



# Weekly Newsletter

5 July 2019

*Making learning an adventure*

**Our school value for this half-term is happiness.**

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Moving Up**

I am pleased to be able to confirm arrangements for classes for the 2019/20 school year. You will see that it is a really strong team, with a small amount of staff moving to different year groups alongside colleagues who have been working in the year group for a year or more.

The children have been informed this afternoon about these arrangements. Please help your child by talking positively to him/her about the prospect of moving up to their next class over the weekend.

The children will be moving up to their new classes for the morning on Thursday next week and will be able to start to get to know the year group teams then. We are aware that some children can be more anxious about the transition from one class to the next and will be putting support in place for this where appropriate.

Some parents may be aware that we have taken the decision to mix-up the current Year 4 classes, when they move into Year 5.

<b>18/19 Class</b>	<b>19/20 Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
<i>n/a</i>	<b>R Chestnut</b>	Miss S Knights
<i>n/a</i>	<b>R Oak</b>	Mrs E Burnham
<i>Chestnut</i>	<b>Y1 Cedar</b>	Mrs A Cunningham
<i>Oak</i>	<b>Y1 Elm</b>	Mrs J Hughes & Mrs H Richardson
<i>Cedar</i>	<b>Y2 Hazel</b>	Miss A Norman
<i>Elm</i>	<b>Y2 Willow</b>	Mrs L Priolo
<i>Hazel</i>	<b>Y3 Birch</b>	Miss K Jackson
<i>Willow</i>	<b>Y3 Redwood</b>	Mr E Gardiner
<i>Redwood</i>	<b>Y4 Maple</b>	Miss H Pascoe
<i>Birch</i>	<b>Y4 Pine</b>	Mrs L Waterworth
<i>Class 5A</i>	<b>Y5 Ash</b>	Mr P Edney
<i>Class 5B</i>	<b>Y5 Hawthorn</b>	Miss O Wills
<i>Ash</i>	<b>Y6 Rowan</b>	Mrs R Hill
<i>Hawthorn</i>	<b>Y6 Sycamore</b>	Mrs A Jordon & Mrs S Button
<i>n/a</i>	<b>Cross-school</b>	Mr M Young and Mrs S Button

As a school we regularly review our practice in order to ensure that our provision continues to meet the needs of our pupils. We have now been admitting two forms of entry for the last six years and have thus far chosen to leave the two classes as they are, as they move through the school from one academic year to the next.

Like many schools, we will always strive to ensure classes are a broad balance of different groups and needs in order that the children can become well-rounded adults of the future. Although we group the children in this way when they start school, on occasions we do find that classes become less well balanced as the children develop or when there is a higher than normal amount of in-year movement, with a number of pupils leaving and new pupils joining the school.

Many primary schools mix up year groups from time to time; others do it annually as a matter of policy. Either way, it will always be possible to identify both advantages and disadvantages of each approach. We believe that, going forward, our approach should be to consider whether or not mixing up classes at key points in their school career will benefit the children in each year group and to do so, when on balance this appears to be the case.



## Seeking Your Views

We are currently preparing our school development plan for the forthcoming academic year. This involves evaluating the school's provision and outcomes by using a range of sources of information, such as assessment data, monitoring information and parent and staff survey results.

I would like to thank those who contributed to our parent survey in the Spring Term, although we were disappointed to have received only 54 responses in total. It is really important to us, as a governing body and staff team, to be able to take account of the views of parents and carers in our school development planning. Parents are invited to complete the survey on [OFSTED Parent View](#) at any time.

We are pleased to report that the following areas scored very highly in our own survey with over 90% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statements about their child feeling happy and safe; the quality of teaching and pupil progress; leadership and management; keeping up-to-date with news and events and inclination to recommend the school.

Although the great majority of respondents agreed with all the statements in the survey, the statements about the appropriateness of homework and the information we provide about pupil progress garnered slightly lower levels of agreement. We are therefore currently exploring what changes can be made to our homework policy and how we can further improve our pupil reports in 2019/20.

Yours faithfully

**Jonathan Walker**  
*Headteacher*

## Sports Desk

Congratulations to Ollie R (from Hawthorn Class) who completed a sponsored swim this week in aid of cancer research. He aimed to swim 100 lengths in 1 hour and managed a fantastic 110! So far he has raised £280 pounds for his efforts. Well done Ollie: great perseverance, motivation and stamina!

## FoHBS News

FOHBS are hoping to organise some fundraising events next year but need volunteers to help lead on the organisation. Plenty of support and assistance will be given but without someone at the helm of each event we don't have the capacity to do as much as we'd like. Specifically we'd be keen to hear from anyone interested in organising:

- School Discos (end of October and possible mid February)
- Easter Treasure Hunt or Easter event
- Summer Ball (or a suitable alternative)

We have information on what's involved and various volunteers to help with design, communication, ticketing etc but we are in desperate need of event leaders.

Please email [contact.fohbs@gmail.com](mailto:contact.fohbs@gmail.com) if you'd be willing to be involved and help raise crucial funds for the school next year.

## Supporting Families

Parents of children with or awaiting diagnosis of special educational needs are invited to attend free support and information drop-in sessions at the Harpenden Trust Centre in Southdown Road, once a month on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9pm. More information can be found in the flyer sent by email and on the [parent/Carer Hub page](#) of our school website.

## Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week

- **Reception Oak Class**  
Billy – for working hard and achieving his target  
Emma – for being a good friend and sharing her value of happiness
- **Reception Chestnut Class**  
Bea – for being a kind friend to others  
Callum – for always acting as the “peacemaker” amongst his friends
- **Year 1 Elm Class**  
George – for putting lots of effort into all his work  
Heather – for always trying her best and showing a positive attitude
- **Year 1 Cedar Class**  
Izzy – for showing enthusiasm for every lesson and working hard at letter formation  
Holly – for pushing herself to improve her English writing
- **Year 2 Hazel Class**  
Max – for showing enthusiasm in our topic  
Celia – for showing a positive attitude to her learning
- **Year 2 Willow Class**  
Harry – for sharing his happy, keen approach to work  
Sophie – for always showing happiness and positivity to others  
Hugo – for always contributing to class discussions and showing enthusiasm for learning
- **Year 3 Birch Class**  
Jess – for always engaging with her learning and contributing to class discussions
- **Year 3 Redwood Class**  
Henry G-C – for his cheerful disposition which spreads happiness through the class  
Molly - for always putting everything into all aspects of school life
- **Year 4 Maple Class**  
Annie – for being resilient and settling well into High Beeches  
Timo – for always pushing himself in Maths
- **Year 4 Pine Class**  
Jessica – for always giving maximum effort to all of her work  
Theo – for always being a positive role model by trying hard in all lessons
- **Year 5 Ash Class**  
Tom – for great acting in the class assembly  
Oliver – for pushing himself to really improve in Maths
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class**  
Jamie – for enjoying his learning in everything that he sets in mind to  
Annemarie – for showing
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class**  
Aliza – for always showing the value of happiness  
Mary – for persevering with her DT project and making it work perfectly

Congratulations also go to Year 5 Ash Class who performed a really creative assembly of self-written poetry, acting and singing this morning, all based around their poetry collection, *Terrific Tales of Daring Dogs and Pawfect Pups*, published earlier this year. In the end we did find out who it was that let the dogs out!

Also to Lily D in Year 5 who performed in a song and dance production of Top Hat at the Indigo Theatre last weekend.

## Further Information and Reminders

### Attendance

Congratulations to Oak, Cedar and Hazel classes for 100% attendance this week.

### Warm Weather

Please make sure that children have sufficient sun protection (hats and sun cream) as well as a decent water bottle in school during spells of hot weather.

### Staff Recruitment

We are currently advertising for two posts: Senior Midday Supervisory Assistant and a Midday Supervisory Assistant. The Senior MSA is for 10 hours per week and the MSA for 7½ hours per week. If you are available during the day and think you might be interested in joining the staff team or know someone who would, more information can be obtained from the school office.

## Diary Dates

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – **FINAL WEEK OF CLUBS**
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Transition Day
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Pupil reports sent home
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 6:30pm – Year 6 Production. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 BBQ – Evening
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July – High Beeches Got Talent
- Friday 19 July – Science Fair Entries into school (see separate letter)
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2:45pm – Classrooms open for Science Fair
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Volunteers Tea Party – 3.15pm PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE**
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July – End of Term – **2pm**