



# HORMEAD (VA) CofE FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

## Newsletter

*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10*



Issue No: 1 25/26

Dear families,

Welcome back to school, everyone! It has been so lovely to see all the children return, full of stories from what sounds like a wonderful summer holiday. I certainly feel refreshed myself after plenty of time pottering in the garden and a fabulous holiday to Italy with my four very grown-up children and their partners. It was complete madness - but just the kind I enjoy!



A very special welcome goes to our new Reception children, who have made such a fantastic start. We are so proud of how quickly they have settled in, walking in so confidently and already beginning their phonics lessons. Maths will begin next week as we gradually build up their curriculum, though I suspect there may be a few tired little ones after their very first full week of big school.

The rest of the school has made a smooth start too, with children (and teachers!) settling happily into their new classes. There's a wonderful buzz of excitement around the classes. We've also welcomed two new pupils to our school family this term: Alfie Dunhill in Year 2 and Amelia Tinklin in Year 3.

Both have settled in beautifully, and I know you'll join me in giving their families, along with our new Reception families, a very warm welcome.

This week, the children had their first lessons with Ronnie, our new PE teacher. While the weather forced activities into the hall, the children still had a great time. Forest School has also returned, and the Year 4s in particular came back buzzing with stories. Apparently, building shelters in torrential rain was "the best day of their lives" with one child even likening it to World War III! I'm not sure I fully understand their logic, but I'll take their word for it.

In English, the whole school has been exploring the fabulous book, *The Boy and the River*. The children have loved exploring its themes, sparking lively discussions about humankind's impact on the natural world. This has tied beautifully into our whole-school focus for the year: caring for our planet.

You may also have heard that we are launching something new - our very own Pupil Parliament. Following our recent OFSTED and SIAMS inspections, we are looking at ways to go above and beyond "Good" by preparing our children to live life well in modern Britain. Children put themselves forward as candidates for the Education Party, the Green Party, the Christian Party, or as Values Ambassadors, and each class held elections. Our new school parliament will meet half-termly to share ideas on how to make our school and the wider world even better. The results of the elections can be found on the next page, and many of our upcoming collective worship themes will be linked to caring for God's creation.

All in all, it has been a busy but joyful start to the year. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I am so looking forward to all that lies ahead this term for your children.

**Mrs Cowler,**  
Headteacher



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## Pupil Parliament

Our pupil parliament allows pupils to have a real say in issues that affect them and to know that their opinions count.

**Congratulations** to the following children who were democratically elected by their peers:

### The Education Party

Reception – Sienna Haylock  
 Reception – Charlie Munday  
 Year 1 - George Apostolos  
 Year 1 - Alex Baker  
 Year 2 - Elliot Villar  
 Year 2 - Matilda Doherty-Huggins  
 Year 3 – Penny Flanagan  
 Year 3 – Freddie Bray  
 Year 4 – Malachi Penalver  
 Year 4 – Winnie Richardson

### The Green Party

Year 1 - Amelia Bates  
 Year 1- Oscar Cockerton  
 Year 2 - Tommy Sanford  
 Year 2 – Harper Pridmore  
 Year 3 – Riley Stoker  
 Year 3 – Eva Austin  
 Year 4 – Sienna Sanford  
 Year 4 – Yarchyk Kozub

### The Christian Party

Year 2 - Spencer Britton  
 Year 2 – Ivy Stock  
 Year 3 – Ellis Plummer  
 Year 3 – Millie Eves  
 Year 4 – George Graham  
 Year 4 – Edie Hall

### House Captains

**Fire Captain** Leo Read  
**Fire Vice** Harper Munday  
**Wind Captain** Archie Newman  
**Wind Vice** Mason Larman  
**Earth Captain** Theo Morrison  
**Earth Vice** Hattie Foster  
**Water House** Joey Kostur  
**Water Vice** Oliver Ward

### Values Ambassadors

Year 1- Thomas Stanning  
 Year 2 – Alyssia Tache  
 Year 3 – Eva Austin  
 Year 4 – Esmæ Paine

### Fitness Fanatics (aka Sports Crew)

Oliver Ward  
 Joey Kostur  
 Sienna Sanford  
 Louis Doherty Huggins  
 George Hodgkins

## Reasons to Celebrate

### Class Stars of the Week



**You make us so proud!**

<b>Hedgehogs</b>	<b>Ember Bilton</b>	For settling in so well and always showing she is ready and focused.
<b>Cherry</b>	<b>Cherry Class</b>	For being such an amazing group of children who have made their teacher very proud.
<b>Willow</b>	<b>Archie Brazza</b>	for such a positive and enthusiastic first week in year 1
<b>Birch</b>	<b>Eva Jechorek</b>	For showing aspiration and more independence in her learning
<b>Oak</b>	<b>Mason Larman</b>	For setting a fantastic example and always being ready to learn



### HOUSE POINT AWARD

Congratulations to the following children on completion of their House point card:

**BRONZE AWARD:** Albie Lees, Evy Stock, Poppy Green, George Apostolos

**SILVER AWARD:** Winnie Richardson, Noah Davidson

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## Values Hearts



Over the year, children who have been 'caught' showing our school values, will be awarded a values heart in assembly. Hearts can be awarded from adults in school, from children and from you!

- Love** - Leo, Louie and George in Y1
- Cooperation** -
- Courage** -
- Kindness** - Elliot in y2
- Honesty** -
- Resilience** - Emilia in Y1
- Aspiration** - Albie and Jude in Y1

## Music

Music is in full swing with Mr Burton, who has launched ukulele lessons in Year 3 and is teaching instruments to several other children. There are still a couple of spaces left, so if your child would like to take part, please do contact him directly on his new email address: [matt.burtonguitarlessons@gmail.com](mailto:matt.burtonguitarlessons@gmail.com)



## Fun in Forest School



It's been wonderful to welcome everyone back and to hear all about your Summer adventures! This term, we've been talking about the special agreements we follow in Forest School to help keep us safe and happy. Can you remember what our two agreements are?



The weather has certainly been unpredictable lately (sometimes it feels like four seasons in one day!), so a waterproof coat and wellies are really useful on Forest School days. As the colder months arrive, warm socks, a hat, and gloves will make time in the forest much more comfortable.

We've also started exploring *Forest School names*. My name is **Ivy Eileen**, and I've shared why ivy is special to me and how I chose it. It's been fascinating to hear which animals and plants the children feel connected to, and to see the thoughtful choices behind their own nature-inspired



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names. In a few weeks, we'll be using clay to create models or prints of these names—something I'm very excited about! There's so much to look forward to this term, and I can't wait for more adventures and fun together in nature.

**Ivy Eileen**

## Maple Class

Welcome Back, Maple Class!

What a fantastic start to the new term we've had in Maple class! The children have settled beautifully into our new classroom, and it's been lovely to see how quickly they've adapted to the new routines. Everyone has shown such a positive attitude, making this return to school a really happy one.

This half term, we're diving into some exciting sensory learning activities. We believe that exploring through our senses helps make learning both fun and meaningful for the children. Our focus stories are all about Autumn, so we'll be enjoying some lovely seasonal books that bring the colours and changes of the season to life.

In Maths, we're starting with recognising and sequencing numbers. It's amazing to see how engaged the children are when working with numbers, and we can't wait to watch their skills grow over the coming weeks. Each small step forward is a big achievement!

We're really looking forward to seeing the progress the children make this school year and to creating lots of wonderful new memories together. Huge well done to all the children in Maple class for such a positive and enthusiastic return — you've made us all very proud!

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

**Mrs Lynch, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Wade**

## Hoglets Preschool – 2-3 year olds



We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for a brand-new term at Hoglets. It's been such a joy to see all of the children return with big smiles, full of energy and ready to explore, play, and learn. A special warm welcome to our new Hoglets who have joined us this term you've all settled in beautifully! It's been lovely watching new friendships blossom and seeing the children so engaged in their new environment.

One of the biggest highlights so far has been our new outdoor area. The children have absolutely loved spending time outside, with plenty of opportunities for imaginative play, exploration, and of course, some tractor spotting!

There's been so much excitement as they look out over the field and wave to the tractor as it passes by.

This half term our topic is 'Stories I Love'. Over the past couple of weeks, we've been exploring the classic tale Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children have enjoyed learning about the different bears in the family and discussing the concept of size - big, medium, and small - as they compared bowls, chairs, and beds. Our sensory tray has been a huge hit, where the children got to make their own porridge for the bears, mixing, pouring, and creating their own versions of the story through play.

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Next week, we're turning our attention to the wonderful world of insects and bugs! Our story of the week will be 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We can't wait to explore the life cycle of a butterfly, get creative with caterpillar crafts, and enjoy lots of sensory and nature-based activities inspired by the book.

It's been a fantastic start to the term, and we're so proud of how well the children have settled in. We're looking forward to more exciting adventures, over the coming weeks.

**Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb and Mrs Villar**

## Hedgehogs Nursery – 3-4 year olds



Our Nursery children have made a fantastic start to the new school year and are settling in beautifully! They are already getting used to their daily class routines, completing their morning busy finger tasks, sitting calmly in their carpet spaces for the register, and enjoying their snack time together around our snack mat. It's been lovely to see them beginning to understand the rhythm of the day and grow in confidence.

In Maths, we've started exploring the concept of big and small groups, with the children using new language to describe and compare different sets. They've been enthusiastic learners, showing curiosity and a growing understanding of size and quantity. Rhyme time has quickly become a firm favourite, especially when singing our rhyme of the week. This week we are singing "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive." We've also been diving into early phonics skills through exploring syllables, alliteration, and rhyme - the children are having lots of fun playing with sounds!

Our 'Love of Reading' sessions have also been a real hit. We've introduced the book *Where's Lenny?* and have started learning about verbs, even exploring them using our senses to bring the story to life. Forest School was a standout this week. The children were amazed as they watched a real fire being lit in the log circle, all while learning how to stay safe and respectful outdoors. In PE, the focus has been on spatial awareness, with the children practising moving in different directions safely and with growing control.



It's been a week full of discovery, excitement, and progress. The children are already forming new friendships and becoming familiar with their learning environment. We are so proud of how well our Hedgehogs are finding their feet — well done everyone!

**Miss O'Connor, Mrs Larman, Mrs Stuart**

## Cherry Class – Reception



Cherry class have had an amazing first week, it's been wonderful getting to know them and seeing them settle into school so well - well done everyone! We've enjoyed reading 'The Crayon's Book of Colours' and 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and have



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been thinking about the colours we can see around us. We have also been learning about Noah's Ark, matching colours to make a rainbow and carefully drawing animals.

The children absolutely loved having their Balanceability sessions this week developing their balance and spatial awareness on balance bikes ready for cycling - they kept asking for more!

With our first topic 'Let's Explore', we've got a busy few weeks ahead of us learning about ourselves and each other, our emotions, special people and jobs, and thinking about adventures we could go on. We've started phonics lessons, exploring s, a, t, and p (their enthusiasm is brilliant!) and will begin developing our understanding of number in maths.



**Miss Sawyer and Mrs Griffin**

## *Willow Class – Year 1*



What an amazing first week it has been in Willow Class! The children have worked so hard and settled beautifully into their new routines. We are already seeing fantastic independence and resilience as they embrace their new year of learning with enthusiasm.

In maths, we have been sorting objects in different ways and practising our counting skills, focusing on numbers to 10. In English, we are enjoying our whole school text *The Tree and The River*, a stunning picture book that shows how a landscape changes over time. The children have loved asking their own questions about the story and spotting the subtle differences on each page as the tree and river transform.

We are so impressed with how quickly everyone has adapted to the expectations of Year 1. It has been a joy getting to know each child and their personalities. We are set for an exciting and fun-filled year of learning together in Willow Class!

Coming up this half term we have our Remembrance Service at the memorial and our first class Celebration Assembly where we will share with you some of our wonderful learning so far. Dojo posts will provide more information about both of these events in due course.

Just a small reminder that Forest School and PE are on Thursdays, please make sure children are wearing the appropriate PE kit for the weather and have a pair of named wellies in school.

Thank you,

**Mrs. Ward, Miss Webb and Miss Ellis**



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## Birch Class – Year 2

It's been so lovely welcoming our Year 2 children back to school – they've had a brilliant start! The class have quickly settled into their new routines and we're so pleased with how well they've taken on the challenge of being a little more independent. They're already getting used to staying in their seats for longer and really rising to the expectations of Year 2. The children are also very proud of their brand-new carpet, which has made the classroom feel extra cosy and inviting!

In English, we've loved reading *The Tree and the River*. The children were full of creative ideas and have written some fantastic shape poems. Next week we'll be performing and filming these so you can enjoy them at home too – we can't wait to share them with you.

Our new topics have been a real hit as well. The children enjoyed travelling back in time to find out what classrooms used to look like and had lots of fun imagining what it would have been like to be a pupil in the past. Music lessons have been full of energy with animal-inspired sounds, and in Art the children have been busy mark-making with charcoal – messy but so much fun!



**Mrs Finch and Mrs Buckmaster**

## Oak Class – Year 3 & 4



What a fantastic first week we've had in Oak Class! The children have settled straight into learning and have already achieved so much.

In maths, we've started exploring place value with numbers up to 10,000, and the class have shown real enthusiasm for tackling big numbers. We'll soon be moving on to addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, so plenty of number challenges lie ahead!

In English, the children loved diving into the beautiful wordless book *The Tree and the River*. Using it as inspiration, they created some fantastic kenning poems of their own – we were so impressed with their creativity!

Science has got off to a bright start as we began to learn all about circuits and what they need to work. The class are very excited about building their own circuits later this term.

In history, we've started exploring how the lives of children have changed over time, using words like *continuity* and *change* and working with different historical sources.

Our RE lessons have begun with learning about Sikhism and thinking about what it means to be part of a group – ideas that will help us later as we learn about the Khalsa.

Finally, we've also been exploring drawing in art, giving the children space to experiment and express themselves.

It's been a busy but brilliant week, and Oak Class should be very proud of everything they've achieved already. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!

**Mr Armes, Miss Wentworth, Ms Moretto and Mrs Crowe**



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## Brief from the Office:

### Contact

- For all **general** emails and to **report absence**, please email Elaine - [admin@hormead.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hormead.herts.sch.uk)
- For anything to do with **finance, clubs or Arbor**, please email Linda - [office@hormead.herts.sch.uk](mailto:office@hormead.herts.sch.uk)

**Did you know**, you can raise free donations on all your online shopping with over 8,000 retailers for Hormead School. It is so easy to do and doesn't cost you a penny more when you shop.

Simply sign up to **#easyfundraising** to support us:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/hormeadschool/3O44HO/dds1/U5SijpKB/DSM54/facebook/22.92>

## We are delighted to share some fantastic news!

Our Summer Club raised a brilliant profit of **£650**, which will be used to fund a brand-new whole school handwriting scheme. We look forward to sharing more details with you soon.

We were also thrilled to discover that we came **2nd in the Tesco Stronger Starts tokens scheme**, winning a prize of **£500**! This has been added to the PTA fund and will go towards our next exciting grand purchase. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

## News from Friends and Parents of Hormead

Welcome to the autumn term!

Our biggest fundraiser is the **fireworks event on November 5th**, so save the date! This year, we will have a fully stocked bar and some fun games for everyone, including a human fruit machine. Snacks will be available, and we'll have flashes for sale.

We welcome all new parents to our first meeting **next week at 2:30 PM in the school hall on Wednesday**. Obviously, we hope that all our amazing PTA team from last year will attend too.

We were thrilled to provide many great experiences for the children last year, including a panto, leavers' hoodies, school books, and the new outdoor learning gazebo, which is scheduled for installation during the October half term.

As a small school, every event is worthwhile, and we hope you can all support our fundraising efforts. This is the last year Shelley will be at the school, so we are hoping for lots of new ideas and help to support the chair role. The most important tasks include arranging meetings and assisting with various background activities. Hayley will remain as the co-chair, and she is absolutely fabulous at leading our disco events and being the voice for our fun activities like disco nights and the colour run. A big thank you to Rachel, our secretary, and Janice, our treasurer, who help keep everything running smoothly!

If you enjoy organising, we need someone to run our ticket booking page where people can reserve tickets for our events. Ultimately, there is a small role for everyone, and many hands make light work.

We look forward to meeting you at our next meeting.

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## Calendar Dates coming up

\*any changes or additions to the diary dates are written in red

<b>September 2025</b>	
Tuesday 16th	9am – EYFS parent meeting in hall
Wednesday 17th	Individual School Photos
	<b>2:30pm PTA meeting in hall – everyone welcome</b>
Tuesday 23rd	Mini Mozart begins (Cherry & Hedgehogs)
Friday 26th	European Day of Languages
	Newsletter 02
Monday 29th	Y3 & 4 Athletics Development Day – Sele School
<b>October 2025</b>	
Thursday 2nd	School Census Day
Tuesday 7th	Flu Clinic pm (Reception to Y4)
Thursday 9th	10am - HARVEST FESTIVAL at St Nicholas Church led by Year 2's
Friday 10th	Miss O'Connor's last day
	Newsletter 03
Tuesday 14th	9:15am all parents invited to 'Stay and watch a Phonics' session
Thursday 16th	World Food Day – details to follow
Friday 17th	3pm Cherry Class Celebration Assembly
Monday 20th	Parent Consultations (Y4 only) – 4pm start in classroom
Tuesday 21st	Parent Consultations (R to Y3) – 3pm start in hall
Wednesday 22nd	Black History Day
Friday 24th	Non-uniform Day / Cake Sale
	Newsletter 04
Sunday 26th	Miss O'Connor's baby due 😊
Mon 27th to Fri 31st	HALF TERM
	PTA Outdoor Classroom installation
<b>November 2025</b>	
Tuesday 4th	Stay and watch Phonics (Nursery, Reception, Year 1)
Wednesday 5th	FIREWORKS NIGHT (PTA fundraising event)
Friday 7th	3pm Willow Celebration Assembly
	Newsletter 05
Monday 10th	Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 11th	11am Remembrance Service led by Willow Class
Friday 14th	3pm Birch Class Celebration Assembly
Wednesday 19th	Road Safety Day Class Activities
Friday 21st	3pm Year 3 Celebration Assembly
	Newsletter 06
Monday 24th	Christmas Story Writing Week
Friday 28th	3pm Year 4 Celebration Assembly
<b>December 2025</b>	
Monday 1st	ASSESSMENT WEEK
Tuesday 2nd	10:30am Nativity Play (Cherry) Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 3rd	10:30am – Nativity Play (Cherry Class)
	2pm – Nativity Play (Cherry Class)
Friday 5th	Newsletter 07

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	3:30pm-5pm – Christmas Disco (PTA fundraising event)
Tuesday 9th	11am Festive Festival Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 10th	2:30pm - Festive Festival led by Willow and Birch (everyone welcome)
	5:30pm – Festive Festival led by Willow and Birch (hopefully outside – whole school welcome for mulled wine and mince pies!)
Friday 12th	Calendar Craft Day
Monday 15th	Children deliver calendars to local community
Wednesday 17th	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
	Visit from Father Christmas
Thursday 18th	10am – CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Led by Year 4's
	Newsletter 08
	<b>School ends 1pm - End of Autumn Term</b>
<b>January 2026</b>	
Monday 5th	INSET DAY – school closed for staff training
Tuesday 6th	Children back to school – Start of Spring Term



# flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



## 1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

## 2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

## 3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

## 4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

## 5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit  
[www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

Flu **i**mmunisation  
Helping to protect children, every winter

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