



Weekly Newsletter

24 May 2019

Making learning an adventure

Our school value for this half-term is resilience.

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a really memorable week in school this week with a raft of activities and lots of outdoor learning in the warm weather we have been enjoying.

Both of our Year 3 classes (Redwood and Birch) have presented engaging and informative class assemblies to appreciative audiences of their parents and peers. The assemblies took us on a journey through time to explore the different aspects of the history curriculum in Year 3, with Indiana Jones on the hunt for a missing artefact in the Stone Age, Ancient Egyptian times and Ancient Greece.

Year 2 visited St Albans Cathedral yesterday to learn about Cathedrals as places of worship and about the history of St Alban himself and the children of Year 5 Hawthorn Class have visited Willow Court (our neighbouring old peoples' home) this afternoon to perform a song to the residents to mark the end of our Alzheimer's Friends project.

I particularly enjoyed my first High Beeches Sports Day. Both Junior and Infant events ran very smoothly and I was proud of the children's behaviour, sporting attitude and effort. Congratulations to all those who organised and competed in the events. Special congratulations to Yellow House who won both events, to Red house who came in second place in the Junior Sports Day and to Green House who came second in the Infant Sports Day. More details in the Sports Desk.

Don't forget that school closes this afternoon at 3.15pm for the May Half-term break and re-opens on Monday 3 June 2019. During the week, we will have our very own Artist in Residence, [Liz Sergeant](#), who will be working with children right across the school on a new mural for the side of our library building. This will lead up to our whole school Art House Day on Thursday 6 June, when the children will be working in their mixed-age house groups on art from around the world. The art they will be creating can then be viewed at our art exhibition after school on Friday 7 June. Please help the children to keep clean by sending them in with an art shirt all week!

I would like to wish all our families and staff an enjoyable bank holiday and break and look forward to seeing you when we return!

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



FoHBS News

THANK YOU - A big thank you to all the parents that volunteered on sports day for the refreshment stand. Particular shout out to Steff Bailey who was our event superstar and organised everything and everyone!

FOR YOUR DIARY - Our annual summer fair is fast approaching! It's going to be a fantastic afternoon with a fire engine, police car, bouncy castles, beer tent, music, craft stalls, Glazetime ceramics and other local businesses, fort building, games ranging from whack the rat, test your strength and hook a duck to beat the goalie, tin can alley and basketball shootout plus our much anticipated teacher in the stocks challenge! Book Sunday 9th June, 2-4.30 in your diaries now!

HELP PLEASE! We are in need of 8-10 volunteers for set up first thing in the morning of Sunday 9th June between 8am - 9.30am. At least 4-5 of which need to be strong to help put up the beer tent (anyone that's done this in the past particularly welcome!) At the moment we have none so please don't be shy in coming forward.

SUMMER FAIR DONATIONS - Finally, there are some posters up in classroom windows explaining what we need from you all for the fair. Please keep an eye out as we need them on the Thursday/Friday of the first week back from half term.

We can't tell you how much we appreciate your time and donations - thank so much in advance for everything you do. Without your support we simply wouldn't have these brilliant school events. **Happy Half Term!**

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week

- **Reception Oak Class** Lily – for working hard on her writing and achieving her target.
Sophie – for showing the value of kindness every day.
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Chloe – showing resilience in her writing.
Rowan – for working hard to use finger spaces.
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Imogen – for putting lots of effort into her writing.
Stephanie – for showing resilience in all areas of her learning.
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Sophia – for an excellent attitude in science.
Oscar – for showing resilience in all areas of her learning.
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Alfie – for showing resilience and for always pushing himself in class.
Henry – for using a growth mindset and for always working hard in lessons.
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Timothy – for showing resilience and for always trying his best in maths.
Oisin – for being a kind friend when a child was distressed.
- **Year 3 Birch Class** All of them – for cooperating so well and working so hard to prepare their class assembly.
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** The whole class – for their hard work and stellar performance in their class assembly.
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Rory – for an excellent effort, when learning about coordinates.
Adam – for showing resilience in all his learning.
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Ethan – for continuing to be an excellent role model in class.
Noah – For increased effort in English generally and in his Big Write.
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Andrew – for applying himself to do his best in every lesson.
Lexi-Mae – for showing resilience in problem solving in maths.
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Louis – for showing resilience in all of his learning, especially art and D & T.
Ryder – for showing enormous maturity and good progress in Year 5.
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Wesley – for showing resilience when working on word problems in maths.
Nathan – for a really excellent effort in his writing work.

Sports Desk

We would like to thank the many parents who have commented positively about how successful our Sports Day was this week. Congratulations to all those who took part. Results as follows:

- ✓ Infant Sports Day First Place – Yellow House
- ✓ Infant Sports Day Second Place – Green House
- ✓ Junior Sports Day First Place – Yellow House
- ✓ Junior Sports Day Second Place – Red House
- ✓ Overall Winner – Yellow House



Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Y2 Hazel Class and Y6 Sycamore Class, both of whom had 100% attendance this week.

Perfect Parking and Safe Healthy Routes to School

In order to promote healthy living and to maintain the safety of our pupils and families, whilst minimising the impact of the school on our neighbours; we would encourage as many families as possible to walk, scoot or ride to school. Those who travel further distances or who need to do so once they have completed the school drop-off should use our park and walk facility at the bowls club, just off Waldegrave Park. We are required to provide such a facility and pay an annual fee to lease it from the bowls club, and it is literally a few minutes' walk from school. This week has been *Walk to School Week* and congratulations to all those who have walked, cycled or scooted as part of the initiative this week. The trick will be in maintaining it!

The issue of parking congestion is even more critical when parents are attending events at school and we would like to thank the very many parents who did use the park and walk during our Infant Sports Day on Tuesday afternoon, after we informed parents by text of a complaint from one of our neighbours about parking during the Junior Sports Day in the morning. It was lovely to see Aldwickbury Crescent clear of cars in the afternoon and lots of cars in the car park. Please continue to help us to maintain positive relationships with our neighbours by using this facility, whenever you drive to school.

Our Year 5 children have recently passed their cycling proficiency tests and many will be cycling to school now that the summer weather is here. Please be mindful of them on the roads as you drive to school and help them to stay safe and build their confidence. They are still learning and can be frightened by tooting of horns!

Please note that, owing to the large number of people on site and the risk of accidents, we are unable to allow pupils or younger siblings to scoot or ride bicycles on the school grounds at drop-off or collection times. Parents and children should therefore leave all bicycles or scooters in the cycle/scooter shelters or parents may choose to carry small bicycles or scooters belonging to younger siblings whilst they are on site.

Support for Families

Harpenden Plus Partnership are running a workshop for parents of children who will be moving to secondary school in September on Friday 5 July at 9:30am. To book a place or for more information can be found [here](#).

Headteacher's Questions

This week a parent has asked about how we manage lost property and particularly about there being lots of named jumpers and cardigans that could have been returned to classes instead of being left in the lost property area.

We would also always encourage children to develop their independence and support them in taking increasing responsibility for their belongings and this would include trying to spot what is missing and, as they get older, going to find it, rather than leaving it to Mum or Dad! The suggestion that named items should be returned to class rather than sent to the lost property area is perfectly reasonable. I would expect children and staff who find lost jumpers and cardigans to check to see if they are named first and to send them back to class in this case.

However, the volume of lost cardigans and jumpers does tend to increase in the warm weather when pupils discard them whilst playing at break and lunchtime and then forget to retrieve them when the bell goes! On such days, and particularly at the end of lunch break, the focus is on ensuring that the children are lined up sensibly and ready for learning, and on getting them swiftly back to their classrooms so that afternoon lessons may begin. This may result in lunchtime staff being somewhat overwhelmed by the number of lost jumpers and simply scooping them all up and putting them in the lost property area. In order to help the lunchtime staff and to make this task more manageable, I would suggest that children are encouraged by both parents at home and by school staff to leave jumpers and cardigans in classrooms or cloakrooms at lunchtime on a warm day.

Community Focus

The Oval Run Saturday 22nd June 2019 1-mile for children, 5-miles for ages 12+

More information can be found [here](#) and participants can register [here](#).

Do have a look at the [Sustainable St Albans website](#) for information on their **Sustainability Festival** which takes place throughout May and includes family activities for half-term week.

Diary Dates

- Monday 3rd June – Children back to school and Class Photographs – note change of date
- Thursday 6th June – Y6 Computing Workshop and Y5/6 Rounders Tournament – Redbourn 1.20pm
- **Thursday 6th June – Whole School Art Day (PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)**
- **Friday 7th June, 3:15 to 4pm – Art exhibition, School Hall**
- 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 to 14th 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, 2pm – Reception Fathers' Day Celebration**
- Tuesday 18th June – Y1 Woburn Trip and Y5/6 Kwik Cricket Festival
- 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 and Tuesday 9th July – Year 6 Production – Evening
- Tuesday 9th July – No Karate Club
- Thursday 11th July – 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

ADVANCE NOTICE (How's this for planning?!)

Our Christmas Carol Services this year will both take place on the same evening. This is principally due to availability of the church, but it will also contribute to staff well-being at probably the busiest time of year, by reducing the number of evenings we are asking staff to work. We hope that by giving advance notice, parents will be able to make arrangements to be there if at all possible.

- Wednesday 11 December, 5pm – Red and Yellow Houses
- Wednesday 11 December, 6:30pm – Blue and Green Houses