



Weekly Newsletter

23rd January 2026

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Our values focus for this half-term is **What three gifts?**

Dear Parents/Carers

Having played a few friendly matches in the autumn term, our football team played their first proper matches of the Harpenden Schools Football League on Wednesday this week. This was a local derby, playing Crabtree at home, which resulted in very positive results. See Harrison, Monty and Nikolai's match reports overleaf.

On Wednesday this week the children in Key Stage 2 enjoyed an introduction to the Djembe drum, led by Gareth from No. 7 Music when he visited our KS2 Music Assembly. His visit took place prior to his starting a new drumming club (open to pupils in Years 4 to 6) which begins after half-term. This will be a charged for club (direct to No. 7 Music) and will take place on Tuesday lunchtimes, providing the children with the rudiments of drumming and an opportunity to learn more about the different musical elements and performance. See separate message for more details.

Today those in Reception to Year 2 have enjoyed a one-off drama workshop by the people from Perform on the theme of toys. Next week our Year 4 classes will immerse themselves in Roman life in Britain for a day when each class completes its own history workshop day.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026

Looking further afield, we are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day in school on Thursday 5 March. This year, in-line with the 'National Year of Reading' - a UK-wide campaign designed to help more people rediscover the joy of reading, our focus is on promoting the idea that reading is fun and can be enjoyed just like any other hobby.

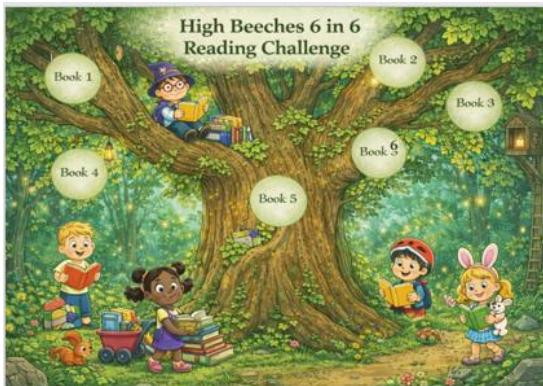
On World Book Day itself, children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character **or** in clothes that reflect their favourite hobby, such as sports kit, dancewear, or just cosy clothes for reading.

In addition to the day itself, we will also be launching our first *High Beeches 6 in 6 Reading Challenge* (which will run from 12th February - 26th March), encouraging children to read six books for pleasure over six weeks, with stickers and certificates to celebrate their achievements.

We can't wait to celebrate with the children and share our love of books!

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Ava	For great progress and better focus when blending sounds when reading.
• Reception Oak Class	Cora	For great focus in literacy.
	Duaa	For beautiful letter formation.
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Yazid	For working really hard in phonics when writing on a whiteboard
	Ollie	For working so hard on his reading at home and school.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Mila	For always using such beautiful handwriting in her English.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Brody	For his brilliant writing in English.
	Matteo	For working hard to improve his handwriting.
	Otis	For his use of scientific vocabulary when designing a dog coat for Bess! You named lots of different materials and thought about the suitability of their properties.
	Charlie	For making a real effort with his handwriting. You have made a lot of progress since the start of Year 2!
• Year 2 Willow Class	Chin	For beautifully presented handwriting, with letters sitting on the line and correctly sized. Well Done!
	Sonny	For super science explanation using vocabulary learnt. Well done!
• Year 3 Birch Class	Ayeza	For writing a brilliant, detailed setting description with some excellent descriptive sentences. Well done!
	Emily	For always writing using her best handwriting and presenting all of her work to a high standard. Well done!
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Jessica K	For developing her counting strategies to support her times tables
	Jacob	For your fantastic joined handwriting!
• Year 4 Maple Class	Saarah	For always using beautifully joined handwriting across the curriculum
	Sophie	For making an excellent start to her newspaper report in English.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Amelia	For considering tone, texture and colour when painting in art.
	Sam	For putting time and effort into his handwriting to make improvements.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Zain	For working so hard to use neat writing with the correct joins.
	Alfie	For writing such a persuasive letter using the techniques we have practised.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Ayaan	Working hard to produce neat handwriting when publishing your persuasive letter.
	Jacob	For using facts you know to work out more complex mathematical calculations.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Alex R	For his perseverance this week when tackling long division – Well Done Alex!
	Juliet G	For her presentation in maths and shining more confidently in class
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Alfie	For really persevering with joining his handwriting – we're getting there!
	Amelia	For her phenomenal work on long division this week, she has absolutely mastered the concept!
• PE Awards Infants	Matteo	For his controlled dribbling with both his hands and feet in or practices for invasion games. Well done!
	Noah	For showing excellent body tension when making shapes in gymnastics - Especially 'Dish' and 'Arch'. Well done.
• PE Awards Juniors	Hannah	For showing excellent control with her jumping and landing. Well done!
	Amy	For showing great perseverance in trying to improve her forward rolls. Well done!

Sports Desk

The A team game at High Beeches was filled with chances on both sides. Although it was a goalless draw, High Beeches retained majority of possession. However, Crabtree defended well resulting in a point each. Great first game of the season.

Harrison

The B team had a great start to the league phase, in which we beat our closest rivals Crabtree, 3-1 at home. We started the game with aggression scoring an early goal from a corner. In the second half, we were even more determined to win going on to score an extra 2 goals. Though Crabtree scored, we stayed strong ending up winning the game.

Monty and Nikolai

Supporting Families

Holiday Clubs running in school over half term

- ✓ [Apex Sports](#) – Sports Activities with Mr George – 16th, 17th, 18th Feb
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – 18th, 19th, 20th Feb
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing with Mrs Ward – 20th Feb



February Half-term Cycle Training

Hertfordshire cycle hubs will be running cycle training sessions at venues across the county during the February half-term break. More information can be found on their website.

 [St Albans Cycle Hub C.I.C](#)

Cottonmill Estate, St Albans

Course info: www.stalbanscyclehub.co.uk

 [SEND Cycling Courses](#)

Various locations across Hertfordshire during most school holidays

In partnership with the Herts Disability Sports Foundation, we offer specialist 1 to 1 cycle training for riders with additional needs.

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Cedar and Rowan classes who have the best attendance this week, with 97% and 98% attendance.

Lunchtime Helpers Spring term 2026

We desperately need helpers!

We are so grateful for the group of volunteers who regularly help in the dining room at lunchtimes. This helps things to run smoothly and provides parents with a real insight into the life of the school! 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.](#)

Parent Cybercrime Awareness Workshop

On 9th Feb we are very pleased to be welcoming experts from Hertfordshire Police into school, who will be speaking to Years 5&6 about how they can keep themselves safe online. They are also running a brief (30 min) talk for parents at 8.50am so if you want to know how to keep your children safe online, please do come if you can. They'll cover passwords, two factor authentication, cyber bullying, sharing of images and recommended ages for social media. They are also happy to answer any questions you might have. We would love to welcome as many of you as possible, so please pop this date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you then.

Diary Dates

Additions or amendments shown in purple.

Friday 23 January, 3:15 to 4:50pm
Friday 30 January, 3:15 to 4:50pm
Friday 30 Jan 2026, 2:30pm
Monday 2 February 2026
Tuesday 3 February 2026
Tuesday 3 February 2026
5 and 6 February 2026

Thursday 5 February 3pm
& Friday 6 February 2026, 8:45am
Friday 6 February 2026
9 to 13 February 2026

Monday 9 February 2026

Tuesday 10 February 2026
Thursday 12 February 2026
Thursday 12 February, 3pm
& Friday 13 February 2026, 8:45am
Friday 13 February 2026
Friday 13 February 2026, 2:50pm
Friday 13 February 2026

Monday 23 February 2026

Thursday 26 February, 3pm
& Friday 27 February 2026, 8:45am
Thursday 5 March 2025

Monday 9 March 2026

Wednesday 11 March 2026
Thursday 12 March, 3pm
& Friday 13 March 2026, 8:45am
Tuesday 17 March 2026, 6pm
Saturday 21 March 2026

Thursday 19 March, 3pm
& Friday 20 March 2026, 8:45am
Thursday 19 March, 3pm
& Friday 20 March 2026, 8:45am

Monday 23 March 2026
Tuesday 24 March 2026
24 and 26 March 2026, 3:45 to 7pm
Wednesday 25 March 2026
Thursday 26 March 2026
Friday 27 March 2026, 2pm
Thurs/Fri 23rd -24th April 2026
Friday 15th May 2026
Wednesday 20 May – 22 May
Thursday 4 June

FoHBS Movie Night (Reception to Year 3)
FoHBS Movie Night (Years 4 to 6)
KS2 Test and Pacar Residential Information Meeting for Y6 Parents
Year 3 and 4 First Aid Workshops
Reception Pirate Workshop
Year 6 Mid-year reports to parents

Y6 Parent Consultations- Portal opens 20th Jan 7.30pm to book.

- *Thursday 5 February, 2:30 to 5pm*
- *Friday 6 February, 2pm to 4:30pm*

Year 4 Open Classrooms

FoHBS Quiz Night

The High Beeches Be Safe Week

Reception – Road safety. Y1/2 Emergency Services visit.

Parent Cybercrime Awareness Workshop – 8:50am

Year 5 and 6 Cybercrime Awareness Workshop – Herts Constabulary

Y5 Visit to Hazard Alley (be safe week)

Y6 Visit to Hazard Alley (be safe week)

Year 5 Open Classrooms

House Ambassadors' Charity Fundraiser

Sit Together and Read event for Reception parents

School closes for half-term break

Y2 Visit to The Monument, London

Year 1 Open Classrooms

World Book Day – dress as a character or for your hobby

Year 5 Science Workshop at Abbotshill School

Year 5 Mayan Workshop

Year 3 Open Classrooms

Spring Music Evening – instrumentalist concert

FoHBS Easter Egg Hunt

Year 6 Open Classrooms

Year 2 Open Classrooms

Mid-year Reports for Reception to Year 5

Spring Festival – invited choir

Parent Consultations for Reception to Year 5

KS2 Speakers' Cup Final

KS1 Speakers' Cup Final

School closes for Easter holiday

Year 4 PACCAR

Y6 Hemel Snow Dome

Y6 PACCAR Trip

Class Group Photographs

Tuesday 9 June 2026

Thursday 11th June 2026

Monday 29th June 2026

Monday 6 July 2026

Reception trip to Hertfordshire Zoo

Y3 Kew Gardens

Y5 Young Mariners Visit

Y1 Woburn Trip

TRY A FULL
CLASS FOR
FREE



Now showing, **CONFIDENCE!**

Drama, dance & singing classes
designed to help 4-12 year olds shine

“Perform helps develop all key areas of a child in a fun, supportive and engaging way. It gives my daughter a brilliant sense of fun, community, purpose and pride in her achievements.” - Begum Bari

Try a FREE CLASS



CHSP140

Perform Harpenden

Harpenden United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road, AL5 4ED
Saturdays at 9.30am (4-7s), 11.15am (7-12s)

Call 020 7255 9120 or visit perform.org.uk/try





You are invited to
LUTON SEA CADETS

OPEN DAY

28th January 2026, 19:30

Lower Harpenden Road, LU1 3PL



Whether you are aged 10-17 and looking for fun, learning new skills, gaining qualifications or a new adventure or an adult interested in volunteering and inspiring young people our open evening is the perfect chance to see what we do.

Please book your place by scanning QR Code and filling the form.



**SEA
CADETS**
LUTON

Luton Sea Cadets
Lower Harpenden Road
LU13PL

CONTACT US

lutonseacadets@gmail.com

OPEN
Mondays and Wednesdays
1915-2130