



Weekly Newsletter

17th October 2025

Making learning a lifelong adventure

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

Dear Parents/Carers

On Tuesday morning, we held our annual harvest festival and it was such a joyful occasion. Although the children in Reception are not quite ready to attend whole school gatherings, we were able to include all the children and staff from Years 1 to 6 (rather than following our usual pattern of assemblies in smaller groups) and this really added to the sense of occasion. It also meant that the children could enjoy watching songs and a rap prepared by the different groups, as well as joining in the *Harvest Handclap* song as one big group. As well as the KS1 rendition of *Big Blue Tractor* and KS2's *What the Harvest Brings*, Year 1 produced an excellent rap – *The Harvest Rap* - which I believe has been shared on Seesaw.



I am always impressed by the generosity of High Beeches families and this year really was a bumper year, with an astonishing amount of food for the King's Pantry and lots of hygiene items for Harpenden Hygiene Bank. This generosity resonated with Revd John Fellows's talk at the harvest festival, in which he spoke about the real abundance of fruits, nuts and berries there is this year. Known as a *mast* year, this apparently follows a 5-year cycle and, although not a great deal is known about exactly why it happens with such regularity, it is associated with the balance of warm weather and rainfall in the spring and summer this year and it is certainly something to be thankful for.

This afternoon our Reception children completed their *fun run*. See picture below. Challenged to do 4 laps of the all-weather track, they truly excelled themselves completing between 6 and 16 laps. It looked great fun and even helped with their counting skills. After a well-earned rest on the field, they then had the opportunity to explore the trim-trail on the main playground for the first time. They will sleep well tonight! As I write the sponsorship for the fun run has just reached our target of £3,000. This is amazing. Thank you so much to everyone who donated. You can check out the total or make a donation [here](#).

Next week brings us to the end of the first half of term and we look forward to seeing parents at the consultations on either Tuesday or Thursday.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



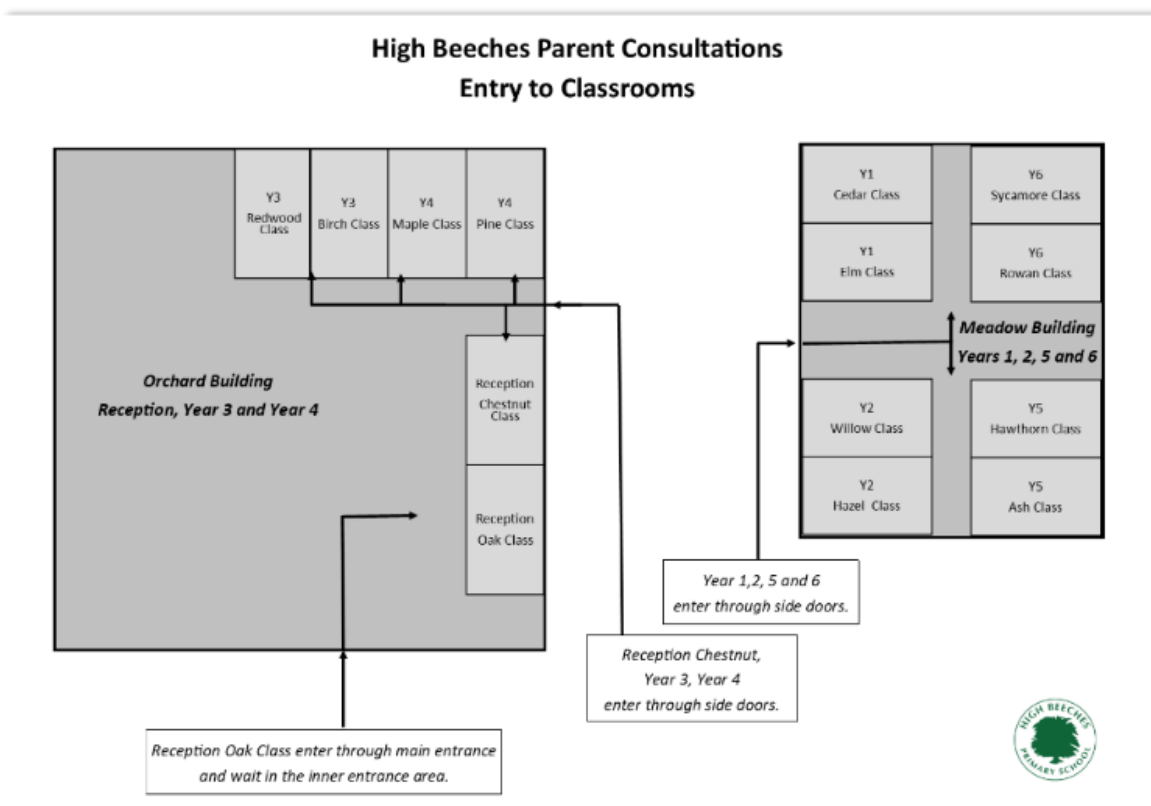
Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Arthur	For persevering and trying his best when cutting with scissors.
	Menaya	For painting a wonderful self-portrait.
• Reception Oak Class	Alice	For painting a lovely self-portrait and looking carefully in the mirror.
	Lottie	For painting a lovely self-portrait by looking carefully in the mirror.
	Flossie	For writing some super sentences in her 'My Feelings' book, making sure she uses perfect capital letters.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Luca	For working so hard on his reading at home and at school.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Evelyn	For her fantastic writing in her My Feelings book.
	Elodie	For always listening and trying her best.
	Ellie	For producing an amazing colourful finished piece in Art, inspired by Henri Matisse.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Layth	For being extremely proud of his writing in English this week. Keep up the good work!
• Year 2 Willow Class	Finn	For being a great learning partner. Well done!
	Ottilie	For super effort in reading and comprehension. Well done!
	Emilia	For writing and publishing an excellent poem inspired by 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright.
• Year 3 Birch Class	Mubarak	For always showing kindness and being a thoughtful member of class.
	Luca	For writing an effective poem using alliteration and appealing to all the readers' senses
	Mistry	For consistent, super behaviour for learning and for always being such a kind, pleasant member of the class.
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Hannah	For showing great effort and determination during maths lessons on column subtraction this week.
	Ella	For working brilliantly with others whiles exploring way to strengthen materials in D+T.
	Barnaby	For maintaining her always-superb learning behaviour this week.
• Year 4 Maple Class	Tzu-Yun	For a great effort to work independently in Maths.
	Inaaya	For drawing well thought out conclusions in science based on the results of an investigation.
	Oscar	For creating such a detailed plan for a descriptive piece in English and including so many elements of the success criteria.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Harrison	For being diligent and helpful while making quiche pastry in DT
	Ellie	For your excellent research and fact file on Saint Aidan
	Mia Hart	For responding to feedback and looking for ways to up level her writing
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Robyn	For engaging well in history and presenting his research on seesaw
	DJ	For approaching our mock SATs week with determination, focus and resilience. She's shown high levels of concentration to show us how much she's learnt already.
	Ariadna	For his superb art work this week. We have been scaling up a model of a dog from 4x4cm to 10x10cm and Teddy completed the sketch of the enlarged silhouette with ease.
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Teddy	For some great throwing and catching work with his partner. Well done!
	Milo	For some great throwing and catching work with his partner. Well done!
	Sofia	For helping her team by holding her position/space on the pitch and not just following the ball. Good awareness! Well done!
• PE Awards Infants	Liliana	For showing some excellent, calm ball control and dribbling this week. Well done!
	Astrid	
• PE Awards Juniors		

Supporting Families

Parent consultations will be taking place in classrooms on Tuesday and Thursday next week. Parents are invited to enter as detailed below and to wait outside their child's classroom prior to the consultation, where some of their child's work will be available to view. It would be preferable if children did not attend as we are unable to provide for them whilst the meeting takes place.



Sports Desk

Mr George took a large group of Year 5 and 6 children to Harpenden Rugby Club for the Tag-Rugby Festival on Tuesday. This was a friendly event and we were able to field four teams, all of whom played really well and enjoyed the opportunity to play against pupils from near-by schools. As ever, thank you to the parents who provided transport and team support.

Staying Safe

Parking Update

We have had visits from the St Albans parking enforcement team and PCSOs from Hertfordshire Constabulary at the beginning and end of the school day in the last two weeks and I know that a number of parents have been sending images like these (taken earlier this week) to illegalparking@stalbans.gov.uk.



Further Information and Reminders

Second-hand School Uniform.

'We have had lots of queries as to what has happened to the second-hand uniform team and wanted to say we are still here and still keen to organise collections and sales! At the moment everything is just on hold as there is currently no storage while the plumbing work is ongoing at the school. However, we do hope to be up and running again before the end of the autumn term. In the meantime, please do not take uniform donations into the entrance foyer. There is a Facebook page that can be used to buy/sell/donate uniform at [High Beeches Pre-Loved](#).

Thank you for everyone's continued support. We hope to be back up and running soon!

Tesia and Nikki'

Holiday Clubs for Half Term

- ✓ [Apex Sports](#) – Sports Activities with Mr George – 29th to 31st Oct
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – 27th, 28th and 31st Oct
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing activities with Mrs Ward – Monday 27th Oct



Attendance

Congratulations to Elm and Pine classes who have the best attendance this week, with 100% attendance.

To notify school of medical appointments or Secondary school visits please complete [this form](#) found on the school website.

Lunchtime Help

We really appreciate the parents and grandparents that give up an hour of their day to help at lunchtimes. We are always in need of extra people, especially if staff are unexpectedly absent. So, thank you to those who regularly help or have stepped in at short notice in recent days.

If any other parents or carers have a spare hour they can give occasionally to help out please sign up via [this link](#).

Correspondence to school

In order that the school office team are able to respond to enquiries as promptly as possible, parents are reminded to include their child's forename, surname and class on all correspondences, including email and voicemail messages.

Diary Dates

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W/b 20 October 2025	Parent Consultations	• Tuesday 21, 3:45 to 7pm • Thursday 23, 3:45 to 7pm
Tuesday 21 October 2025, 6:45pm	FOHBS AGM	
24 October, 4, 13 and 27 November	Open Mornings for entry to Reception in September 2026.	
	Book a place via the school website	
Friday 24 October 2025	School closes for half-term break at normal time	
Monday 3 November 2025	School opens for autumn Term 2	
Friday 14 November 2025, 3pm	Year 4 Open Classrooms	
Wednesday 26 November 2025, 3pm	Year 6 Open Classrooms	
Thursday 27 November 2025, 3pm	Year 1 Open Classrooms	
Thursday 27 November 2025, 3pm	Year 5 Open Classrooms	
Friday 28 November 2025, 3pm	Year 3 Open Classrooms	
Monday 1 December 2025	School closed for Occasional Day	
Thursday 4 December 2025, 9:15am	Reception Nativity 1 st performance	
Friday 5 December 2025, 9:15am	Reception Nativity 2 nd performance	
Wed 3 December 2025	Year 6 Choir attends Rotary in Harpenden Carol Service at High Street Methodist Church	
Saturday 6 December 2025	Provisional date for FoHBS Christmas Fair	
Tuesday 9 December 2025	Year 2 Nativity	• 1:30pm - Hazel Class • 2:30pm - Willow Class
10 December 2025, 6pm	Choir to attend Mayor of Harpenden's Carol Service	
Friday 12 December 2025, 2:30pm	Year 1 Christmas Carols around the Tree	
Friday 12 December 2025, 3pm	Year 2 Open Classrooms	
Wednesday 17 Dec 2025	5pm - KS2 Green and Yellow House Carol Service	
	6:30pm - KS2 Blue and Red House Carol Service	
Thurs 18 December 2025	School Christmas dinner, discos and L & D Christmas Jumper Day	
Friday 19 December 2025, 2pm	School closes at 2pm for Christmas holiday	