



Weekly Newsletter

10 October 2025

Making learning a lifelong adventure

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

Dear Parents/Carers

This Week in School

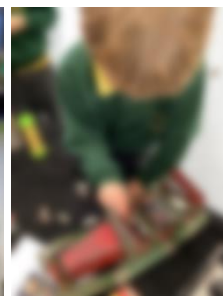
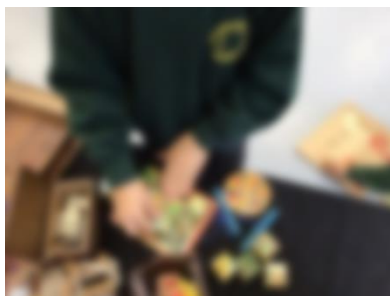
This week our Year 3 pupils visited Celtic Harmony to learn about life in Stone-age Britain and the children in Year 1 enjoyed a hands-on workshop in school all about the history of toys. Thanks to the army of parent helpers who attended along with the Year 1 staff team. See pictures below.

On Monday we had visitors from both the Kings Pantry Foodbank and the Harpenden Hygiene Bank to talk to the children in assembly about their work, prior to our harvest festival on Tuesday next week.

The children can bring donations for both the food and hygiene banks straight to the hall on Tuesday morning before going into class. Mrs Sands has been helping the children in Years 1 to 6 to prepare some songs to sing in the harvest festival and I enjoyed hearing those in Year 3 practising their song *What the Harvest Brings* as I walked past earlier this week. I look forward to listening to and joining in with all the children's songs on Tuesday as well as to Rev'd John Fellows's harvest thoughts.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



Staying Safe - Alert Regarding Books by Andy Cope

The children's publisher Puffin has issued an alert regarding books authored by Andy Cope including those in the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pup series.

Within the books, there is a link which encourages children to find out about additional information told during the story. The link is intended to take children to Mr Cope's webpage, however the domain is no longer owned by him and instead the link will direct children to a webpage now owned by a third party. This third party is publishing pornographic content. There is no suggestion that Puffin or Mr Cope are responsible for the pornographic materials, and the content of the actual stories are fine to read, however if any children access the link with the intent to learn more about the story online they will be exposed to highly inappropriate materials.

Puffin has paused sales, and libraries and retailers have removed these books from their shelves until further notice. We have removed all books from our school library and class book corners. Parents are advised to do the same, if they have copies at home as well as to ensure that parental controls are activated on devices that children use. More information on parental controls can be found [here](#) and a BBC News article on the alert can be found [here](#).



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Jackson	For using his phonics to write independently.
	Grace	For amazing participation in Music and for sharing the work Maraca with the class.
• Reception Oak Class	Emma	For making a brilliant start with phonics and reading.
	Astrid	For great listening
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Esmé	For writing a super list in computing remembering capital letters for names!
	Cooper	For being an excellent role model by being kind and working so hard.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Freddie	For his brilliant work in maths regrouping numbers and recording as a part whole model and number sentence.
	Benji	For his fantastic poem using carefully selected adjectives to describe.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Noah	For a brilliant list poem. Your punctuation and presentation set a super example to others.
	Aima	For showing excellent learning behaviours and engaging well in all lessons. You are a great learning partner.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Evelyn	For a great attitude to learning all week. Well Done!
	Zac	For settling into High Beeches. Well Done!
• Year 3 Birch Class	Whole class	For showing such kindness working as a team and being enthusiastic on our school trip to Celtic Harmony.
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Whole class	For showing such kindness towards each other and enthusiasm on our school trip to Celtic Harmony
• Year 4 Maple Class	Isla HJ	for showing brilliant behaviour for learning at all times, you are a great role model!
	Saarah	for working hard to include a range of persuasive features when writing her speech in English.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Siana	For a well-argued persuasive speech in English
	Elliot	For taking action to be friendly and supportive to others.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Maxim	For always showing kindness and empathy toward others and fostering a supportive classroom environment.
	Amy	For showing such great understanding of characters in English
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Rafe	For some fantastic description when describing a tea plantation in India.
	Eddie	For showing great understanding of air resistance while concluding and evaluating our investigation.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Evie s	For her effort, determination and enthusiasm to master BIDMAS
	Nikolai	For asking thoughtful questions in science to further his learning
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Evie	For her excellent application of the BIDMAS rules in our mathematics learning this week.
	Erin	For her ability to lead others with confidence and kindness. This week she has demonstrated this leading a group to create a WW2 radio broadcast that was excellent!

Sports Desk

Reception Fun Run - Fundraiser

Over the years, all of our children have really enjoyed the time they spend on the outdoor play equipment in Reception - the balance bikes, trikes, giant Lego bricks, wooden building blocks - the list goes on! These activities make a big contribution to the children's overall learning and development. As well as developing their physical strength, control, coordination and balance, they help develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination for writing and promote communication and social skills and even brain development!

As with all things that are loved and used regularly, many of these play items are at the end of their life and need replacing and this is where we are asking for your help!

The children in Reception are doing a sponsored Fun Run next Friday 17th October and would love you to sponsor them! They will be completing laps of the sports track, with the staff, all in aid of their new equipment and parents and friends of the school are invited to [donate via this link](#). We are hoping to raise £2,000 and donations have already surpassed £1,200. HUGE THANKS to those who have generously donated already, on behalf of all those who have had previous happy playtimes and in advance of any siblings who will be benefitting in the future!

Girls' Football League

The girls' football team visited Redbourn Primary School this week to play their final two games. Showing great resilience and determination they drew against Redbourn and sadly lost 2-0 to The Lea. Well done girls. We are proud of you!

Community Matters

Two of our local firework displays are offering commission to FoHBS when High Beeches parents book tickets for their events. Please see details below and follow the links to purchase your tickets and benefit our school!

Harpenden Rugby Football Club

Sunday 2 November - Gates open at 4pm and the show starts at 6pm

Join Harpenden Rugby Football Club for their annual community fireworks with a DJ, food village, drinks marquee & entertainment and 25% going to FoHBS! [Buy your tickets here!](#)

Katherine Warrington School

Friday 7 November - doors open at 6pm, fireworks at 7pm

KWS are hosting their fantastic low bang display and there promises to be lots of great music and delicious refreshments on site. Please [use this link](#) to purchase your tickets and 10% of the ticket sales will go to FoHBS!

Further Information and Reminders

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



Lunchtime Help

We really appreciate the parents and grand parents 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](#).

Its 12-1 and a great opportunity to see another part of your child's school day and the kids love to see a familiar face.

Parent Consultations

Consultations for 21 and 23 October are still available to book on Arbor or via the app. We apologise that some parents have been unable to book a place due to apparently limited availability. This was due to an error arising from the way teachers are linked to multiple classes within the system. In order to fix this issue, we have had to use the names of the class teaching assistant rather than the class teachers in some classes. However, please

note that all consultations will still be with the class teacher as originally planned. Any parents who still experience difficulty booking are requested to contact the class teacher or school office and we will endeavour to enter your booking onto the system manually.

Attendance

Congratulations to Hazel and Maple classes who have the best attendance this week, with 100% and 99.3% attendance.

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

Highway Code – Expectations for Areas Around Schools

The Highway Code requires drivers to slow down and be vigilant near schools, especially when flashing amber signals or signs are present, and to stop for School Crossing Patrols. **You must never park on yellow zig-zag lines or school entrance markings, which are designed to protect children by keeping the area clear for visibility.** Additionally, drivers should pass stationary school buses/coaches carefully as children may be getting on or off.



- **Drive slowly and cautiously:** Be especially aware of children and young cyclists.
- **Flashing amber lights:** If you see a school warning sign with a flashing amber signal, drive very slowly until you are clear of the area, as children may be crossing.
- **School Crossing Patrols:** You MUST stop if a School Crossing Patrol officer shows a "Stop for children" sign.
- **Stationary School Buses/Coaches:** Pass stationary school buses/Coaches displaying "School Bus" signs with extreme care.
- **Yellow Zig-Zag Markings:** Do not stop, wait, or park on yellow zig-zag lines or "School Keep Clear" markings outside schools.
- **Time Plates:** Pay attention to time plates near zig-zag markings, which often indicate busy periods (e.g., 8-9 am and 3-4:30 pm) when children are most likely to be present.

Diary Dates

New and amended dates are shown in purple in future newsletters.

Friday 10 October 2025	<i>FoHBS 80's & 90's Disco</i>
Tuesday 14 October 2025	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
Friday 17 October 2025	<i>FoHBS Movie Night - Years 1 to 3</i>
W/b 20 October 2025	<i>Parent Consultations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 21, 3:45 to 7pm • Thursday 23, 3:45 to 7pm
Tuesday 21 October 2025, 6:45pm	<i>FOHBS AGM</i>
24 October, 4, 13 and 27 November	<i>Open Mornings for entry to Reception in September 2026. Book a place via the school website</i>
Friday 24 October 2025	<i>School closes for half-term break at normal time</i>
Monday 3 November 2025	<i>School opens for autumn Term 2</i>
Friday 14 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 4 Open Classrooms</i>
Wednesday 26 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 6 Open Classrooms</i>
Thursday 27 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 1 Open Classrooms</i>
Thursday 27 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 5 Open Classrooms</i>
Friday 28 November 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 3 Open Classrooms</i>
Monday 1 December 2025	<i>School closed for Occasional Day</i>
Thursday 4 December 2025, 9:15am	<i>Reception Nativity 1st performance</i>
Friday 5 December 2025, 9:15am	<i>Reception Nativity 2nd performance</i>

Wed 3 December 2025	<i>Year 6 Choir attends Rotary in Harpenden Carol Service at High Street Methodist Church</i>
Saturday 6 December 2025	<i>Provisional date for FoHBS Christmas Fair</i>
Tuesday 9 December 2025	<i>Year 2 Nativity</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:30pm - Hazel Class • 2:30pm - Willow Class
10 December 2025, 6pm	<i>Choir to attend Mayor of Harpenden's Carol Service</i>
Friday 12 December 2025, 2:30pm	<i>Year 1 Christmas Carols around the Tree</i>
Friday 12 December 2025, 3pm	<i>Year 2 Open Classrooms</i>
Wednesday 17 Dec 2025	<i>5pm - KS2 Green and Yellow House Carol Service</i> <i>6:30pm - KS2 Blue and Red House Carol Service</i>
Thurs 18 December 2025	<i>School Christmas dinner, discos and L & D Christmas Jumper Day</i>
Friday 19 December 2025, 2pm	<i>School closes at 2pm for Christmas holiday</i>

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

The Governing Body are seeking to appoint a new governor and are looking for someone with a passion for supporting the school in maintaining and continually improving on its existing high standards.

The successful person will be a good team player who possesses the ability to think strategically and creatively. Some experience of education and/or HR would help ensure the governing body maintains a good breadth of skills and experience, but is not essential.

Governors attend four full governing body meetings each year (in the evenings, a mixture of in school and online) and three committee meetings (these may be in school time or evenings), and are expected to visit during the school day a small number of times each year.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Matt Tang, Chair of Governors for further information and an informal chat about the role by Monday 13 October.

chairofgovernors@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk

High Beeches Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and requires all members of its community to share this commitment. As such, all appointments to