	<i>Music on the Field event</i>
10-11 June 2024	<i>Year 4 Residential</i>
10-14 June 2024	<i>Y1 Phonics Screening Check</i>
Friday 14 June 2024	<i>FoHBS Golf Day</i>
20 June 2024, 1:30pm	<i>Y5/6 Sports Day</i>
25 June 2024, 1:15pm	<i>Y3/4 Sports Day</i>
27 June 2024, 1pm	<i>YR/1/2 Sports Day</i>
Sunday 7 July 2024	<i>FOHBS Summer Fair</i>
12 July 2024	<i>Pupil reports out to parents</i>
15 and 16 July 2024, 6:00pm	<i>Year 6 Leavers' Production</i>
17 July, 9:30am	<i>HB's Got Talent</i>
Thursday 18 July, 9am	<i>Year 6 Leavers' Assembly</i>
Thurs 18 July, 5:30-7:30pm	<i>Year 6 Leavers' Event</i>
19 July 2023, 1:30pm	<i>School closes for summer holiday</i>