




Weekly Newsletter

19th December

Making learning a lifelong adventure

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

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of term has arrived and, on behalf of the whole school family, I would like to wish all the children and their families a very peaceful Christmas break. As always, I am immensely grateful to the High Beeches team and our pupils for all their hard work this term, both in terms of their learning and progress and in preparing for and delivering such a high standard of Christmas performances over the course of the last few weeks.

Congratulations to all the children for their various parts in our productions and performances, which ended this week with a joyous Y1 *Songs around the Christmas Tree* – a highly engaging and colourful festival of spoken verse, dance and song and two Key Stage 2 Carol Services at High Street Methodist Church on Wednesday evening.

Thank you to the many parents who have commented positively on the quality of the performances, which not only reflect the hard work of the people involved, but also the culture and character of our school. These are things that are the very essence of High Beeches: collaboratively striving to create something really special. At the carol services, Rev'd John Fellows's Christmas reflection mused on this when he spoke of a recent conversation with a pupil who had referred to the school's USPs (unique selling points) and linked this to that of Christmas itself.

The carol services includes congregational, mainly traditional carols and a variety of more contemporary songs performed as a solo, by year groups, by the whole group and by the choir, with a number of readings telling the Christmas story threaded throughout. The children sang and read beautifully and the readings ended with this.



When we are kind, when we forgive, when we
bring peace to others, we keep that
Christmas light shining bright.
May this story fill our hearts with joy,
and may the message of Christmas -
the message of love - stay with us always.



Yesterday we enjoyed our Christmas party day, with a fantastic Christmas dinner (a big thank you to Kelly and the Catering Team), year group discos (with Reception and Year 6 and Years 1 and 5 buddying up for theirs) and we finished the week this afternoon with a whole school celebration assembly with a reprise of a small number of songs from our Christmas performances.

Looking forward to the new year, school re-opens on Tuesday 6 January. Parents can see a full list of dates for the Spring term and some key dates going into the summer term on page 4 of this newsletter. This includes dates for open classroom events which, following feedback from parents, will take place on a Thursday afternoon and a Friday morning to allow us to manage the number of parents at each event more proactively. More information about how to book will follow in the new year.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker

Headteacher

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Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.


• Reception Chestnut Class	Henry	For colouring carefully when making the Christmas card for his buddy
	Yelina	For always following the instructions. Well done!
• Reception Oak Class	Theodore	For being a kind friend
	Emma	For being an excellent role model
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Ella	For working hard to improve her handwriting.
	Blake	For working hard to improve her handwriting.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Theodore	For working really hard to apply his phonics when spelling words.
	Kyan	For always having a positive attitude towards his learning.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Charlotte	For being a positive, sunny and friendly member of Hazel class
	Charlie T	For being enthusiastic with his reading. You are always eager to read aloud to adults!
• Year 2 Willow Class	Charlie	Super bookmark sewing in D.T. Well done!
	Margot	Writing a super letter using our English learning. Well done.
• Year 3 Birch Class	Harper	For excellent presenting skills in her geography presentation about the UK. Well done!
	Joshua	For Publishing a well presented non-chronological report. Well done!
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Phoebe	For always being a very kind and considerate learning partner.
	Zoey	For the energy and joy she contributed to our carol service and also for the positivity she spreads daily in Redwood class!
• Year 4 Maple Class	Mason	For making effective edits to his animal story in English.
	Luna	For listening well and showing good behaviour for learning.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Haniya	For always being such a helpful and positive member of the class.
	Olivia	For a beautifully written animal story.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Reenie	For always displaying the school values and being a wonderful role model to others.
	Yusuf	For working so hard on your biography of Alan Turing.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class		
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Zara	For reading beautifully at the carol concert and for confidently stepping in last minute
	Yazmin	For working well with her group to design and build a string, complex earthquake proof structure.
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Theo G	For his sensational singing and participation in the Carol Service this week!
	Diego	For being a fantastic role model to all around his. Diego embodies what it means to be a pupil at High Beeches with his excellent attitude to learning and kindness to others.
• PE Awards Infants	Orin	For really concentrating on her technique when kicking a football, helping her to improve both her aim and power. Well done.
	Jack	For working really hard on his accuracy while aiming a football at a set of cones. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Jacob	For showing a great team ethic during our tag rugby matches. Well done!
	Cameron	For some excellent dodging and weaving in our tag rugby matches. Well done!

Supporting Families

Relaunching the FoHBS Second-hand Uniform Shop, after the removal of the old shed

Fohbs Second Hand Uniform needs your help!

We need you!



your help means a lot!

The bike shed at the front of the school is to be replaced in January by a new uniform shed and we need your help! Does anyone have any experience or contacts who would be happy to offer their time one day in January to help dismantle and remove the existing bike shed?

To offer your help, or to find out more please contact contact.fohbs@gmail.com

Have You Seen Mylo?

Missing from Highfield Avenue for over a week...



If you can help, call High Beeches parent Becky on 07732 635191

Community Matters

DON'T MISS OUT ON TICKETS FOR HARPENDEN GANG SHOW

The 76th Harpenden and Wheathampstead Gang Show

From 13th-17th of January 2026

140 cubs, scouts and explorers

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

<https://everyonetheatres.com/whats-on/harpenden-and-wheathampstead-district-gang-show-2026/>

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Oak and Maple classes who have the best attendance this week, with 99.6% and 99.3% attendance.

Term Dates for 2026/27

Confirmed term dates, including INSET days and an occasional day of school holiday are now available on [the school website](#).

Lunchtime helpers Spring term 2026

Please find the link below for the lunchtime helpers sign up for the Spring term. If anyone who hasn't helped before would like to, you would be more than welcome and Ms Berhili would be more than happy to guide you through everything. [Sign-up here](#).

Holiday Clubs running in school over Christmas Break

- ✓ [Apex Sports](#) – Sports Activities with Mr George – 22nd 23rd Dec
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – 29th 30th Dec, 5th Jan
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing with Mrs Ward – 22nd Dec



Diary Dates

Additions or amendments shown in purple.

Tuesday 6 January 2026	<i>School opens for spring term 1</i>
Friday 9 Jan 2026	<i>Spring Curriculum Newsletter to parents</i>
Friday 30 Jan 2026, 2:30pm	<i>KS2 Test Information Meeting for Y6 Parents</i>
Tuesday 3 February 2026	<i>Reception Pirate Workshop</i>
Tuesday 3 February 2026	<i>Year 6 Mid-year reports to parents</i>
5 and 6 February 2026	<i>Y6 Parent Consultations</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 5 February, 2:30 to 5pm Friday 6 February, 2pm to 4:30pm
Thursday 5 February 3pm & Friday 6 February 2026, 8:45am	<i>Year 4 Open Classrooms</i>
Friday 6 February 2026	<i>FoHBS Quiz Night</i>
9 to 13 February 2026	<i>The High Beeches Be Safe Week</i>
Monday 9 February 2026	<i>Reception – Year 2 Fire Safety Visits from Hertfordshire Fire Service</i>
	<i>Year 5 and 6 Cybercrime Awareness Workshop – Herts Constabulary</i>
	<i>2:15pm – Parent Cybercrime Awareness Workshop</i>
Tuesday 10 February 2026	<i>Y5 Visit to Hazard Alley</i>
Thursday 12 February 2026	<i>Y6 Visit to Hazard Alley</i>
Thursday 12 February, 3pm & Friday 13 February 2026, 8:45am	<i>Year 5 Open Classrooms</i>
Date TBC	<i>Year 3 and 4 First Aid Workshops</i>
Friday 13 February 2026, 2:50pm	<i>Sit Together and Read event for Reception parents</i>
Friday 13 February 2026	<i>School closes for half-term break</i>
Thursday 26 February, 3pm & Friday 27 February 2026, 8:45am	<i>Year 1 Open Classrooms</i>
Wednesday 11 March 2026	<i>Year 3 Open Classrooms</i>
Thursday 12 March, 3pm & Friday 13 March 2026, 8:45am	<i>Year 5 Mayan Workshop</i>
Tuesday 17 March 2026, 6pm	<i>Year 3 Open Classrooms</i>
Saturday 21 March 2026	<i>Spring Music Evening – instrumentalist concert</i>
Thursday 19 March, 3pm & Friday 20 March 2026, 8:45am	<i>FoHBS Easter Egg Hunt</i>
Monday 23 March 2026	<i>Year 6 Open Classrooms</i>
Tuesday 24 March 2026	<i>Year 2 Open Classrooms</i>
24 and 26 March 2026, 3:45 to 7pm	<i>Mid-year Reports for Reception to Year 5</i>
Wednesday 25 March 2026	<i>Spring Festival – invited choir</i>
Thursday 26 March 2026	<i>Parent Consultations for Reception to Year 5</i>
Friday 27 March 2026, 2pm	<i>KS2 Speakers' Cup Final</i>
	<i>KS1 Speakers' Cup Final</i>
	<i>School closes for Easter holiday</i>
Thurs/Fri 23 rd -24 th April 2026	<i>Year 4 PACCAR</i>
Friday 15 th May 2026	<i>Y6 Hemel Snow Dome</i>
Thursday 11 th June 2026	<i>Y3 Kew Gardens</i>
Monday 29 th June 2026	<i>Y5 Young Mariners Visit</i>