



Weekly Newsletter

19 September 2025

Making learning a lifelong adventure

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a day-long visitor-led science workshop this week investigating forces. See picture (right). Next week is the turn of Year 3, who will be investigating rocks, soils and fossils and, the week after that, Year 4 will be studying states of matter.

Also next week, we look forward to the Year 6 MacMillan Coffee mornings on Thursday and Friday mornings. These are open to all and places can be booked via Arbor by selecting *Activities* and the *Trips*.

Lastly, don't forget that our school photographer will be in school on Monday to take individual and sibling group photographs.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



Parking

Regrettably, we have had a number of quite concerning complaints from school parents and neighbours about parent parking at drop-off and collection times. These have involved reports of parents parking on the double-yellow lines on the approach to Willow Court and blocking pavements and driveways in nearby streets. Such parking significantly increases the risk to other road users, including school families who walk home or park further away. Many of our neighbours find this kind of parking very stressful and upsetting and their subsequent complaints negatively impact the reputation of our school.

Family life can be challenging for us as parents and this can sometimes result in our rushing and cutting corners. However, we all have a duty to model the school values of kindness, respect and responsibility to our children through the way we conduct ourselves in public. Please – let's help each other by following these simple dos and don'ts.

DO

- ✓ Allow enough time for the journey and arrive on time
- ✓ Walk or park and stride, if you can
- ✓ Use the carpark at Crabtree Fields
- ✓ If parking on the street, park at least 10m away from a junction

DON'T

- X Park on a pavement
- X Block or obscure an entrance, driveway or junction
- X Park on double-yellow lines at any time.
- X Park on Zig-zags or single yellow lines at the stated times

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Kit	For speaking confidently and clearly to the class about his bird's nest.
	Holly	For making up and illustrating a story about a witch and her cat.
• Reception Oak Class	Kira	Making a great start to Reception, following rules and routines
	Charlie	Being helpful and tidying up for Mrs Rawson
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Theo	For working so hard in English when creating instructions.
	Beau	For challenging himself to write detailed instructions in English.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Otis	For his amazing tracking pad skills in Computing.
	Carys	For setting a brilliant example to others and always challenging herself.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Lucy	For showing true friendship and having a caring attitude towards her classmates.
	Thomas	For describing different materials and explaining why they are suitable for different objects.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Alberto	For trying hard, listening well and using maths methods to solve problems. Well done!
	Orin	For super use of conjunctions in her writing. Well Done!
• Year 3 Birch Class	Joshua	For editing and making improvements to his work and writing some fantastic sentences in English this week. Well done!
	Laila	Making excellent contributions in class across all areas of learning this week. Well done!
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Sophie	For using a range of subordinating conjunctions to extend her sentences.
	Annabel	For a really positive attitude to all her learning!
• Year 4 Maple Class	Rose	For creating a detailed graphic novel in English, supported by relevant captions.
	Dylan	Working hard in maths when solving rounding to the nearest 10/100/1000 problems.
• Year 4 Pine Class	Amelia	For working so hard and making great progress when rounding numbers in maths
	Alexandra	For her fabulous graphic novel in English
• Year 5 Ash Class	James	For asking such great questions in order to clarify your understanding and then applying it to independent tasks.
	Darcie	For seeking detailed feedback on your writing and being keen to make improvements.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	William	For being so enthusiastic and inquisitive during our science workshop on forces.
	Isaiah	For producing a fantastic opening paragraph for your non-chronological report.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Edward	For his ability to be able to question the phenomena around him and his inquisitive nature
	Nicoll	For settling so well into Year 6 life. She is displaying such studious behaviour, showing high levels of participation and diligences.
	Amelia	
	White	
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Thea	For her considerate language choices in her writing
	Thaleia	For her resilience and determination when tackling long multiplication
• PE Awards Infants	Jessica	For her lovely flowing moves in dance this week. Well done!
	Alex	For showing good work with his rolling and control of a ball. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Charlie	For excellent use of a drag-back turn in a game situation – A skill we had been working on. Well done!
	Shaun	For excellent use of a drag-back turn in a game situation – a skill we had been working on. Well done!

Staying Safe

Childhood Vaccinations

The school nurse service will be in school next week administering this year's flu vaccination. This is a nasal vaccination that does not involve a needle and is available to all primary age children, if their parent has consented. If you have not already done so, you need to complete the form below, whether **you do or don't** wish your child to have it.

<https://bed.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/hertfordshire>

Information about the Flu Vaccination was sent out earlier in the week. Please see previous correspondence.

More information on the UK childhood vaccination programme available in the attached letter from the Director of Public Health for Hertfordshire and by following [this link](#) to further information from the NHS.

Further Information and Reminders

Arrangements at the Beginning and End of the School Day

We operate a soft start to the school day with pupils entering between 8:40 and 8:45am (gates lock at 8.45). The children go straight into class. Reception pupils are brought by their parents directly to their external classroom doors. Children in Years 1 to 6 walk into the building independently from the *kiss-and-drop* point by the tree in the front playground. They enter through the double doors at the ends and side of the Meadow Building and to the side of the Orchard Building.

This staggered start helps to ensure there is a calm and swift start to the children's learning activities and that school staff are able to give individualised attention where required. It also helps to reduce congestion on site and in the local area. Parents and children arrive following a one-way system; entering the site via the gate adjacent to the larger bike sheds on the Willow Court side of the site and parents leave via the gate closest to the main building.

The school day ends at 3:10pm for those in Reception and 3:15pm for those in Year 1 upwards. Parents follow the same one-way system in and out of the main school compound, waiting and/or collecting from the door from which their child is dismissed. Children in Reception and Years 1 to 4 are dismissed from their external classroom doors and those in Years 5 and 6 leave via the double doors at either end of the Meadow Building.

Attendance

Congratulations to Willow and Birch classes who have the best attendance this week, with 100% attendance.

To notify school of medical appointments or Secondary school visits please complete this form found on our school Website: <https://www.highbeeches.herts.sch.uk/parents/leave-of-absence>

Diary Dates

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

Mon 22 September 2025	<i>Individual pupil photographs</i>
Tuesday 23 September (& 25 November)	<i>Pupil flu vaccinations</i>
Thurs 25 September 2025, 1:30pm	<i>Year 6 Leaders to Harpenden Peace Day Service.</i>
25 & 26 September 2025	<i>Y6 pupils host MacMillan Coffee Morning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Thursday 25 Sept, 9am – Rowan Class</i> <i>Friday 26 September, 9am – Sycamore Class</i>
Friday 3 October 2025	<i>FoHBS Movie Night – Years 4 to 6</i>
Friday 10 October 2025	<i>FoHBS 80's & 90's Disco</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"> <i>Tuesday 21, 3:45 to 7pm</i> <i>Thursday 23, 3:45 to 7pm</i>
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>
Thurs 4 December 2025, 9:15am	<i>Reception Nativity</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"> <i>1:30pm - Hazel Class</i> <i>2:30pm - Willow Class</i>
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 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>