



# Weekly Newsletter

12 March 2021

*Making learning a lifelong adventure*

Our school value for this half-term is responsibility.

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been truly wonderful to welcome the children back to in-person learning this week and, in many ways, I can't believe they have only been back a week! Walking around the school this morning, there is a really positive feeling to the school with all of our pupils back in routine and focused on their learning.

Many parents commented on how lovely it was to be welcomed with balloons in school colours and a red carpet (well, runner style doormat really). This really put a smile on everyone's face (though in many cases behind the face mask) and even made the [Herts Advertiser](#) this week! Thank you to Miss Kiff and a group of other colleagues who came into school on Sunday to organise this.

## **Arrival and Collection from School**

We have also slipped back into our staggered start and finish to the school day pretty seamlessly and I would like to thank parents for their continued support with this, particularly with our amended collection arrangements, which are also running smoothly. Please remember to come in your allotted time slot and avoid arriving early by staying away from the immediate vicinity of the school. This will help to help minimise congestion and, with it, the risk of the spread of Coronavirus which could result in pupils and staff having to self-isolate. Timings are as follows:

- ✓ Year 6 arrive at 8:30am and Year 5 at 8:35am, unaccompanied onto site
- ✓ Year 4 and younger siblings of those in Years 4 to 6 arrive/enter at 8:40am
- ✓ Year 3 arrive at 8:45am
- ✓ Reception to Year 2 arrive from 8:45 to 8:55am
- ✓ Reception leave at 2:45pm, Year 1 at 2:50pm and Year 2 at 2:55pm, collected on site
- ✓ Year 6 leave at 3pm and Year 5 at 3:05pm, meeting parents off-site or walking home
- ✓ Year 4 leave 3:10pm and Year 3 at 3:15pm, collected on site

Those waiting on site for older siblings are requested to ensure that children do not mix with those from other year groups (to enable us to minimise any potential COVID contacts, should there be a positive case in school) and to play appropriately. Fixed play equipment should only be used if it is dry and free from obstructions and children should be supervised by their parents to ensure they are using it safely.

Parents are reminded that they should not use mobile phones in the school buildings for reasons of safeguarding and data security. Although we recognise parents may need to use them for email or other forms of communication whilst waiting on site, they are reminded not to use the camera or any other recording app around pupils in school.

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday. It is celebrated every year on the middle Sunday of Lent, when young people working in service or in some other occupation away from home would traditionally visit their parents for the weekend. They would bring Spring flowers, such as daffodils, home to their mothers and attend their mother church, before returning to work for the period up to the Easter.

We would like to wish all our mums happy Mothers' Day. 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** Jack – for being such a kind and friendly member of Chestnut class.  
Eva – for trying so hard with her writing.
- **Reception Oak Class** Casper – for making excellent progress in maths.  
Joseph – for writing a fantastic list with descriptive words.
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Milan – For writing fantastic character descriptions.  
Bilal – A great attitude to learning in the first week back.
- **Year 1 Elm Class** James – amazing start back in class. Really helpful, mature and engaged in all the learning! Well done!  
Theo – Super maths, great attitude to learning and fitted straight back into the classroom really well! Great job!
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Sienna – showing resilience and positivity.  
Calvin – working well with his learning partner and trying hard.
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Izzy - Super, responsible return to school.  
Thomas – Super, responsible return to school.
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Mustafa – coming back into school with a really positive attitude to work.  
Erica – making an extra special effort in lessons.
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Hunter - for making a really positive return to school, focusing well in all lessons.  
Eve - for being a responsible and helpful member of the class since the return to school.
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Eva - for working hard in every lesson and helping another child with their learning (over Zoom!)  
Chloe - for some excellent work in English in understanding the meaning of two difficult poems
- **Year 4 Pine Class** George - for having an excellent attitude to his learning and for concentrating well in class.  
Lauren - for always trying her best.
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Amber – for taking responsibility and showing kindness to new members of Ash Class  
Issie – for an excellent poetry performance, full of expression and energy
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Meya - for helping others settle back in comfortably and being a wonderful buddy.  
Natalija - for working really efficiently in lessons and completing extensions in Maths.
- **Year 6 Rowan Class** Adam – being responsible in his role as House Ambassador upon return to school.  
Sami – being a responsible learning partner.
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Max – for a fantastically creative planning map for his narrative poem.  
Millie – for great contributions to discussions and asking and answering questions.

## Coronavirus Update

Please read through the letter from Hertfordshire’s Director of Public Health, Professor Jim McManus (see below and School Jotter app). This stresses the importance of parents participating in regular lateral flow testing for Coronavirus and outlines the key actions we should all continue to be taking to continue to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus. Links below:

[Letter from Director of Public Health](#)

[Ordering lateral flow tests](#)

[Find a collection centre for lateral flow tests](#)

## Supporting Families

Harpenden Plus are running family support virtual drop-in sessions for parents on Monday 22 March via Zoom. See separate flyer (Tues 9 March). 15 minute 1:1 sessions can be booked by emailing [bhughes@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:bhughes@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk) or calling 07506 235993.

## Community Matters

Do have a look at the Harpenden Town Council anti-littering poster competition information in a message sent out earlier today.

## Further Information and Reminders

### School Council's Comic Relief Fundraising

Next Friday, 19 March, is the bi-annual Comic Relief - Red Nose Day and the school council have decided we could all do with some light relief in aid of those less fortunate than ourselves with our own wear-something-red mufti day and a red treasure hunt, with a suggested minimum of donation of £1 per pupil. Please note, children will be allowed to wear red noses and other removable Comic Relief merchandise, but should not come to school with face paint, hair dye or hair chalk.



### Parking

Please read the two notices which were sent out on the School Jotter today and yesterday regarding complaints from neighbours about inconsiderate parking. Please help us maintain good relations with our neighbours by parking in our designated carpark at the Bowls Club in Waldegrave Park, a very short walk from school.

## Diary Dates

Sunday 14 March	Mothering Sunday
Friday 19 March	Comic Relief Fundraiser
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