



# Weekly Newsletter

20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

*Making learning a lifelong adventure*

*Wishing all those who are celebrating a very happy Easter*



Dear Parents/Carers

## **This Week in School**

Spring is in the air and hope is rising; and the final week of the spring term has been both eventful and enjoyable.

The FoHBS *Bunny Hop* Easter egg hunt was a real success, with excellent attendance and lots of people talking about it on their return to school on Monday. This was the first such event we have done and I understand it has raised something approaching £3,000 which will ultimately be used to further enhance provision for the children at High Beeches. Thank you to the event organisers and all those who attended.

The week in school started with an Eid Assembly led by those who had been celebrating Eid, which is an important Islamic festival, celebrated at the end of Ramadan (the month of fasting) and which took place last Friday. The assembly provided a lovely opportunity to learn about and share in the celebration.

We finished the term this afternoon with an assembly exploring the Easter story from Palm Sunday to Easter Day entitled *A Lot Can Happen in a Week* and enjoyed singing a new song *Springtime's Here Again - Spring is in the air, hope is rising all around*.



On Tuesday evening, twelve of our choir members from Years 5 and 6 (pictured left) participated in the Harpenden Schools' Spring Festival at the Eric Morcambe Centre. They sang in nine songs on the theme of confidence and empowerment, in a combined choir of over 100 singers, accompanied for many of them by a combined concert band from the local secondary schools, which included a number of High Beeches alumni. It is always such an impressive evening. Congratulations to all those involved, current and former pupils alike.

It has been good to see a great many parents in school too this week, with our consultations taking place for all year groups except Year 6 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and our annual Speakers' Cup finals taking place on Wednesday and Thursday.

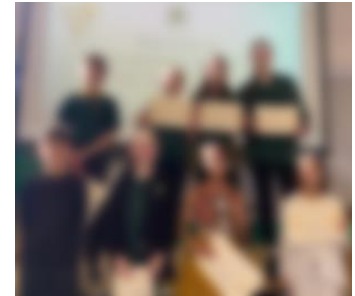
The Speakers' Cup final celebration performances were outstanding and were truly a reflection of the quality seen across the school this half-term. The annual spoken presentations from Year 1 upwards are a great way to develop self-confidence and oracy (effective speaking and listening skills), as well as providing an insight into the interests, talents and, sometimes, family stories of our pupils.

This year's finalists spoke on a diverse range of subjects, from *polar bears* to *artificial intelligence*, and from *Brentford Football Club* to *tornadoes*. Each was engaging and informative. The staff jury selected an overall winner for each: for Infants, this was Margot, for her talk on *guide dogs*, and, for the Juniors, Saraiya was overall winner for her talk on her trip to and connections with *Gujarat*. Congratulations to all the children for taking part and to all the finalists for some outstanding presentations this week.



Year 1	Phoebe Louis Beau Ben
Year 2	Evelyn Orin Margot H Hetty

Year 3	Jessica Saraiya
Year 4	Mason Emmie
Year 5	Maxim Nina
Year 6	Evie C Ariadna



### Mental Health Week Poster Competition

As part of our activities for Children's Mental Health week, children were invited to design a poster on the theme of belonging and what makes them feel safe. Mrs Burley and the Wellbeing Ambassadors met on Wednesday to look at the entries and decide on class and overall winners, with Mr Walker and Mrs Shewbridge selecting an overall winner as follows.

Class winners: Niamh (Willow), Emilia (Birch), Elliott (Maple), Eleanor (Pine), Mia D (Hawthorn), Eleanor (Rowan) and Amara (Sycamore)

Overall winners: Emilia, Eleanor and Mia D

Whole school winner: Emilia

### Six Books in Six Weeks Challenge

A big well done to everybody who participated in our recent *Six Books in Six Weeks Reading Challenge*, which linked to *World Book Day* and the *National Year of Reading*. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by the children has been fantastic and it has been wonderful to see such a love of reading across the school. Based on the number of completion certificates awarded, a conservative estimate is that pupils at High Beeches have read over 2,000 books for pleasure in just six weeks. An incredible achievement that we are very proud of!

Finally, I would like to wish all our staff, families and children a very restful holiday. We look forward to regrouping when we return on Monday 13 April.

Yours faithfully

*Jonathan Walker*

Headteacher

## Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Chestnut Class**
  - Harrison For trying hard in Phonics with his writing.
  - Charlie For composing super sentences about the firefighters visit.
  - Theodore For making a very creative model of a fire engine!
- **Reception Oak Class**
  - Kira For making a fantastic model of an ambulance adding lots of details!
- **Year 1 Cedar Class**
  - Blake For working so hard to improve her writing this half term.
  - Gabriel For working hard at home and school to improve his reading.
  - Theodore For showing enthusiasm for learning and joining in with class discussions.
- **Year 1 Elm Class**
  - Hiraya For always taking care to present her work neatly.
  - Isaiah For great teamwork and cooperation in his group when working together to make scones in DT.
- **Year 2 Hazel Class**
  - Imogen For using careful word choices and similes to describe her cousin in her beautiful poem.
  - Sienna For making a huge effort in her handwriting and presentation. Well done!
- **Year 2 Willow Class**
  - Rupert For writing a super contrasting poem using similes. Well done!
  - Sophie For bringing a kind, enthusiastic and positive energy to school! Well done Sophie : )
- **Year 3 Birch Class**
  - Elliott For improving his presentation and handwriting this term. Well done Elliott : )
  - Lev For being a great role-model in class with your calm and focused behaviour
- **Year 3 Redwood Class**
  - Joshua For consistently neat, clear, joined handwriting in all subject areas.
  - Cameron For contributing well to our geography lesson and designing a useful volcano survival kit.
- **Year 4 Maple Class**
  - William For presenting his haiku poem in an authentic style, complemented by beautiful handwriting.
- **Year 4 Pine Class**
  - Penny For working so hard when finding fractions of amounts in maths
  - Sammy For joining in and trying his best in our cricket lesson.
  - Christopher For excellent effort and focus when reflecting and translating shapes
- **Year 5 Ash Class**
  - James For a well-structured suspense story that built tension.
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class**
  - Maya For fantastic presentation in her narrative
  - Casper For a wonderful narrative in your recent publishing.
  - Alex For his explanation and understanding of 'survival of the fittest' and applying it well when making predictions.
- **Year 6 Rowan Class**
  - Harper For really working hard this week, approaching every tack with a positive attitude and challenging yourself.
  - Theo Grace For a fabulous twisted fairy tale that has really made me chuckle! Excellent job Theo!
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class**
  - Ariadna For her excellent performance during the Speakers' Cup final this week. She showed high levels of confidence and resilience throughout the whole process. Well done Ariadna!
  - Amar For his super dance actions, showing 'feeding the chickens' Well done!
- **PE Awards Infants**
  - Elodie For showing excellent movement off the ball to find space to receive as pass., Well done!
- **PE Awards Juniors**
  - Eleanor For some excellent ranged passing at the tag rugby festival.
  - Rafe For great work with both bat and ball in cricket. Well done!

## Sports Desk

Congratulations to all those who have been able to represent High Beeches in the sporting arena this term and huge thanks to the parents and staff who have coached, accompanied and transported them to these events, which continued right up to the end of term this week.

Alfred from Year 6 reports on the Swimming Gala last Friday.

*On Friday Edward H, Edward N, Charlie V, Alfred W, swam in the primary school team championships at Watford swimming pool. We competed in two relay races and got into the final in both races. We came 5th in the 4x25m Medley Relay and sixth in the 4x25 Freestyle Relay. We were really proud of ourselves for doing so well and we had a great time.*



On Monday we participated in an informal 'B Teams' football tournament at Saunceywood, playing 7 games and reaching the final, only narrowly losing 1-0 to the Lea. Congratulations to them! The coinciding of this tournament with a final game at home against Grove Junior School provided an opportunity for some less experienced Year 5 players to join an out-of-school match, which this augmented B team drew a very respectable 2-2, whilst the A's conceded 1-0.

Thirteen Year 5 and 6 children went to the Girls' Tag-Rugby Festival at Harpenden Rugby Club on Tuesday afternoon.

The netball team visited Roundwood Primary on Wednesday for their final games of the season against two strong sides. Congratulations to the A team who won 7-5 and the B team who won 3-1.

## Community Matters

Harpenden Plus are seeking donations of Hygiene items for families in the local area who need support. If you are able to donate any of the following, please place them in the container in the main entrance foyer.

Shampoo/conditioner, shower gel, handwash or bars of soap, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, razors and shaving gel, and feminine hygiene products

## Supporting Families

Please see attached flyer advertising Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops to support parents of children needing support with their emotional development.

## Further Information and Reminders

**WANTED – Unwanted Mobile Phones, Laptops or Keyboards**  
The Reception team are seeking donations of old phones and mobile phones, laptops or keyboards for role play. If you think you may be able to help, please contact [reception@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk](mailto:reception@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk)

## Attendance

Congratulations to Hazel and Rowan classes who have the best attendance this week, with 98.6% 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.



## 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

### Meet Your Neighbours

Make your street a place to play + meet

## Big Lunch

### 5 - 8 June 2026

Are you interested in holding a **Big Lunch Street Party**?  
Millions of people will come together with their neighbours for friendship, food and fun.

You can close your road for the afternoon and hold your Big Lunch.  
Could this be your start to holding regular street get togethers where you live?

The Meet Your Neighbours team can help you every step of the way, enabling you to throw the perfect get together for your neighbours!

Contact Sophie at  
[playingout@sustainablestalbans.org](mailto:playingout@sustainablestalbans.org)  
[www.sustainablestalbans.org/meet-your-neighbours/](http://www.sustainablestalbans.org/meet-your-neighbours/)  
[www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch](http://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch)



Hertfordshire Community Foundation  
St Albans City & District Council  
Hertfordshire  
Sustainable St Albans  
Registered charity no 1173118

<b>Diary Dates</b> <i>New or amended events</i>	
Monday 13 April 2026	<i>School opens for summer term</i>
Friday 17 April 2026	<i>Reception Classes visit to the High Street and EMC for</i>
Tuesday 21 April, 2:45pm	<i>KS1 Tests and Assessments – Y2 Parent Information Meeting</i>
Thursday 23 April 2026	<i>St George's Day</i>
23-24 April 2026	<i>Year 4 Residential - Paccar</i>
Friday 24 April 2026	<i>FoHBS Discos</i>
Thursday 30 April 2026	<i>Year 3 class assemblies: 9am Birch Class, 2:45pm Redwood Class</i>
Thursday 30 April, 2:50pm	<i>Reception Sit Together and Read event</i>
Monday 4 May 2026	<i>School closed for Early May Bank Holiday</i>
Thursday 7 May 2026	<i>Year 4 class assemblies: 9am Maple Class, 2:45pm Pine Class</i>
11-14 May 2026	<i>KS2 Tests</i>
Friday 15 May 2026	<i>Y2 class assemblies: 9am Hazel, 2:45pm Willow</i>
Friday 15 May 2026	<i>Y6 Hemel Snow Dome</i>
Sunday 17 May 2026	<i>FoHBS Colour Run</i>
Monday 18 May 2026	<i>Year 1 Knebworth House and Gardens Visit</i>
Thursday 21 May 2026	<i>Year 5 class assemblies: 9am Ash Class, 2:45pm Hawthorn Class</i>
20-22 May 2026	<i>Year 6 Residential - Paccar</i>
Friday 22 May 2026	<i>School closes for half-term break at normal time</i>
Monday 1 June 2026	<i>FoHBS Legoland Trip</i>
Tuesday 2 June 2026	<i>School opens for summer term 2</i>
2 – 12 June 2026	<i>Y4 Multiplication Tables Check</i>
2-5 June 2026	<i>Special Curriculum Week – STEM</i>
Thursday 4 June 2026	<i>Class Group Photographs</i>
8-12 June 2026	<i>Y1 Phonics Screening Check</i>
Tuesday 9 June 2026	<i>Reception trip to Hertfordshire Zoo</i>
Thursday 11 June 2026	<i>Y3 Kew Gardens Visit</i>
Tues 16 June '26, 1:30pm	<i>Y3/4 Sports Day</i>
Friday 19 June 2026	<i>Music on the Field event</i>
Tues 23 June 26, 1:30pm	<i>Y5/6 Sports Day</i>
<del>Wednesday 24 June 2026</del>	<del><i>Class Group Photographs</i></del>
Thurs 25 June 2026, 9:15am	<i>YR/1/2 Sports Day</i>
Friday 26 June, 2:50pm	<i>Reception Sit Together and Read event</i>
Monday 29 June 2026	<i>Y5 Young Mariners Visit</i>
Tuesday 30 June 2026	<i>Year 1 class assemblies: 9am Elm Class, 2:45pm Cedar Class</i>
Monday 6 July 2026	<i>Y1 Woburn Safari Park Visit</i>
Thursday 9 July 2026	<i>Transition Day</i>
Friday 10 July 2026	<i>Pupil reports out to parents</i>
Saturday 11 July 2026	<i>FoHBS Summer Fair</i>
14 & 15 July 2026, 6:00pm	<i>Year 6 leavers' production</i>
Mon 20 July 2026, 6pm	<i>Year 6 leavers' event (TBC)</i>
Mon 20 July 2026, 9:30am	<i>HB's Got Talent</i>
Tues 21 July 2026, 9am	<i>Year 6 leavers' assembly</i>
Tues 21 July 2026, 1:30pm	<i>school closes for summer holiday</i>