



Weekly Newsletter

26 April 2019

Making learning an adventure

Our school value for this half-term is resilience.

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been lovely to see everyone again this week after the Easter break and to hear about the various activities that have been taking place over the holiday period for both children and staff.

This week, we launched our value for the half-term: resilience. In the launch assembly we explored the various qualities required to demonstrate resilience (being tough and flexible, and having the ability to keep on going) and how this can be important in both relationships and learning. Why not talk to your child about how this might apply to them in school and at home? The assembly presentation and those of previous value launch assemblies can be found [here](#).

The later Easter means that we have only four weeks before the May half-term break, which begins with the Spring Bank Holiday on 27 May and parents will, no doubt, also be aware that the school will also be closed for the Early May Bank Holiday on 6 May. The half-term is, however, no less busy than any other and you will see from the diary dates section that there are a number of sporting events taking place over the next few weeks, including our school sports day. Please note that, having begun to plan them in more detail, we now realise we need more time for the KS2 sports day than for the Reception/KS1 sports day. For this reason, the KS2 sports day will take place in the morning of 21 May and the Reception/KS1 sports day will take place in the afternoon.

Parents may well have noticed the improvements that have been taking shape in some of our outdoor learning spaces over the Easter break and I'm sure you will agree that the Reception outdoor learning space and the nature area are both looking much more attractive and suitable for active learning. Thank you to the Reception staff who have given time to this; to Mrs Gavan for her work on the nature reserve and other beds/borders (commissioned by FoHBS, so thanks to them too!) and to Mr Gavan who has been building an epic sandpit!

Whilst talking about the gardening, please can we ask that parents/carers do not let children jump over the lovely new hedge plants outside the front door of the school. One or two have already been damaged by children seen jumping across them. We would hope that parents and children would use the paved walk ways rather than the grass and planted areas. Thank you for respecting the hard work that has been put in to maintaining our school environment.

The teaching staff had a very productive training day on Tuesday of this week, which was spent on curriculum review and development as well as assessment and planning for the coming term. More information about curriculum and expectations for each year group will be available in the class newsletters which will be published next week.

Next week the first of our Year 4 classes, Pine Class, will be attending their first residential visit, Year 5 children will have the opportunity to do their cycling proficiency and the travelling book fair will be open to parents after school, in the dining room from Wednesday to Friday.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

FoHBS News

For all those coming to our Midsummer Ball on Friday 21st June, you should now have received the link and the menu choices from your Table Host. It seems to be working well so far!

Just in case you don't have it, here it is again. We do still have space for a few more tables so if you would like to pull together a table – even for friends outside of High Beeches, please let the office know ASAP and follow the link [here](#).

Thanks. Carolyn

Do you have your own business? Would you love the chance to advertise, sell your wares or showcase your skills? Then we have the perfect opportunity for you! The FOHBS Summer Fair is on Sunday 9th June and we'd love to offer you the chance to book a stall for a small fee to sell your products or services. If you're interested then email contact.fohbs@gmail.com to find out more! Tables are limited so don't delay!

The last FOHBS meeting for the current school year is taking place on WEDNESDAY 1st MAY, 7.30pm (for a prompt 8pm start) in The Skew Bridge. Please come along. We're always happy to see new faces and get more parents involved! If you can come please let us know contact.fohbs@gmail.com

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week

- **Reception Oak Class**
Teddy – for having such a good attitude to learning
Agnes – for always trying your hardest and for helping others
- **Reception Chestnut Class**
Zach – for showing resilience to improve writing
Bea – for working hard to improve her handwriting
- **Year 1 Elm Class**
Eve – for showing self-belief in phonics
Isabella – for showing cooperation and working well in a te4am
- **Year 1 Cedar Class**
Yusuf – for an outstanding effort when writing
Ted – for being an enthusiastic learner and working hard on pencil grip
- **Year 2 Hazel Class**
Emily – for showing confidence and resilience in lessons
Isabelle – for concentrating well in lessons
- **Year 2 Willow Class**
Amy – for approaching tasks with resilience
Frank – for always showing a responsible attitude and being resilient
- **Year 3 Birch Class**
Chloe - for making a real effort to work independently in Maths
Evie – for showing resilience and going for the hot challenge in Maths
- **Year 3 Redwood Class**
Ben – for making an enthusiastic start to the new term
Henry J – for always showing resilience when challenged by his learning
- **Year 4 Maple Class**
Ryan – for an excellent attitude to his Maths work
Alfie – for being resilient and showing good sportsmanship
- **Year 4 Pine Class**
Jesse – for showing an excellent attitude towards his learning this week
Kaii – for trying hard to stay focused during lessons this week
- **Year 5 Ash Class**
John – for showing excellent attitude to his work in English
Alex – for showing resilience when working on his own
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class**
Tom – for showing resilience in the playground
Ryder – for showing fantastic concentration across all lessons
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class**
William – for showing a really resilient attitude in Maths
Tobenna – for excellent work in Grammar and punctuation

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

There were no classes with 100% this week. Let's go for it next week!

Absence from school

Please remember that if your child is absent from school due to sickness a phone call should be made to the absent line before 9.15am on the first morning of sickness and a letter/email should be sent on their first day of return otherwise the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

Charity Run and Family Day

Autism Angels are organising a charity run and family day at St Paul's Walden Bury on 22 September. Runners can choose from 2, 5 or 10K, so anyone can participate. More information can be found [here](#).

Hygiene Bank Harpenden

The Hygiene Bank has recently launched in Harpenden and we will be taking donations for them all next week (29 April to 3 May). Hygiene Bank is a UK registered charity: think food bank but for hygiene items.

It is a shocking fact that 30% of children in the UK now live in poverty, and people stop buying every day essentials such as toothpaste or washing powder long before they stop buying food.

The Hygiene Bank encourages the local community to donate hygiene essentials, beauty and personal care products. They then collect, sort and distribute products to those that can't afford them via charity, government and voluntary organisations.

Harpenden's beneficiaries include a women's refuge, a night shelter, Inspire All Family Services, the Red Cross in Luton, Azalea, two foodbanks and the Harpenden Trust. These are all wonderful organisations working to support the vulnerable and those that are struggling.

The collection box will be placed in our main entrance for parents to drop-off their donations during the week. More information can be found [here](#).

Support for Parents and Families

Parkrun is coming to St Albans and will take place at Verulamium Park every Sunday at 9am, starting this Sunday 28 April 2019.

Care for the Family are running an Internet Safety conference for parents at St Albans Vineyard Church on 23 May from 7:30 to 10pm. The conference is entitled *Left to Their Own Devices* and will explore how parents can help their children to keep safe in the fast moving, ever-changing online world. [Click here](#) to book.

Caretaker/Site Manager vacancy at Batford Nursery

Batford Nursery School is currently recruiting for a Caretaker/Site Manager as follows:

"We are looking to appoint a reliable and friendly caretaker/site manager who will take pride in the appearance of the school buildings and grounds, play an active role in our school community and be a good role model for our children. This is a permanent role and job sharers will be considered. For further information, the role is advertised on TeachinHerts and Harpenden Jobs facebook page and the closing date is 3rd May".

Diary Dates

- Monday 29th April – Clubs start
- Monday 29th April – Year 5 Cycling Proficiency starts
- Tuesday 30th April – Year 1 Sports competition
- Wednesday 1st May – Travelling Book Fair arrives
- Wednesday 1st May – Year 3 Swimming lessons start
- Wednesday 1st May – Pine Class Dell Farm Residential
- Friday 3rd May – Pine class return
- Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday – School closed
- Tuesday 7th May – Y3/4 Football tournament at Sauncey Wood
- Tuesday 7th May – Last day for Travelling book fair
- Thursday 9th May – Year 5 Tudor Workshop Day
- W/b Monday 13th May – KS2 Test week (Year 6)
- Wednesday 15th May – Pine Class Assembly – 9am
- Friday 17th May – Reception Headteacher’s coffee morning
- Monday 20th May – Class photos
- Tuesday 21st May – Sports Day – KS2 from 9.15am and Reception/KS1 from 1.30pm
PLEASE NOTE THAT KS2 WILL NOW BE IN THE MORNING AND KS1 WILL BE IN THE AFTERNOON
- Wednesday 22nd May – Redwood Class Assembly – 9.15am
- Thursday 23rd May – Y2 St Albans Cathedral Visit
- Friday 24th May – Birch Class Assembly – 9am
- Friday 24th May – 3.15pm Finish for Half Term
- Monday 3rd June – Children back to school
- Thursday 6th June – Y6 Computing Workshop
- Thursday 6th June – Y5/6 Rounders Tournament – Redbourn 1.20pm
- Friday 7th June – Whole School Art Day
- Sunday 9th June – FoHBS Summer Fair – 2pm to 4.30pm
- **W/b 10th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Test**
- Tuesday 11 June – Team Photos
- Wednesday 12th June – Maple Class Dell Farm Residential
- Thursday 13th June – Y6 Computing Workshop
- Thursday 13th June – Reserve date for Y5/6 Rounders Tournament
- Friday 14th June – Maple Class Return
- Tuesday 18th June – Y5/6 Kwik Cricket Festival
- Tuesday 18th June - Y1 Woburn Trip
- Thursday 20th June – Reserve date for Y5/6 Cricket Festival
- Friday 21st June – INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Friday 21st June – FoHBS Summer Ball
- Tuesday 25th June – KS2 Athletics Tournament
- Wednesday 26th June - Maple Class Assembly – 9am
- Thursday 27th June – Reserve date for KS2 Athletics Tournament
- Friday 28th June – Hawthorn Class Assembly – 9am
- Friday 5th July – Ash Class Assembly - 9am
- Monday 8th July – LAST WEEK OF CLUBS
- Monday 8th July – Year 6 Production – Evening
- Tuesday 9th July – No Karate Club
- Tuesday 9th July – Year 6 Production – Evening
- Thursday 11th July – Year 6 Secondary Transition Day
- **Friday 12th July – Pupil reports sent home**
- Tuesday 16th July – Volunteers Tea Party – 3.15pm
- Wednesday 17th July – Year 6 BBQ – Evening
- Thursday 18th July – High Beeches Got Talent
- Wednesday 24th July – End of Term – 2pm