



HORMEAD (VA) CofE FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter

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

RESILIENCE

COURAGE

ASPIRATION
HONESTY

KINDNESS

CO-OPERATION

LOVE

Issue No: 6 25/26

Dear Families,

Has it really been two weeks since our last newsletter? The run-up to Christmas always seems to gather speed, and I can hardly believe that by the time the next one comes along, we'll be deep in the midst of elf mischief and all things Christmassy. I can already sense teachers valiantly trying to hold off the excitement and keep a firm grip on the curriculum, but I suspect that once the Christmas postbox opens, we may need to brace ourselves for a wave of festive enthusiasm!

Thank you to all who were able to join us for the Remembrance Service. I'm sure you'll agree that our Year 1 children did themselves incredibly proud. Their clarity, confidence, and the meaning behind their words was truly moving. To think that many of them are just six years old, it was a remarkably grown-up and thoughtful contribution from them all.



But Remembrance wasn't the only highlight of the fortnight. Our learning has continued to flourish in so many exciting ways.

Reception had the most wonderful day out at Duxford as part of their *Marvellous Machines* topic. Travelling by coach was an adventure in itself, but stepping inside a real aircraft was something they'll never forget. The children were amazed by Concorde - especially when they learned it once held the record for the fastest transatlantic flight, travelling faster than a bullet! They tried on pilot uniforms from the past, watched a plane take off right in front of them, and explored the brilliant aircraft-themed playground.

Our Year 2 class also enjoyed a brilliant trip to the Hitchin Schools Museum. They looked fantastic in their Victorian costumes and spent the day discovering what school life was like in the Victorian era. Their behaviour was exemplary - something that didn't go unnoticed, especially when compared with some other visiting schools. The children were fascinated (and slightly horrified!) by the idea of the cane, and one brave volunteer took on the role of the "naughty child" for the day. The look on their faces as the strict Victorian headteacher sent him off for punishment was priceless! School trips are such an important part of what we do. They bring learning to life, spark curiosity, and create memories that last far beyond the classroom. We always work hard to ensure trips are purposeful, well-linked to the curriculum, and mindful of cost. We know these experiences can be expensive, and we're continually exploring ways to reduce the financial burden on families.



If you are connected to, or know of, a business that might be willing to contribute towards the cost of school trips or help sponsor specific experiences, we would be very grateful to hear from you. Your support makes a real difference and helps us continue offering these valuable opportunities to our children.

Wishing you all a calm end to the week and just a little sprinkle of early festive cheer.

Mrs Cowler,
Headteacher

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Reasons to Celebrate

Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---|
| Hedgehogs | Arnie Goddard | <i>For always showing aspiration and trying his best</i> |
| Hedgehogs | Eva Crippen | <i>For working hard on her phonics, blending & segmenting</i> |
| Cherry | Jesse Webb | <i>Following the rules and being helpful in class</i> |
| Cherry | Carter Carlson | <i>For singing so loudly and confidently in rehearsals</i> |
| Willow Y1 | Adeline Duke | <i>Showing aspire and resilience in all her learning</i> |
| Willow Y1 | Aubrey Buzzing | <i>Showing aspire in English, seen in her beautiful story book</i> |
| Birch Y2 | Jackson Parkyn | <i>For always taking such good pride with all his learning</i> |
| | Birch Class | <i>For showing their school values on our school trip</i> |
| Oak Y3 | Leo Read | <i>For showing aspire and trying to write more in English</i> |
| Oak Y3 | Ellis Plummer | <i>For slowing down and taking more care with his writing</i> |
| Oak Y4 | Wojciech Kusion | <i>For demonstrating fantastic knowledge in science</i> |
| Oak Y4 | Sienna Sandford | <i>For engaging with all subjects and showing a joy of learning</i> |

Values Hearts



| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Love | Wren Duffin | <i>For showing love to class friends and teachers</i> |
| Cooperation | Thomas, Adeline, Archie, Luca, Evy, Daphne, Amelia & Aubrey | <i>For always listening and following instructions</i> |
| Cooperation | Beau Burrowes | <i>Always trying his best during learning time</i> |
| Cooperation | Aubrey, Archie, Leo, Louie, Travis, Emilia | <i>For being super brave by giving every activity a go at our sports event on Wednesday!</i> |
| Courage | Chester Davidson | <i>For being brave and trying new things</i> |
| Courage | Leo Shurety | <i>For removing a wasp that landed on Harry</i> |
| Courage | Luca Castronovo | <i>For showing a huge amount of courage by being on the coach – this was really hard for him, but he was amazing!</i> |
| Courage | Carter Carlson | <i>For being brave at the dentist</i> |
| Kindness | Louanna Ellis | <i>For helping a friend put their shoes on</i> |
| Kindness | Wren Duffin | <i>Always kind & caring to all children</i> |
| Resilience | Sienna Haylock | <i>For not giving up on our long walk at Duxford even though her legs were tired</i> |
| Aspiration | Poppy, Leo & Travis | <i>For super effort in archery and hitting the target with power!</i> |
| Aspiration | Mia Santoli | <i>Always does her best and aims high!</i> |

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HOUSE POINT AWARD

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



BRONZE AWARD: Alex Hart & Alfie Dunn

SILVER AWARD: Leo Shurety

GOLD AWARD:

Sporting News



Year 1 had a fantastic time at the 'Every1 in' event at Wodson Park. The children were a little overwhelmed by the size of the hall and the amount of equipment they could see set out. This soon turned into excitement! We were treated to a huge range of activities that included ball skills to develop our aim and control for both throwing and rolling. We worked in teams to create a giant stacking cup pyramid and find the hidden ball under the stacking cups and we even tried our hand at curling and archery! We were very impressed with the control and power the children showed in archery, it was lovely to see how proud they were making their arrows fly, with some children even hitting the target!

We thoroughly enjoyed the dance session which was based on 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We moved in slow motion, low to the ground and made ourselves as tall as the giant.

The children were very quiet on the return journey; they were tired after an afternoon of sporting activities. We are so proud of how well the children listened to the coaches and sports leaders, and how brave they were in trying new things. There was lots of resilience shown too when we didn't succeed in our first attempts. Well done Willow Class



Fun in Forest School

It has certainly been chilly this week. In Forest School sessions children have delighted in discovering ice. Windows, weapons and jewels were imagined where puddles of water froze overnight. Wet gloves however are not warm or comfortable so some of the sessions continued, after this icy exploration, in the warmth of the classroom. We have also learnt a little about the fluffy grey animals we often see scampering in the tree branches - squirrels and how they are adapted to tree-climbing and acorn finding. We did a smell test to see if anyone has as good a sense of smell as a squirrel. Some Hornead children it must be said have a wonderful awareness of different herb and spice smells. We took it in turns to hide the golden acorn and gave clues to our eager friends to try and find it. If only we had a fluffy squirrel tail to wrap around our toes.

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Don't forget spare socks, gloves, hats and a warm coat next week.



Ivy Eileen

Hoglets Preschool – 2-3 year olds



Over the past two weeks in Hoglets, we've been exploring our half-term theme of Celebrations, and what a busy and exciting fortnight it has been!

Last week, we spent time thinking about kindness and Remembrance Day. The children created beautiful poppy artwork, using paint and a special sensory poppy tray filled with black and red rice. They carefully used the rice to form their own poppies and showed great concentration and creativity.



We also had gentle conversations about what Remembrance Day means and how we can show respect for the soldiers. The children had some very sweet ideas when we talked about kindness too! Some favourites included:

"I give them a toy."

"We have a cuddle."

Their thoughtful responses showed just how caring they are becoming. This week, our focus has been on Diwali, the vibrant Festival of Lights. The children loved experimenting with bright colours as they painted on tin foil, creating shiny, eye-catching artwork. Using their hands, they traced and designed Mehndi patterns, developing both creativity and fine motor skills. We also enjoyed a tasting session with Pakoras and Samosas. Some children were adventurous and loved them, while others weren't quite convinced—but everyone was very brave in giving them a try! With the weather turning much colder, please can we remind everyone to bring in a warm coat, hat, gloves, and a scarf. We continue to enjoy free-flow play both indoors and outdoors, so warm clothing helps keep everyone cosy and ready for fun.



Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb and Mrs Villar

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Hedgehogs Nursery – 3-4 year olds



What a wonderful and busy two weeks we've had in Hedgehogs! Our themes have been Caring for Birds followed by Winter Forest, and the children have truly embraced every activity with curiosity and enthusiasm. The children loved becoming little bird-watchers! They made their very own binoculars and used them to search for winter birds around our outdoor area. We also got hands-on creating fat balls for garden birds, rolling out lard and sprinkling plenty of bird seed before hanging them up to help our feathered friends through the colder months.



Using natural materials such as twigs, leaves and moss gathered from Forest School, the children worked together to build their own cosy bird nests. They were very proud of their creations and talked about which birds might come for a visit!

Last week, our focus sound was 's', and we enjoyed singing the linked nursery rhyme 'A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea.'



This week, we have moved on to the sound 'a', and the children have been joining in with 'Ring a Ring o' Roses' to support their learning.

In Mini Mozart's, the story behind the music was 'The Gingerbread Man.' The children enjoyed listening, moving, and playing along to bring this classic tale to life through music.

Our Forest School sessions explored squirrels, their habitats, and their favourite food—acorns! The children took part in a fun hide-and-seek style adventure to find the squirrel's golden acorn, which sparked lots of excitement and teamwork.

This week's book was 'The Gruffalo's Child.'

Inspired by the story, the children have been busy creating magical winter forest scenes, flicking paint and using straws to blow the colours across their paper. They also made winter trees using toilet roll holders and explored making animal footprints in the snow with white paint. Our Winter Gruffalo tuff tray has been a huge hit, offering lots of imaginative play and storytelling.



As the weather is turning colder, please ensure your child brings named hats, scarves, and gloves each day so we can continue to enjoy our outdoor learning comfortably. We look forward to many more winter adventures next week!



Mrs Larman, Mrs Stuart, Miss V Jackson

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Maple Class – SEND Room

It's been a busy and brilliantly messy half term so far in Maple Class! In Maths, the children have been diving into our "messy Maths" activities, which have quickly become a highlight of the week. The focus this term has been all about counting down from five, and what better way to do that than through two much-loved classics: *Five Currant Buns* and *Five Little Ducks*.

Each session, the children choose which song they'd like to explore. Some head straight for the currant buns, while others can't resist those little ducks disappearing one by one. As the songs play, the children join in with counting, recognising numbers, and watching the visuals that go along with the songs. There's a strong sensory element to each activity too, which helps the children stay engaged, curious, and excited to learn. Whether it's foam "buns," wet "ducks," or colourful number cards, there's always something to see, touch, or hear.

It has been wonderful watching the children grow in confidence. Many of them are beginning to anticipate what comes next in the songs and are joining in with the actions—or even the singing—whenever they can. The joy on their faces when they recognise a number or predict the next part of the rhyme has been a real highlight for staff.

We've had a fantastic few weeks so far, filled with music, mess, and lots of learning. As we head into the next part of the half term, we're all looking forward to getting into the Christmas spirit. There are plenty of festive activities planned, and Maple Class are more than ready for the fun to come.

Well done, Maple Class! Keep up the amazing work!

Ms Lynch, Mrs Wade and Mrs Dunn



This week's Class Newsletter has a **MATHS** Focus



At Hormead, Mathematics is seen as a fundamental and integral part of the school curriculum. It is taught both as a discrete subject and across the wider curriculum. Our intention is that children love learning and are excited by Mathematics as we believe developing a positive attitude to this subject is essential in order to be successful. Whatever their ability or starting place, children are able to confidently use and apply mathematical concepts across a variety of situations. Essentially, our ethos at Hormead is that all children can be successful in the study of mathematics. ***Maths is for everyone! Everyone can!***

Cherry Class – Reception

Last week, Cherry class went on an adventure to Duxford as part of our topic this term, 'Marvellous Machines'. We are learning about machines, including modes of transport. We saw lots of examples of different types of aircraft, past and present, looking at how they move in the sky and how they vary from each other. We climbed up to see inside some planes, including the Concorde. The children were so well behaved and had the best day ever!



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In Cherry class maths last half term, we gained a deeper understanding of numbers to 3, beginning to think about 1 more and 1 less. The children have been copying and continuing simple patterns and have started creating some of their own. We have been comparing size and mass,

looking at how balance scales move and how we can tell if an object is heavier/lighter, using more mathematical language throughout the day. This half term we started our maths learning looking at circles and triangles, noticing them in our environment, and describing what they look like. Soon we will begin to look at shapes with 4 sides in greater detail.

We are currently building on our existing mathematical knowledge, focussing on numbers to 5. Children have been developing their subitising skills, which is when we can look at an image and know how many of something we have without needing to count one at a time (e.g. When we roll a dice and know we have rolled a 5 without needing to count the dots). We have also been learning that bigger numbers can be made in different ways using small numbers. We used hoops and bears to show different 'parts' and talk about how many we had altogether for the 'whole' number. For example, '1 is a part, 3 is a part, there are 4 altogether'.



Miss Sawyer and Mrs Griffin

Willow Class – Year 1



Our Maths learning has continued to build strong number sense and problem-solving skills. We have been focusing on numbers to 10, exploring how they are represented on a number line and how they can be broken down using part-whole models. Children have learned to use the greater than, less than, and equal to symbols to compare numbers and to understand what these symbols mean.

Using part-whole models, students have begun writing related facts known as fact families, which we refer to as number sentences. These help children see how numbers can be represented starting from the whole or from one of

the parts. Numicon has been an especially helpful resource, giving the children a clear physical and visual way to understand number bonds and how smaller numbers fit together to create the whole.

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This week we have started our new learning about 2D and 3D shapes. Children have been exploring the properties of different shapes, noticing similarities and differences, and sorting a range of shapes in different ways. These activities help to develop their reasoning and problem-solving skills while strengthening their mathematical vocabulary, introducing words such as vertices and edges when talking about shapes.

After Christmas, our learning will move back to number, focusing on place value and addition and subtraction of numbers to 20, before moving on to numbers to 50. The children have already shown a secure understanding of addition and subtraction and can complete both processes with numbers to/ from 10 with confidence. We are very proud of how hard Willow class are working in maths, and all curriculum subjects. Well done Willow class, keep up the amazing work!



Mrs. Ward, Miss Webb and Miss Ellis

Birch Class – Year 2

This half term in Maths, Year 2 have been busy becoming brilliant adders and subtractors! We've been learning all about what happens when our numbers cross a ten, which can feel a bit tricky at first. To help us understand it, we've been using base 10 equipment to build and break apart numbers. The children have been practising exchanging ones for a ten, and sometimes swapping a ten for more ones when they're taking away.



One of the absolute favourites in the classroom has been the Exchange Game. Armed with base 10, dice and our very important class banker, the children have been racing to collect and exchange the right resources. Whenever they get more than ten ones, or need extra ones to subtract, they have to visit the banker to sort it out. There's been lots of laughter and excitement—and plenty of brilliant Maths thinking happening at the same time!

We've also been learning how to draw pictures of our base 10 using coloured whiteboard pens. This has helped everyone show exactly where an exchange happens, and it's been lovely to see the children becoming more confident moving from practical resources to drawing their own representations.

We're so proud of how hard the children have worked. They've shown amazing perseverance with a concept that can be tricky to remember, and it's been fantastic to watch them grow in confidence. Well done, Year 2—your Maths brains have been working overtime!

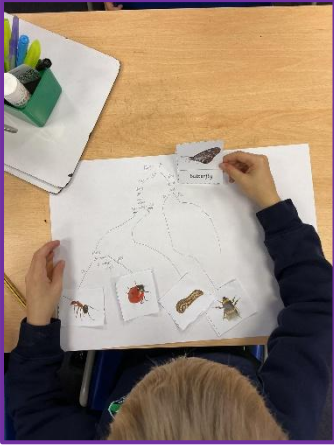


Mrs Finch and Mrs Buckmaster

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Oak Class – Year 3 & 4



This half term, the children have been busy developing their confidence with multiplication and division. They have learned and practised facts for the 3, 4, 6 and 8 times tables, and explored how these facts are connected. We looked closely at the relationship between the 2, 4 and 8 times tables, as well as the

link between the 3 and 6 times tables, helping the children spot patterns and build fluency.

The class also used arrays to help visualise multiplication and division, learning how one array can show different fact families. In division, we focused on understanding the difference between sharing and grouping, and when each method is most useful.

Next in our unit, we will continue to build on this knowledge by learning the 0, 1, 7 and 9 times tables, giving the children a strong foundation for future problem-solving.

Mr Armes, Miss Wentworth, Ms Moretto and Mrs Crowe

Online Safety Tip of the Week – Week 5

Passwords and Personal Information

It's surprising how often children use simple passwords or share details like their school, birthday, or full name online.

Top Tip:

Help your child create a strong password using a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols or even a silly sentence they could remember. Avoid using names or dates they're connected to. And remind them:

Personal information should never be shared online - even with 'online friends'.

You can find child-friendly password tips here: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

A strong password is the first step to staying safe.

Mrs Cowler





Bongo Bingo sounds like it was an amazing success raising approx. £600 and it sounded like it was a really good laugh too! Thank you to all the parents who supported this event. Due to popular demand, there is going to be another one coming soon so watch this space!
A massive thank you Lizzo, Katie and Hayley for organising the event and for making it a night to remember.

Calendar Dates coming up

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

| November 2025 | |
|----------------|--|
| 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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Simply sign up to *#easyfundraising* to support us:

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

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