



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: 4 25/26

Dear Families,

Well, we've made it to half term, and I think it's fair to say we're all ready for a well-earned break. There have been a few tired tears this week (and not just from the children!). Our wonderful Reception pupils deserve a special mention, they've done amazingly well in what has been a very long first half term of full-time school life. We are so proud of them, and indeed of all our children, for the energy, laughter, and joy they bring to school each and every day. They really do keep us all going!



Last week's potato picking was an absolute highlight. The children had such a brilliant morning out in the field with Farmer James, who is always so patient and kind and very generous in letting the children take home as many potatoes as they can carry. There were certainly a few very full pockets leaving the field that day. I hope you enjoyed them for tea! Of course, the biggest excitement of all was sitting on the tractor - it never fails to bring huge smiles. It makes me so happy to keep these wonderful Hormead traditions continue, though thankfully, unlike in years gone by, we no longer use the children as free labour! I think Farmer James would happily take them for a trailer ride too, but sadly health and safety has other ideas.



We also had a fantastic time celebrating World Food Day. It's always a challenge to find fresh ways to raise awareness of world hunger and where our food comes from, and this year we decided to focus on fruit. The children were amazed by the huge variety of fruits available and loved trying some new and unusual options. It was a brilliant opportunity to talk about how far our food travels, what we can grow here in the UK, and why some fruits are more expensive - a wonderful mix of curiosity, learning, and a few sticky fingers.

It has been truly heartwarming to welcome Luca and Matteo back to school after their terrible car accident. The family are doing well, although Luca and Amie still have a way to go. The Castronovo family have asked me to pass on their heartfelt thanks for all the kindness, support, and generosity shown by our school community. Moments like this really remind us how special the Hormead family is. I have also been in touch with the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance team, who were involved on the day, to let them know that our

Pupil Parliament have chosen them as their charity to support this year. They were incredibly grateful and will be joining us next term to lead an assembly and a workshop with our older children.

Fireworks Night is just around the corner! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, there are still a few spaces to fill. If you can't help, please do come along to support the event.

I hope you all have a relaxing and happy half-term holiday, filled with family time. It's the ideal time to make a Guy for our fireworks competition too!

See you all back on Monday 3rd November.

Mrs Cowler, Headteacher

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Reasons to Celebrate

Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	Freddie Newman	<i>For joining in with group singing and using clear words.</i>
Hedgehogs	Louanna Ellis	<i>For always showing her school values.</i>
Cherry	Aubrey-Mae Piper	<i>Her outstanding courage and resilience helping her to complete the monkey bars after six weeks of hard work!</i>
Cherry	Sienna Haylock	<i>Being a kind and caring friend</i>
Willow Y1	Harry Pavitt	<i>Showing courage and resilience by coming into school with a smile and trying hard at everything he does.</i>
Willow Y1	Arthur Frearson	<i>Showing aspire in his learning and continuing his maths learning at home by teaching mummy.</i>
Birch Y2	Alfie Dunhill	<i>Showing aspiration and always wanting to do extra</i>
Birch Y2	Tommy Sandford	<i>Working independently and putting his hand up more in lessons</i>
Oak Y3	Riley Stoker	<i>Trying really hard to improve his handwriting</i>
Oak Y3	Joe Webb	<i>Helping to do jobs around the class every morning</i>
Oak Y4	George Graham	<i>Writing a fantastic persuasive speech</i>
Oak Y4	Oliver Ward	<i>Writing a very compelling persuasive speech.</i>

Values Hearts



Love	Gracie-May Belford	<i>For being so caring and always bring Mrs Stuart her water bottle</i>
Cooperation	Adeline, Aubrey, Poppy, Arthur, Oliver, Louis in Y1	<i>For always tidying tables and making sure chairs are pushed under the tables so no one trips</i>
Cooperation	Arnie Goddard	<i>For helping his friends put on their coats</i>
Courage	Luca Castronovo	<i>For returning to school after a serious accident and carrying on with his learning as if he had never been away. What a superstar!</i>
Courage	Jesse Webb	<i>For being super brave when he cut his head</i>
Kindness	Roman Kostur	<i>For giving the last apple to his friend at snack time</i>
Kindness	Henry Barlow	<i>For caring for his friend when he got hurt</i>
Resilience	Riley Dodd	<i>For showing patience waiting for home time</i>
Aspiration	Charlie Munday	<i>For practising his letter writing and sounds in busy learning</i>
Aspiration	George, Luca, Archie, Evy & Travis in Y1	<i>For amazing phonics assessments this term. Keep aiming high!</i>
Aspiration	Beau Burrowes	<i>For being an all-rounder, good at everything!</i>
Aspiration	Tommy Sandford	<i>For trying hard in science and working independently</i>
Aspiration	Cody Dunn	<i>For being a super learner and continuing his learning at home.</i>

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HOUSE POINT AWARD

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



BRONZE AWARD: Alex Baker

SILVER AWARD: Joe Webb, Albert Walker, Evie Parry

GOLD AWARD:

Getting to know our School Governors

Rose Dale



Hello, I'm Rose Dale and I am delighted to be a Governor at Hormead First School. I have a background in Training and Development, having worked in both the private and public sectors. A big part of my career was spent at Barts Health NHS Trust, where I was a Senior Learning and Development Facilitator. I'm passionate about helping others grow, and I especially enjoy supporting children with their reading and communication skills. I love coming into school once a week to listen to children read and being part of the team here, working to help our young learners thrive.

A Special Week for Yarchyk (Yaroslav) and Nazar

It's been a very special week for Yarchyk and Nazar, as their dad has been granted leave from the Ukrainian Army - just in time to spend half term with the family.

The boys were so proud to show their dad around the school and share all the wonderful things they've been learning. From the happy smiles in this photo, it's clear what a special moment this has been for the whole family.

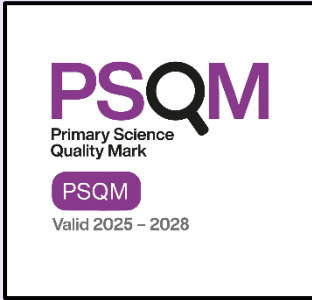
Wishing them all a wonderful half term filled with love and precious family time.



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Celebrating Our Silver Primary Science Quality Mark!



We are delighted to share that our school has once again been awarded the Silver Primary Science Quality Mark!

Congratulations to Mrs Ward, who has worked tirelessly to maintain such high standards in science across the school. Her dedication ensures that science teaching remains engaging, inclusive, and inspiring for all our pupils.

The feedback from our submission highlighted that:

“Through the PSQM journey, science has developed across the school, engaging pupils, teachers, and the wider community. Teaching has become dynamic and inclusive, fostering curiosity and scientific thinking. Children are enthusiastic, recall learning vividly, and connect science to diverse careers. The school’s vision has helped make science more engaging and relevant, contributing positively to teaching practice and children’s learning experiences.”

We’re so proud of everyone involved in achieving this fantastic recognition — well done, team!

Sports News

Year 3 and 4 Development Day

Oak Class had a brilliant morning at Sele School for the Year 3/4 Development Morning!

We started off with orienteering, where we had to follow maps to complete a puzzle using cones. We also had to use keys to create faces out of PE equipment. It really tested our teamwork and creativity!

Next, we moved on to basketball, practising our dribbling and shooting skills before taking part in some obstacle races. Everyone had great fun trying out the speed bounce for the first time - it was trickier than it looked!

Finally, we finished with some football skills, learning to dribble, tackle, and even try out a few new skill moves.

The children showed brilliant teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship throughout the morning. A huge well done to everyone in Oak Class for representing our school so proudly and joining in with such fantastic energy!



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Fun in Forest School



Everyone is welcomed at Forest School, and each session spent outside under Mother Beech does wonders for our well-being. The NHS highlights Five Ways to Well-being - **Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active, Give, and Take Notice** and we're proud that all of these naturally happen during our Forest School sessions. Recently, we've had lots of chances to **Connect** through games like Eagle Eyes, Stuck in the Mud, and Hide and Seek, as well as creative activities such as making people from natural materials and using clay. We've also been **Learning** new things, from identifying honey mushrooms, sanding our clay creations and discovering the names of UK storms like Storm Benjamin.

We love **Being Active** as we climb, swing, jump, and run, keeping our bodies healthy and our minds happy. We've also been learning to **Give**, by caring for wildlife — building habitats and providing food for the creatures that share our forest. Don't you love the sign Yarchyk made for a Hornead 'mouse house'?



Forest School helps us to **Take Notice** — to pause, observe the changing seasons, listen to birdsong, and appreciate the beauty of the world around us. Enjoy the Autumn beauty while you are out and about during half-term.



Ivy Eileen

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Hoglets Preschool – 2-3 year olds



What a busy and exciting couple of weeks we've had in Hoglets! The children have really enjoyed getting stuck into our themes and exploring new ideas through play, creativity, and imagination. Our theme last week was The Zoo, and the children had a fantastic time exploring the wonderful world of animals. They got creative making lion pictures using pom poms, experimented with animal footprint tracks in paint, and enjoyed imaginative play in our Zoo tuff tray, where they made up brilliant stories about the animals. Our book of the week was Dear Zoo, which quickly became a firm favourite! The children loved talking about the animals in the story and sharing which ones they had seen before. During our adult-led sessions, we explored animal sounds, with lots of giggles as we roared like lions and hissed like snakes.

We also had lots of fun at our World Fruit Market, where the children made their own fruit kebabs. It was wonderful to see them trying a variety of fruits, describing the different tastes, and noticing all the bright colours together.



This week, our theme has been Emotions. The children have been amazing at talking about what makes them feel happy, sad, or even angry. During adult led time, we looked closely at pictures showing different facial expressions and had a go at matching them to the correct emotion boards.

We also got creative making our very own Emotion Monsters, using paint and sticking on as many eyes as we wanted, some were very funny and imaginative!

A real highlight of the week was a special visit from the police. The officer talked to the children about what number to call in an emergency and even let us hear how loud the sirens can be which was very exciting!

It has been a wonderful half term in Hoglets. The children have settled back in beautifully and have shown our core values of Courage, Resilience, and Kindness in everything they do.

We hope you all have a lovely and restful half term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy, fun-filled half term ahead!

Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb and Mrs Villar

Hedgehogs Nursery – 3-4 year olds

Over the past two weeks, our nursery children have been busy exploring the exciting topics of *Healthy Eating* and *The World Around Us*. The children have been discussing healthy and unhealthy foods and enjoyed making their own delicious fruit kebabs to celebrate World Food Day. Our "doctor's tuff tray" has also been a big hit, inspiring the children to think about ways to keep our bodies healthy and well.

In maths, we have been focusing on shapes and practising our subitising skills up to three, while in phonics the children have been



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learning nursery rhymes such as *Hey Diddle Diddle* and *Hickory Dickory Dock*. They have also been exploring alliteration, syllables, and rhyme, showing great enthusiasm and growing confidence. During our *Love of Reading* sessions, the children have been learning about verbs and using their senses to explore language in creative and meaningful ways.

Forest School has been another highlight, with children discovering the wonders of nature, creating imaginative creatures from conkers, and even toasting marshmallows around the fire. These experiences have encouraged teamwork, curiosity, and a deep appreciation for the outdoors.

We are incredibly proud of how well our Hedgehog children have settled into their new routines and the wonderful progress they have made in such a short time. It has been lovely to see their confidence, independence, and love of learning continue to grow each day. Enjoy your half term!



Mrs Larman, Mrs Stuart, Miss V Jackson

This week's Class Newsletter has a PSHE Focus

PSHE – Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education is a subject that helps children learn how to stay healthy, safe, and ready for life beyond school. Through topics like wellbeing, relationships, and understanding the wider world, PSHE supports children in becoming confident, responsible, and resilient individuals who can make good choices for themselves and others.

Maple Class



What a wonderful start we've had to the school year in Maple Class! The children have settled into our lovely new classroom so quickly and have already made some fantastic progress. It's been such a joy to see everyone coming in each day with smiles and enthusiasm.

One of our favourite new lessons this half term has been 'Fun with Food'. During these sessions, the children have been exploring a wide range of foods using all their senses - touching, smelling, looking, and of course, tasting! It's been amazing to see how much more confident and accepting everyone has become



when trying new foods. From crunchy carrots to juicy tomatoes, the children have really embraced each activity, and we couldn't be prouder of them.

Another big hit this half term has been Music and Movement. The children absolutely love listening to nursery rhymes, shaking their instruments, and moving their bodies to the rhythm. The joy and energy in the room during these sessions

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are infectious and it's impossible not to smile! It's a brilliant way for the children to express themselves, develop coordination, and most importantly, have fun together.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who have kindly donated sensory resources to our class this term. Your generosity makes such a difference, and we are extremely grateful for your continued support.

We're already looking forward to next half term and can't wait to see even more wonderful progress from our amazing children in Maple Class. Have a lovely and restful half term break, everyone!

Ms Lynch, Mrs Wade and Mrs Dunn

Cherry Class – Reception



In Cherry class this half term we have been learning about feelings. We enjoyed reading 'The Colour Monster' which helped us to identify some of the different emotions we can experience, as sometimes it can be confusing when we are feeling lots of things at once. We discussed as a class when we have experienced some of these.

"I'm calm when I sit on a fluffy bed." - Nazar

"I'm happy when I'm playing with cars." - Charlie D

"I was sad when I fell off the monkey bars." - Roman

"Mummy and Daddy love me." – Stanley

We explored some of the varied vocabulary that can be used to describe our feelings so that we are better able to express ourselves and understand the emotions of others. We thought about some coping strategies we can use to help us when we experience big feelings. The children explored facial expressions, using mirrors to see their own faces and looking at their friends as we tried our best to copy the feelings we could see in pictures of others. I think we might have some budding actors in our class! We have also been learning about special people. We shared people who are special to us in our families and all the different activities we like to do with them, and why each member of the class is special in a different way.

We've had lots of visitors coming in to talk to the children about the jobs they have, how they help people, and the tools that they use. Mr Mead spoke to us about building things and working with wood, showing us lots



of tools and explaining that we need to use them safely. Dr Jemima visited the class and told us about how doctors can help us when we are poorly. The children loved dressing up in scrubs and having a go at using a stethoscope to listen to each other's breathing and hearts. We also had a visit from the local police who showed us the equipment they use such as radios and handcuffs and explained how they help to keep us safe. The children have been

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extending their learning further in their play; bandaging each other up, making notes on computers in the doctor's surgery, and dressing up as police officers.

The children have had an amazing first term in school and we're so proud of how well they have settled in and getting involved in their learning.

Miss Sawyer and Mrs Griffin

Willow Class – Year 1



This half term, Willow Class has been focusing on the themes of *family and friendship*; exploring what makes a family special, who is part of our families, and how we can all be good friends to one another. The children have particularly enjoyed acting out different scenarios to understand what might make someone feel sad or frustrated and discussing thoughtful ways to offer support. They showed great empathy in recognising that sometimes, being a good friend means giving someone space and time to calm down.

A real highlight of our week was a virtual assembly with Swazy, a BBC radio presenter, who shared her experiences of growing up as a person of mixed heritage. Swazy's story was both inspiring and thought-provoking, helping the children understand the importance of pride, resilience, and self-belief.

In class, we also learned about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr, exploring how they demonstrated power and pride through peaceful action, promoting greater equality and celebrating diverse cultures. The children reflected beautifully on how although we may have different skin colours or backgrounds, we are all the same on the inside and deserve to be treated with kindness and respect, regardless of race or religion. We are so proud of the maturity and understanding the children have shown throughout these discussions, a wonderful reflection of our school values in action.

Reminder: Our class celebration assembly will be on Friday 7th November at 3pm. We look forward to sharing some of our learning from this half term with you.

A huge well done, Willow Class! You have worked so hard this half term and have transitioned into Year 1 amazingly. We are so proud of you and we hope you all enjoy a lovely half term break and a very well-deserved rest.

Mrs. Ward, Miss Webb and Miss Ellis





Birch Class – Year 2



This half term in Birch Class, our PSHE lessons have been all about *Families and Relationships*. We started by looking at lots of different types of families and talking about how, even though every family is different, they all share one really important thing — love and care for each other. The children loved sharing their own experiences and spotting similarities and differences between families.



Next, we thought about what makes a good friend. The children had brilliant ideas about how friends can show they care, and we realised that respect plays a

big part in friendship. This linked nicely to our English lessons, where we wrote instructions on ‘How to Be a Good Friend’. We decided that good manners are a great way to show respect — it’s all about being kind, thinking about other people’s feelings, and accepting everyone for who they are.



We also explored how manners can change depending on where we are and who we’re with. “Please” and “thank you” are always important, but there are other ways we can show good manners at home, at school, or out and about.

To finish our topic, we talked about stereotypes and asked an interesting question: should someone’s gender affect the job they choose to do? The children gave thoughtful answers and agreed that everyone should be free to follow their interests and dreams — no matter who they are!



Mrs Finch and Mrs Buckmaster

Oak Class – Year 3 & 4



This half term in PSHE, Oak Class have been exploring the topic of *Families and Relationships*. We began by thinking about manners and how being polite can look different in different situations. We then learned about healthy friendships and discussed what it means to be a good friend.

Next, we looked at how our behaviour can affect others, both positively and negatively. We talked about how kindness can spread just like a line of dominoes and that one good action can lead to another! We also explored the important topic of bullying, learning what it can look like and how we can support others if we ever see it happening.

Finally, we discussed stereotypes, focusing on gender and disability. The children learned that in today’s world, there are no limits on who we can

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be or what we can achieve. We talked about how some disabilities are visible and others are invisible, and how we can all help to challenge stereotypes and celebrate individuality.

It's been a fantastic start to the year. It's brilliant to see how much some of them have matured since teaching them last and also how so many of them are stepping up to the challenges of Key Stage 2. I am very much looking forward to seeing how their positive attitude to learning is applied to the exciting units we have coming up in the future. Well done Oak Class!

Mr Armes, Miss Wentworth, Ms Moretto and Mrs Crowe

Online Safety Tip of the Week – Week 3

Screen Time: How Much is Too Much?

It's easy for children to lose track of time when gaming or watching videos. Too much screen time can affect sleep, mood, and concentration.

Top Tip:

Use built-in tools like **Screen Time (Apple)** or **Digital Wellbeing (Android)** to set healthy daily limits. Encourage regular breaks and device-free time — especially before bed.

Need help setting this up? This guide from the NSPCC can help: www.nspcc.org.uk

Let's help our children build balanced digital habits.

Mrs Cowler



Brief from the Office:

Contact

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

Arbor

Please check your Arbor accounts over the half term for any outstanding payments

Poppies

We will have Poppies for sale from the first day back.

Hedgehogs Wraparound Care - Changes

When we return after October Half term there will be some slight changes to booking onto Hedgehogs Wraparound Care.

The club will be open to all children from Nursery to Year 2 from 3.15pm to 4.15pm Monday to Friday. Children will be free to play, but there will also be activities set up for them to do. Please could we ask you to book in advance via your child's Arbor app if possible. If you would like childcare until 5.15pm this **must be booked at least one day prior to the day required**, so we can ensure staff are available.

Thank you.

If you have any questions, please contact the office.

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Half Term Fun!

DECORATE & FILL A JAR

- 1: DECORATE
- 2: FILL WITH TREATS
- 3: HAND INTO YOUR TEACHERS BY MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER
- 4: 1 WINNER PER YEAR GROUP

THIS IS AN ACTIVITY TO BE COMPLETED OVER HALF TERM.

BUILD A GUY FAWKES

BOOM!

Competition

JOIN IN THE PLOT AND YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

*1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes
Up for grabs... So get Stuffed!*

PLEASE BRING YOUR GUY FAWKES INTO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER. JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE DURING CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY!

SAVE THE DATE - PTA Events coming up next

Link to book Fireworks tickets – <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FKDL>

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Calendar Dates coming up

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

November 2025	
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
Wednesday 12th	Cherry Class trip to Duxford
Friday 14th	3pm Birch Class Celebration Assembly
	Bonkers Bottomless Bingo – PTA event
Wednesday 19th	Road Safety Day Class Activities
Wednesday 19th	Birch Class trip to Hitchin Schools Museum
Friday 21st	3pm Year 3 Celebration Assembly
	Newsletter 06
Monday 24th	Christmas Story Writing Week
Friday 28th	3pm Year 4 Celebration Assembly
December 2025	
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
	3:30pm-5pm – Christmas Disco (PTA fundraising event)
Tuesday 9th	11am Festive Festival Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 9th	2:30pm - Festive Festival led by Willow and Birch (everyone welcome)
Tuesday 10th	2pm – performance at the Village Hall for the over 60's lunch
Wednesday 10th	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
	School ends 1pm - End of Autumn Term
January 2026	
Monday 5th	INSET DAY – school closed for staff training
Tuesday 6th	Children back to school – Start of Spring Term

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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>

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