



# Weekly Newsletter

5 March 2021

*Making learning a lifelong adventure*

Our school value for this half-term is responsibility.

Dear Parents/Carers

Mrs Shewbridge and I really enjoyed seeing the children (so many of them dressed up and with their favourite book) in our year group assemblies this week and talking to them about books. Thank you for helping them to be able to get ready. I hope they have enjoyed some of the other reading and book-based activities this week, such as the Nanette's Baguette story.

The development of strong reading skills is the key to accessing all learning and to becoming a fluent communicator, both orally and with writing. We recently came across the [Turn on the Subtitles](#) initiative which promotes the simple idea of putting subtitles on when children are watching television to promote and reinforce reading. Do have a look at the web link above and watch the [short promotional video by Stephen Fry](#).

We are keenly awaiting the return of all pupils to school next week. Please make sure you have had a chance to have a look at the information on our [returning to school page](#) and discuss these with your child to ensure he or she is clear about expectations.

Following the first school closure and lockdown in 2020, we found that the vast majority of pupils made a smooth transition back into school. We have already identified where pupils may be in need of additional help with the process and have put support in place. However, if you have any concerns about the process or need to make us aware of anything that will help us to support your child, please do contact the year teams via the year group emails.

As parents will be aware from my message earlier in the week, the majority of our arrangements for drop-off and collection remain the same as in the Autumn term, however do please familiarise yourself with the arrangements for collection at the end of the day, noting the one-way routes in which those collecting from Chestnut Class and all of Years 1 to 4 will be expected to access the site. As before, parents should wear face-coverings when on site and should maintain a safe social distance from those not in their own household.

## Staff News

I regret to have to inform parents that our school Site Manager, Mr Peter Halsey, was taken ill on Tuesday morning and may be absent from school for some time. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mr Halsey a speedy and full recovery and in sending best wishes Mrs Halsey, who also works as a teaching assistant in school. We are currently looking for assistance with covering Mr Halsey's various duties and would be interested to know if any parents or other family members would be interested in some casual employment to cover some of these in the interim. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in doing so, please contact Mrs Murray in the school office.

And finally, I am pleased to be able to report that Mrs Button is now well enough to return to school. She has begun a phased return to her full hours, working alongside Mrs Jordan in Year 3 Birch Class.

Yours faithfully

*Jonathan Walker*

Headteacher

## Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements that were celebrated in our online year group assemblies this week.

- **Reception Chestnut Class** Lily-Mae - for always trying her hardest with her remote learning. It has been so lovely to see your progress.  
Noah - for his amazing efforts with his remote learning from start to finish.
- **Reception Oak Class** Amelie – for working very hard in learning activities at home and at school.  
James – for participating enthusiastically in all of his learning activities at home and at school.
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Max – for lots of effort particularly when writing.  
Evie – for challenging herself to extend her writing.
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Alfie – for putting his heart and soul into his online learning, producing top quality work across the board every week!  
Amara – for working consistently well at home, particularly with writing.  
Super effort Amara!
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Ava – for putting lots of effort into her writing.  
Luella – for consistently challenging herself in her home learning.
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Megan – for taking a responsible approach to her work and aiming high.  
Erin – for pushing herself and giving fantastic explanations in her Maths last week.
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Electra - for having a really responsible attitude to her learning and producing come excellent work.  
Caleb - for making a making a huge improvement in the presentation of his work and always being enthusiastic.
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Heather – for taking responsibility for her learning, especially her great questions and answers for characters in English.  
Oliver – for excellent presentation of his work, in particular his ‘cherry models’ and drawings in Maths.
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Elliott – for producing some excellent work in English and a fantastic picture in Art.  
Alfie – for showing great enthusiasm in Maths and for improving his handwriting over lockdown
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Frank – for showing great resilience during lockdown.  
Maya – for always trying her best and showing great responsibility and independence for her remote learning.
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Sam – for making significant effort with completing all his remote learning activities.  
Molly – for taking responsibility of her home learning and always presenting her work in creative ways.
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Aiden – for taking responsibility to help others through his support and actions.  
Jess – for showing great commitment to her learning and producing high quality work across all subjects.
- **Year 6 Rowan Class** Annie – for always trying her best and making the most of the help desk.  
William – for a positive attitude to learning throughout remote learning and managing his time effectively.
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Eva – for a fantastic level of detail in her note taking in Geography.  
Sophie – for producing work of a consistently high quality throughout the term.

Additional congratulations to brother and sister William and Holly from Years 5 Ash and Year 3 Birch who, following our inclusion of a link in the school newsletter last year, have been busy completing various challenges to win Blue Peter badges and have each achieved a fantastic 3 badge! William has written this explanation for us and both are pictured with their badges below and more information on BP badges can be found by following the link:

[Click her for more information on earning Blue Peter badges](#)

There are lots of different Blue Peter badges including the sports badge, music badge, environment badge, blue badge, try something new, and the fan club. We had to get these by doing a sport of some kind, learning to play an instrument, picking up litter, saying thank you, writing a story, trying gymnastics and joining the fan club.



## Coronavirus Update

The government have recently announced that, although primary aged children may not take weekly lateral flow tests (as all school staff and secondary aged pupils do), adults living in a household with children may do so. Tests can be collected by household members for use at home from local test centres, although there does not yet appear to be a collection point local to Harpenden. Once a local centre has been established, we would encourage all High Beeches parents to take part if they can and further help identify and isolate cases to reduce the likelihood of an outbreak in school. More information can be found [here](#).

## Community Matters

See separate flyer about the Mayor's charity magic show on 13 March.

## Further Information and Reminders

Thank you to all those who have participated in and contributed to our **Sports Captains' 100 Lap Challenge** in memory and in honour of the late Captain Sir Tom and in aid of NHS Charities. This fundraiser has already raised well over £300! It's not too late to do it and photographs or video clips of children completing the challenge can be uploaded to Tapestry or Seesaw and donations are gratefully received [here](#).

## Forgotten Items

Please encourage your children to remember to bring everything they need for their school day, spectacles, water bottles, coats etc as we wish to keep all visitors to the school office to a minimum. Anything that really must be dropped off should be in by 10.30am in time for TAs to collect them and take them to class. This is to ensure everyone sticks to their bubbles. Many thanks in advance.

## Application for absence and Medicines

Any doctor/hospital appointments that cannot be avoided should be requested on the usual forms which can be found on our website under "*Parents-parent letters-useful documents*". These can either be sent to school with your child with as much notice as possible or sent by email to the admin address. The same applies to any prescription medicines of 4 times a day that need to be administered.

## Diary Dates

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Monday 8 March    | School reopens following national lockdown and school closure |
| Sunday 14 March   | Mothering Sunday  |
| Friday 26 March   | School closes for the Easter break. Times to be confirmed.    |
| 2-5 April         | Easter Weekend  |
| Monday 12 April   | Staff Training Day  |
| Tuesday 13 April  | Summer term begins  |
| Tuesday 20 April  | Parent Consultations  |
| Thursday 22 April | Parent Consultations  |