



Weekly Newsletter

8th November 2019

Making learning an adventure

Our school value for this half-term is positivity



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a pleasure to welcome pupils, staff and families back to High beeches for the second half of the Autumn term. Although we continue to operate a full timetable for the great majority of the half-term running up to Christmas and our focus remains very firmly on continuing to make good progress in pupils learning right across the curriculum, it was lovely to start to hear the sound of Christmas carols and songs drifting through the school this week from music lessons with Mrs Sands. On that note, I would like to thank everyone who has brought in a shoe box for the Rotary Christmas shoebox appeal (pictured above). We have received 121 boxes out of the 150 collected by school families. The collection is arranged for Monday afternoon, so there is still time to fill any of the unreturned boxes over the weekend, as long as they are brought into school first thing on Monday.

It was also good to meet with parent reps in our infant and junior parent forums during the week to receive feedback about parents' and pupils' experiences of the school and to share information on various aspects of the school's development.

Pupils in Hazel Class enjoyed a super trip to Pizza Express yesterday, where they learnt about food and cooking and I'm sure that members of Willow Class are looking forward to their visit next week.

How to Stay Positive

- Write a list of things that are going well...
 - Think about a time when something went well...
 - Talk to someone about your worries...
 - Smile!
 - Do something fun or get some exercise!
 - Spend time with people you love!
 - Ask for help...
 - Keep on trying!
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You will see that our focus value for this half-term, which we launched in our start-the-week assembly on Monday, is *positivity*. We defined positivity as *believing in and hoping for the best* and this will form part of our PSHE work in class and will be explored further in many of our assemblies in the run up to Christmas.

There are a number of opportunities for our pupils to think beyond their own experiences next week, beginning with our act of remembrance in our assembly on Monday and continuing with odd socks Tuesday, where pupils are invited to wear odd socks to school, for one day only, to

help them to think about difference, acceptance and freedom to be ourselves, as part of our anti-bullying week work. Friday next week is our Children in Need mufti day and children are invited to attend school in non-uniform and to wear a spotty or brightly coloured head scarf or bandanna (Pudsey style).

In addition to this, we are also fortunate to have been able to book the St Alban's Rehearsal Orchestra who will be performing a number of short concerts in school on Wednesday morning to introduce the children to the range of real live orchestral instruments.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker Headteacher



FoHBS News

Parents have received flyers from FoHBS this week advertising the sale of Christmas trees and promoting our Christmas Fair donation days on 29 November and 6 December. Children are invited to bring bottle tombola prizes and secret room gifts in return for a free mufti (non-uniform) day on 29 November and there is a call for baked goods on the Friday 6 December, 2 days prior to the fair. See info below.

**DONATION DAYS FOR CHRISTMAS FAIR
29TH NOV & 6TH DEC**

29th Nov - Staff Car Park @ drop off/pick up
Bottle of Wine/alcohol

one per family for the adult tombola

29th Nov - Reception @ drop off & pick up
Secrets Room present, one item per child:
an unused gift that would be suitable for a Mum,
Dad, sibling or relative. The children love doing this - they get to choose and wrap on their own
which makes it really special. (Please don't forget the men - we get lots of choices for Mums but so
many for the Dads so nice chocolate, books etc

6th December - Dining room hand in
Baked goods - cakes/biscuits/mince pies

Please send in all cakes/biscuits in an air tight container or very well wrapped. If you want the container back please label it with name and class

We rely on your kind donations to make this event successful. Thank you for your support!

Support
FRIENDS of
HIGH BEECHES

Buy a LOCALLY GROWN
Christmas Tree

Premium NORDMANN FIRS
Cut in early December
£10 PER TREE WILL BE GIVEN TO FoHBS

Order online from www.foha.ecwid.com
Collection or delivery on 13th or 14th December
Prices from £39 (5ft tree)

Sports Desk

Congratulations to our Year 5/6 girls' football team who continued their run of great performances yesterday at the Harpenden School Girls Football Tournament. Playing against 11 other local schools, coming in third place overall.

Thank you to Mrs Pemberthy and a number of parents for taking a group of children to a competition this week. Mrs Pemberthy reports below:

On Wednesday, sixteen of our Year 1 children took part in an inter-sports competition at Redbourn Primary School. Activities included cup-stacking, beanbag targets, football skills and an obstacle course. They participated with real confidence and determination and we were delighted when all of the individual scores added together to make us the overall winners!

A special mention goes to Emma for taking 1st place in the cup-stacking; Teddy and Zach for 1st and 2nd respectively in the beanbag targets; Lily for 3rd place in the football skills and Logan and Calvin for 2nd and 3rd in the obstacle course, Logan narrowly missed out on 1st place by just 0.3 seconds!

We were very proud of the children's behaviour at the event, as well as their team spirit and positivity. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to Mr George for training them and to the helpers who ferried them to and from the event.

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Oak Class** Kenzie – for having a good attitude to learning and always being helpful
Juliet – for showing positivity in her learning
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Oscar – for trying hard to persist when challenges occur
Luke T – for showing positivity in his everyday school life
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Sienna – for always putting maximum effort into her work
Elijah – for having a positive approach to his work and making great work
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** George – for pushing himself in Maths this week
Chloe – for writing a fantastic space adventure story
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Erica – for always showing a positive attitude to learning
Mustafa – for showing a positive attitude to learning and being a role model on our trip
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Jack B – for showing a positive attitude to learning
Alice – for persevering and approaching tasks with positivity
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Sophia – for working really hard in class this week
Lewis – for taking care to produce excellent work
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Scarlett – for showing the value of positivity across all learning this week
Timothy – for an outstanding positive contribution to the class effort on TT Rockstars
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Jude – for being a positive role model for all his peers
Ellie – for always having a positive approach to all her learning
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Bella – for always showing the value of positivity
Thomas G – for showing enthusiasm in his learning
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Thomas – for showing a very positive attitude to writing
Abby – for showing a positive approach to learning especially in English
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Adam – for having a positive attitude to everything that he does
Jesse – for being a learning partner and inspiring others with his dazzling ideas
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Ben – for a big improvement in attitude
Lily – for consistently hard work across the curriculum
- **Year 6 Rowan Class** Zach – for fantastic work in Maths and pushing himself to get out the maze
Toni – for reflective thinking about WW1 and writing a wonderful Cinquain

Further Information and Reminders

Community

- Sustainable St Albans film
Climate emergency film being held on Monday 18th November, 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Bennet's, 21 Leyton Rd, Harpenden AL5 2HU
- Rennie Grove Carol Concert
An evening of Festive music on Wednesday 11th December, 6.30pm for 7.00pm at St Peters Church, St Albans. £15 including drink and mince pie. Tickets from Gemma 01727 731028

Drop-off and Collection

The flow of parents and children around the site at drop-off and collection times is working well in the main. However, please note that the area between Chestnut and Hazel classes, where the pavement is at its narrowest between the two buildings, can become very congested. Parents are requested to move through this space as swiftly as possible and those dropping at or collecting from Chestnut and Hazel Classes are requested to stand parallel to the fence or building when possible to allow others to pass by. Many thanks in advance.

Attendance

Congratulations Pine class on 100% attendance this week.

Diary Dates

Any amendments or additions to those previously published are shown in red text.

November	11 th	Anti-Bullying week Armistice Day
	12 th	Odd Sock Tuesday for Anti-bullying Week Open morning 1 for 2020 Reception parents 9.30am - 10.30am <i>Places are limited. Please book through the school office.</i>
	13th	St Alban's Rehearsal Orchestra concert in school
	14 th	Cross Country pm
	15 th	Children in Need
	21 st	Open morning 2 for 2020 Reception parents 9.30am - 10.30am <i>Places are limited. Please book through the school office.</i>
	29th	Christmas Fair tombola donation mufti day!
December	4 th	Open morning 3 for 2020 Reception parents 9.30am - 10.30am <i>Places are limited. Please book through the school office.</i>
	4 th	Harpenden Rotary Club Carol Service
	8 th	2 to 4:30pm – FOHBS Christmas Fair
	11 th	Christmas Treat Day: Visiting Pantomime and Christmas lunch
	11 th	KS2 Carol Services (Methodist Church) 5pm and 6.30
	12 th	2:30pm - Reception Nativity Play
	13 th	9:15am - Reception Nativity Play
	13 th	Jolly (Christmas) Jumper Day (L & D Helipad Appeal)
	13 th	Y1 Carol Service (in school) 2:30pm
	17 th	2:30pm Y2 Nativity
	18 th	9:15am Y2 Nativity
	20 th	School closes for Christmas holiday at 2pm