



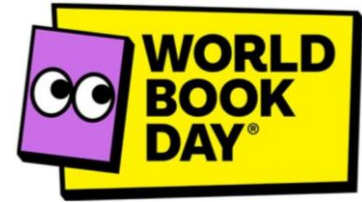
National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026



## Weekly Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

*Making learning a lifelong adventure*



Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday we enjoyed a really positive World Book Day, this year with a full range of dress-up, either as book characters or clothes representing a hobby. In the spirit of the National Year of Reading 2026, we are promoting reading for pleasure as a healthy and edifying thing to do, and the importance of developing a love of reading from an early age. See images below: Year 3 Staff Team in *Charlie and Chocolate Factory* garb and Reception-Year 6 buddies enjoying reading together.

Across the UK, schools, libraries and communities are encouraging families to make reading part of everyday life. Even just **10 minutes of reading a day** can make a big difference to a child's confidence and progress. Reading with your child is one of the most powerful ways you can support their learning and development.

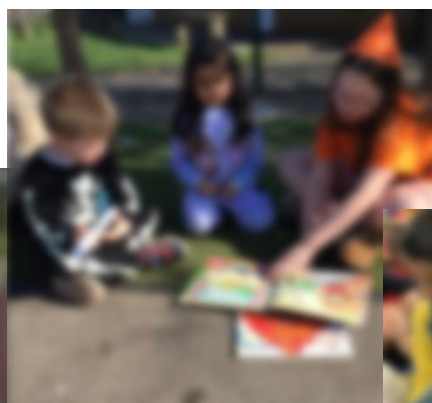
When children read with a parent or carer, they build vocabulary, improve their communication skills and develop a better understanding of the world around them. Sharing books together also helps children learn how stories work, which supports their reading and writing as they move through primary school.

Reading together is not just about learning, but can also help build or maintain a positive connection between parent and child. Sitting down with a book gives families a chance to talk, laugh and explore ideas together. These positive experiences help children see reading as something enjoyable rather than something they only do for school.

You do not have to be an expert story-teller to support your child with reading. Looking at pictures together, talking about what might happen next in the story, or reading signs and labels while you are out and about all help build literacy skills. The most important thing is making reading a regular, enjoyable part of family life. Do have a look at the attached guide for some further tips.

Yours faithfully

*Jonathan Walker*  
Headteacher



## Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Chestnut Class**
  - Jack For drawing an amazing picture of supertato with pastels
  - Elias For writing a sentence about his teachers independently.
- **Reception Oak Class**
  - Toby For excellent progress with his reading and writing!
  - Riley For growing in confidence when talking to adults and the whole class on book day.
- **Year 1 Cedar Class**
  - Leo For always using careful handwriting in all of his work.
  - Elsie For working hard in maths exploring word problems.
- **Year 1 Elm Class**
  - Elodie For working really hard in class and always using neat handwriting.
  - Lyra For her enthusiasm for learning and positive attitude. You have worked really hard on your reading.
- **Year 2 Hazel Class**
  - Emma For sharing and explaining her ideas clearly sin RE when learning about prophets and miracles.
  - Alice Mc For her hard work in Maths lessons this half term. You have been listening carefully to the methods and working more independently.
- **Year 2 Willow Class**
  - Finn For accurately following maths steps and neat presentation. Well done!
  - Mollie For taking care and pride in her presentation. Well done!
- **Year 3 Birch Class**
  - Robbie For responding well to his target in writing and making an effort to use full stops accurately.
  - Mikel
  - Emilia For always using her best handwriting. Well done!
- **Year 3 Redwood Class**
  - Luca For the effort he is putting into improving his handwriting.
  - Alexandra For her positive attitude towards learning fractions in maths
- **Year 4 Maple Class**
  - Ibrahim For consistently using neat and joined handwritten across the curriculum.
  - Libby For working hard and persevering in maths this week when adding and subtracting decimals.
- **Year 4 Pine Class**
  - Emmie For strong use of geographical vocabulary in an explanation of volcanoes.
  - Alexandra P For some excellent use of senses for description and dialogue in story-writing
- **Year 5 Ash Class**
  - Sienna For presenting such neat handwriting in all of your books and taking pride in your work.
  - Roman For working hard this week across the curriculum you have shown good understanding in Maths and written some great description.
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class**
  - Mia For always making sure that your handwriting and presentation are of an excellent standard
  - Freddie For your great work converting between fractions, decimals and percentages and finding fractions of amounts.
- **Year 6 Rowan Class**
  - Yasmin For her great car and attention with her handwriting and carefully responding to feedback in English.
  - Max For accurately calculating missing angles and challenging himself with reasoning questions.
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class**
  - Edward For making such and effort in the presentation of his written work recently.
  - Eva For exploring different artists and comparing and contrasting
  - Eva For excellent work in art this week to compare styles of different artists.
  - Ed For the work he has been putting in to improving his presentation recently. Keep up the good work!
- **PE Awards Infants**
  - Jack For working hard with his partner to improve his passing and ball control with a football. Well done!
  - Amelia For working hard with her partner to improve her passing and ball control with a football. Well done!
- **PE Awards Juniors**
  - Thomas For showing strength and control through flowing transitions over a course of benches and gymnastic stalls. Well done!
  - Angus For some excellent work in cricket. Clean, consistent ball striking and string fielding. Well done!

## Sports Desk

The picture (right) shows Edward and Alfred (Year 6) who swam, rode and ran their own triathlon last Saturday. They covered 400m swimming, 8km cycling and 2.5km running and must have been exhausted by the end! At last count, their sponsorship (for the MND Charity) was running at £2,160. Congratulations to them both!



It has been another great week of sporting competition at school too. Congratulations to our netball and football teams who played very successful away games this week. Our netball teams travelled across town to St Hilda's and did not concede a goal, the A team winning by 8-0 and the B Team 11-0. Our football teams met Crabtree away for a local derby that was more evenly matched and resulted in a 1-0 win for the A Team and a 1-1 draw for the Bs. Thank you to Mrs Shewbridge, Mr George and Mr Edney as well as to the parent helpers and supporters who attended these and many other matches so far this year.

## Community Matters

### Film Competition

Harpenden Town Council, together with the Harpenden Arts and Culture Forum, are excited to invite local young people up to the age of 25 to enter a new film competition.

With a theme of "What's Important to Me?" this competition is a celebration of creativity, voice, and perspectives across our community. We're encouraging young people to tell their stories through film and explore what truly matters to them, whether that might be people, places, passions or ideas.

With various age and awards categories (including soundtrack and script), the competition aims to nurture emerging talent and encourage creative expression at every stage. The initiative proudly supports the developing arts sector in Harpenden and is backed by the University of Hertfordshire and the Hertfordshire Film Office.

Entries may be made by individuals, pairs, teams, community groups or schools and shortlisted entries will be invited to a grand awards evening on 17th April 2026, where the judges and category winners will come together to view and celebrate the winning films and the creativity behind them. There are also some fantastic prizes on offer.

For more information, please visit the webpage at [www.harpenden.gov.uk/whats-important](http://www.harpenden.gov.uk/whats-important) or get in touch directly. Entries close on Friday 13th March, 2026.

## 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 Maple and Sycamore classes who have the best attendance this week, with 100% attendance. Do take a look at our [new attendance page](#) on our website for information on how to notify us of absence.

### Eco Councillors' Big Walk and Wheel – 16 to 27 March

We are excited to be taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school challenge promoting cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting. The event will take place from 16–27 March 2026.

This free initiative encourages everyone to get involved and supports children in building more physical activity into their daily routines, which benefits both their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Throughout the challenge, we will be tracking how children travel to school each day.

We hope as many pupils as possible will join in and take part!

### Holiday Clubs running in school over half term

- ✓ [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



## Diary Dates *New or amended events*

Monday 9 March 2026

Wednesday 11 March 2026

Thursday 12 March, 3pm

& Friday 13 March 2026, 8:45am

16 to 27 March 2026

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 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Wednesday 20 May – 22 May

Thursday 4 June

Tuesday 9 June 2026

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Monday 6 July 2026

*Year 5 Science Workshop at Abbotshill School*

*Year 5 Mayan Workshop*

*Year 3 Open Classrooms*

*The Big Walk and Wheel Challenge*

*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*

*Reception trip to Hertfordshire Zoo*

*Y3 Kew Gardens Visit*

*Y5 Young Mariners Visit*

*Y1 Woburn Safari Park Visit*



**BIG WALK AND WHEEL**  
16 – 27 March 2026

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust | Headline sponsor SCHWALBE

**We're taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel 2026 challenge.**

Join in by walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school between 16 - 27 March.

- Be active and feel more energised
- Help the environment by replacing a car journey
- Help us win some fantastic prizes

[www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk](http://www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk)

Headline sponsor: SCHWALBE | Walk Wheel Cycle Trust

