



## Weekly Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

*Making learning a lifelong adventure*

*Celebrating all those with mothering responsibilities, past and present - Happy Mothering Sunday!*

Dear Parents/Carers

The school has been quite a frenzy of activity this week, with a number of curriculum events and a good deal of sporting competition.

In our start the week assembly this week, our House Ambassadors reviewed some of their favourite books as they looked back on World Book Day from the previous week, and Mrs Shewbridge led a reflection on International Women's Day (which took place last Sunday, 8 March) celebrating the achievement of girls and women and exploring the importance of ensuring there are equal opportunities for girls and women, and boys and men. This [video](#) from *She Can Tech* which was used in the assembly provides a useful explanation of the history and value of International Women's Day. Mrs Shewbridge also looked forward to this coming Sunday (15 March), which is Mothering Sunday in the UK.

This week is British Science week and our Year 6 Science Leaders led an interesting assembly to children in Years 1 to 6 on Tuesday and organised and ran their own science quiz during the week. All the classes have had some additional hands-on science investigations to complete throughout the week and our Year 5 classes attended a special STEM activity day at Abbots Hill School in Hemel Hempstead where they dissected a sheep's heart (see picture below), used a 3D printer and built some interesting structures.



Pupils in Year 5 also enjoyed an engaging workshop on the Mayan civilization on Wednesday (pictured above) and the children Reception explored a whole range of the Early Years areas of learning through their Little City sessions yesterday (pictured at top of page).

Congratulations to Alex in Year 1 and Leoni in Year 5, both of whom were awarded second prize in the Harpenden Schools Writing Competition for their persuasive letters.

Yours faithfully

*Jonathan Walker*  
Headteacher

### STOP PRESS!

Comic Relief is fast approaching next week on Friday 20 March and the School Council would like us all to do something funny for money! This will not be a full multi-day, but children are invited to paint their nose red, wear a red nose or create a crazy hair style (wash-out-hair-dye, chalk and gel allowed), they can also bring in a joke to share in class and enjoy a Red Nose Day treat prepared by our school catering team. Parents will be asked to donate online!

## Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Chestnut Class**
  - Henry For super writing in phonics and finger strong activities.
  - Arthur For amazing tidying up and for being so helpful!
  - Emma W For making great contributions in class, sharing what she knows with others.
- **Reception Oak Class**
  - Lucas For making really good progress with his writing, using his phonics really well.
  - Alex For a great performance of the class poem this week!
- **Year 1 Cedar Class**
  - Albert For a careful presentation when writing his story 'Albert Walks to school'.
  - Esmé For a great performance of the class poem this week!
  - Hudson For his brilliant work in English writing his own story and making a book.
- **Year 1 Elm Class**
  - Lydia For her fantastic problem solving in Maths
  - Noah C For being more independent in Maths this week. You have learnt to subtract using base 10 with increasing confidence!
- **Year 2 Hazel Class**
  - Eden For starting to apply some of our learnt joins in her writing. Keep it up to ensure you write smoothly and fluently!
- **Year 2 Willow Class**
  - Okith For following steps carefully, and not rushing, in Maths. Well done.
  - Margot For putting effort in to her handwriting and presentation. Well done!
  - Isla P For excellent presentation and handwriting across all areas of learning. Well done!
- **Year 3 Birch Class**
  - Isla S For fantastic skill and knowledge in DT in preparation for making her own pencil case. Well done!
- **Year 3 Redwood Class**
  - Sadie For her careful joined handwriting with clear ascenders and descenders.
  - Miles For his super science learning investigating friction.
- **Year 4 Maple Class**
  - Rosie For working hard to create a fantastic 'portal story' in English.
  - Eli For using neat and joined handwriting in all of his work.
- **Year 4 Pine Class**
  - Ayesha For her excellent contributions to our science lesson
  - Rafe For his riveting story in English.
- **Year 4 Ash Class**
  - Darcie For making good progress with your handwriting.
  - Chloe J For a beautifully descriptive recount using personification to great effect.
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class**
  - Jacob For your enthusiasm and engagement during our Maya workshop
  - Nina For your continued work on improving your handwriting and pencil grip.
  - Carla For brilliant teamwork when writing their narrative, using dialogue effectively and experimenting with challenging archaic language.
- **Year 6 Rowan Class**
  - Amari For brilliant teamwork when writing their narrative, using dialogue effectively and experimenting with challenging archaic language.
  - Amara For her excellent entry to the writing competition last week. Even though her entry didn't win overall – it was a fabulous read – great effort!
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class**
  - Mohammed For demonstrating impeccable manners at all times and carrying himself with high levels of maturity – upholding school values at all times!
- **PE Awards Infants**
  - Rayyan For great work as a goalkeeper in PE this week. Well done!
  - Kit For super work on his running technique. Well done!
- **PE Awards Juniors**
  - Saarah For some excellent work on her overarm bowling in cricket. Well done!
  - Ethan For some excellent work on his overarm bowling in cricket. Well done!

## Sports Desk

In our celebration assembly today, we commended the football and netball teams on their excellent sportsmanship and effort this week in both league matches and tournaments.

On Monday our netball teams visited Grove Junior School. The A team fought hard and scored four goals against a very strong Grove team, but couldn't quite equal their tally, whilst the Bs did not concede a single goal and won by an enormous margin! Meanwhile, the football teams hosted Woodend the same afternoon for a 1-1 draw for the A team and a 4-0 win for the Bs.

On Wednesday the footballers made a reciprocal visit to Wood End for their tournament, winning one of their games and drawing two. Finally, the netballers went to the KWS courts for their tournament in high winds yesterday afternoon. Despite the wind whisking a lot of balls away from their intended target, they won 4 of their matches, only losing against the eventual overall winners.

## Community Matters



# Children's Photography Competition 2026

We are pleased to share that this year to celebrate National CPRE's centenary, we as a local branch will be running a special Centenary Photography Competition for children to enter!

The theme this year is any photographic image that celebrates Hertfordshire - whether it's capturing the peaceful waterways of our unique chalkstreams and rivers, the stunning scenery of the Chilterns National Landscape or the beauty of our ancient woodlands.

Please can you share with the children and encourage them to participate and of course staff can participate too as this year we also have an adults category.

There are two categories for the children to enter:

1. Children's Photographer of the Year (10 years and below)
2. Children's Photographer of the Year (11 – 17 years)

### Competition timings

- Entry Deadline: Friday 12th June
- Shortlist Announced & Public Voting Opens: Monday 22nd June
- Voting Closes: Sunday 28th June
- Winners Announced: Wednesday 8th July

### How to enter

Email your photograph to: [office@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:office@cpreherts.org.uk) using the subject line: Centenary Photograph Competition. Please ensure you add: a description of the location in Hertfordshire and why it meets the criteria, when it was taken, the photographer's name and contact details (email address and/or phone), and the category they are entering for.

## Further Information and Reminders

### Communication with School Office

Please could parents and carers remember to put their child's full name and class in all correspondence with school. This really helps us to deal with queries more swiftly.

### Attendance

Congratulations to Elm and Birch classes who have the best attendance this week, with 99.2% and 99.3% attendance.

Do take a look at our [new attendance page](#) on our website for information on how to notify us of absence.

High Beeches Primary School, Aldwickbury Crescent, Harpenden, AL5 5SD 01582 767966  
[admin@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk) [www.highbeeches.herts.sch.uk](http://www.highbeeches.herts.sch.uk) [@highbeechesprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/highbeechesprimaryschool)

## Holiday Clubs running in school over the Easter Holiday

- ✓ [Apex Sports](#) – Sports Activities with Mr George – 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> March 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> April
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> April
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing with Mrs Ward – 1<sup>st</sup> April



## Diary Dates *New or amended events*

Monday 9 March 2026	<i>Year 5 Science Workshop at Abbotshill School</i>
Wednesday 11 March 2026	<i>Year 5 Mayan Workshop</i>
Thursday 12 March, 3pm & Friday 13 March 2026, 8:45am 16 to 27 March 2026	<i>Year 3 Open Classrooms</i> <i>The Big Walk and Wheel Challenge</i>
Tuesday 17 March 2026, 6pm	<i>Spring Music Evening – instrumentalist concert</i>
Saturday 21 March 2026	<i>FoHBS Easter Egg Hunt</i>
Thursday 19 March, 3pm & Friday 20 March 2026, 8:45am	<i>Year 6 Open Classrooms</i>
Thursday 19 March, 3pm & Friday 20 March 2026, 8:45am	<i>Year 2 Open Classrooms</i>
Friday 20 March 2026	<i>Comic Relief – Red Nose Day</i>
Monday 23 March 2026	<i>Mid-year Reports for Reception to Year 5</i>
Tuesday 24 March 2026	<i>Spring Festival – invited choir</i>
24 and 26 March 2026, 3:45 to 7pm	<i>Parent Consultations for Reception to Year 5</i>
Wednesday 25 March 2026	<i>KS2 Speakers’ Cup Final</i>
Thursday 26 March 2026	<i>KS1 Speakers’ Cup Final</i>
Friday 27 March 2026, 2pm	<i>School closes for Easter holiday</i>
Thurs/Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	<i>Year 4 PACCAR</i>
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	<i>Y6 Hemel Snow Dome</i>
Wednesday 20 May – 22 May	<i>Y6 PACCAR Trip</i>
Thursday 4 June	<i>Class Group Photographs</i>
Tuesday 9 June 2026	<i>Reception trip to Hertfordshire Zoo</i>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	<i>Y3 Kew Gardens Visit</i>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	<i>Y5 Young Mariners Visit</i>
Monday 6 July 2026	<i>Y1 Woburn Safari Park Visit</i>

**LITTLE LEGENDS**  
SPORTS ACADEMY

The **BRAND NEW** toddler (1.5-3.5yrs)  
multi-sports group in Hertfordshire

**WHERE:** St Johns Church  
Hall, St John's Road,  
Harpenden, AL5 1DJ

**TIME:** 1.5-2.5yrs @9.15am  
2.5-3.5yrs @10.15am

**WHEN:** Term time only  
starting April 13<sup>th</sup>, Mondays  
and Wednesdays.

Book online now **from £8**  
**per session**, block book or  
drop in available.

@little.legends.herts Mark on 07912 380 858 little.legends.herts@gmail.com

**Empowering generations through sport**

