



Weekly Newsletter

20th March 2026

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Wishing all those who are celebrating today 'Eid Mubarak'

Dear Parents/Carers

This Week and Next in School

Our Year 5 pupils had a visit from *Jump RE* on Monday this week, helping them to explore the Easter story, and a small number of them also went to a writers' workshop at another local school on Tuesday. The children in Year 3 enjoyed a walk into town for a geography fieldtrip on Wednesday (see picture right), identifying and mapping out children's amenities in Harpenden and our Year 1 classes each benefited from a very active tennis session, provided by the Lawn Tennis Association yesterday.



On Tuesday evening we held our annual Spring Music Evening. Mrs Shewbridge and I particularly enjoyed being able to join a large group of parents, grandparents and siblings to watch the thirty-seven children from Years 4 to 6 who performed in the choir, orchestra, small group and solo items (pictures below). Congratulations to all of them and a big **thank you** to Mrs Walton who teaches woodwind and directed the ensemble and orchestra numbers, to Mrs Sands for directing the choir and to the other peripatetic teachers and parents who helped the children to prepare.



Tomorrow our FoHBS Easter Egg Hunt tasks place in school and it looks like it is going to be a dry and pleasant day. Our spring term parent consultations for parents of children in all years except Year 6 take place next week, the last week of the spring term, and we look forward to seeing parents there. I have heard great things about the Speakers' Cup entries that have been taking place in Year 1 to 6 classes for the last few weeks and look forward to the finals, which take place on Wednesday and Thursday.

Looking Forward

Do have a look at the diary of events (page 5) to see dates for the broad range of events taking place in the summer term.

Listening to Your Views

Thank you to those parents who completed our parent survey in the autumn term. The governing body and leadership team are always keen to seek parents' views, to implement improvements and to track how views evolve over time. The parent survey is one of a number of ways of gathering this information.

Parents were invited to complete the online survey whilst at the parent consultation evenings at the end of October and the survey remained open for the following few weeks with a further prompt in the newsletter in November. However, the number of responses was lower than in previous years and we have spoken to the parent reps to explore how we can increase engagement in future.

As in previous years we were pleased that the great majority (over 90%) of respondents agreed with almost all of the statements about the school. Most notably, 100% said that their child felt happy and safe in school and that they would recommend High Beeches to others. Areas that showed improvement from the last parent survey were parents understanding of what their child is learning in school and how to support them at home, our approach to inclusion and diversity and communication.

Although the number of negative responses (disagreeing with the statements) was limited to between 0 and 3 respondents for each question, we have looked, with the parent reps, at two questions where a relatively large group of parents neither agreed nor disagreed with the statements, to explore how we might either make the context of the question clearer or screen out those for whom the question is not relevant in future surveys. We also recognise that conducting surveys in the spring term (rather than the autumn term) may result in parents feeling more qualified to respond that earlier in the school year.

Our School Values and Interactions with the High Beeches Staff Team

Our school is a community: I often refer to *the High Beeches family*. I feel privileged to work in such a lovely place, where parents pull together so effectively in the interests of our school (see final paragraph and images below!), and I value and enjoy my interactions with parents throughout the day and on the gate each morning and afternoon. I am proud of the way that our school values (*respect, responsibility and resilience; kindness, confidence and honesty*) are the golden threads that weave through every aspect of school life. The staff team works hard to provide a great service to our children and, by extension, their families, and we are always keen to innovate and improve, working together to resolve any concerns in a constructive way. This are, I believe, the marks of a great school!

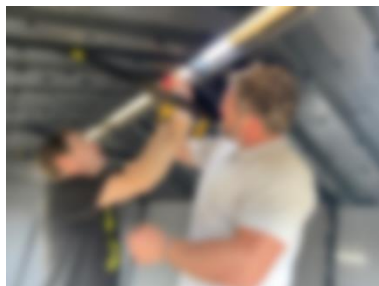
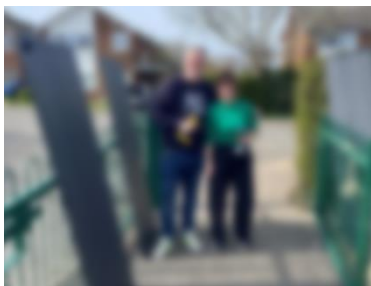
The nature of public service is that staff are often working under pressure and this is particularly the case for our school admin team, who juggle providing business support for the teaching team and school leadership, with manging school operations and communication with parents. The vast majority of interactions with them are very positive and we would request that all parents, visitors and children are kind and respectful to all members of our staff team.

Community in Action

Finally, I would like to note what a brilliant job the group of parent volunteers have done today erecting the new FoHBS Pre-Love Uniform Shop (Shed)! We hope that the shop, which ensures that all families have access to affordable school uniform and helps to reduce waste, will be open for business from early in the summer term.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Chestnut Class**
 - Milo For being so helpful when tidying up on the playground
 - George For making super progress in his reading. Well done!
 - Oliver For making great progress with phonics especially his writing. Much more confident now!
- **Reception Oak Class**
 - Olivia For showing determination during our daily morning run! Great, fast running Olivia!
- **Year 1 Cedar Class**
 - Erin For a wonderful poem in English this week.
 - Alice For being kind and helpful learning partner.
- **Year 1 Elm Class**
 - Ella For working so hard on her poem in English.
 - Samuel For his fantastic work in DT making a car garage.
 - Franio For trying really hard with his handwriting in English and his presentation in Maths.
- **Year 2 Hazel Class**
 - Charlotte For producing a really detailed geography poster on South America.
 - Ava For following steps carefully and making a huge effort in maths. Well done!
- **Year 2 Willow Class**
 - Cara For improvement in her hand writing and presentation. Well done!
 - Eva For displaying excellent geography skills when carrying out fieldwork in Harpenden.
- **Year 3 Birch Class**
 - Thomas For excellent handwriting and accurately joined letters, particularly when publishing.
 - Blythe For producing super-smart handwriting in her published work this week.
- **Year 3 Redwood Class**
 - Marley For great participation in Maths when learning how to subtract fractions with the same denominators :)
 - Barnaby For engaging thoughtfully in our poetry unity in English, especially when on a springtime walk (ginko)
- **Year 4 Maple Class**
 - Ella For taking her time with her handwriting, ensuring that it is always neat and joined.
- **Year 4 Pine Class**
 - Siana For consistently presenting her work to a high standard
 - Jerez For working well to edit and improve his writing.
- **Year 5 Ash Class**
 - Emma For excellent use of artefacts to understand the Maya civilisation.
 - Flossy For building suspense through a setting description.
 - Jasmine For representing the school very well during the Keen Writers Day and always making sure your handwriting is neat and clear.
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class**
 - Amelie For using suspense to write an effective character description.
 - Robyn For making the most of the opportunity to extend her ideas and develop her twisted fairy tale.
- **Year 6 Rowan Class**
 - Nikolai For his perseverance in maths and taking on feedback positively - keep going!
 - Harry For the effort he's putting in to each lesson over the past couple of weeks – keep it up!
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class**
 - Evie For an excellent start to her twisted fairy tale – Evie has captured the style of writing perfectly.
 - Hazel For showing excellent control when dribbling a basketball and always being on task. Well done!
- **PE Awards Infants**
 - Franio For showing good control and consistency when dribbling a basketball. Well done!
 - Haris For great work on his underarm bowling in cricket. Well done!
- **PE Awards Juniors**
 - Alice For excellent efforts on improving her overarm bowling in cricket. Well done!

Sports Desk

Congratulations to all those involved with school sport this week. Our football teams travelled at Redbourn on Monday afternoon, both teams drawing 2-2. It was Redbourn's turn to visit us for a Netball match at home on Wednesday, which we won by an astonishing 11-1.

Lastly, in addition to the Lawn Tennis Association sessions in Year 1 yesterday, a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils also attended the *Quick Sticks Hockey* event at Oaklands College yesterday and, as you can see from the picture, had a very positive and successful day.



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 Willow and Birch classes who have the best attendance this week, with 100% and 96.6% 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 – 30th 31st March 1st 8th 9th 10th April
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – 2nd 3rd 7th April
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing with Mrs Ward – 1st April



Diary Dates <i>New or amended events</i>	
16 to 27 March 2026	<i>The Big Walk and Wheel Challenge</i>
Saturday 21 March 2026	<i>FoHBS Easter Egg Hunt</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>
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 - 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	<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>
Wednesday 24 June 2026	<i>Class Group Photographs</i>
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 2025	<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>