



# 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: 8 25/26

Dear Families,



And that's a wrap! We have reached the end of what feels like the busiest term ever. It has been another wonderful term, and the children have done enormously well.

This time of year, always feels a little strange. We wrap up Christmas in school knowing that we are all about to head home... and then start it all again! For me, this has been one of those years where Christmas has crept up very quickly. There are no presents under the tree, and not even a Christmas tree yet, so I will be joining the great Christmas rush this weekend – fingers crossed there is still something left for me.

We started off the Christmas fun with the most wonderful evening watching our Year 1 and Year 2 children perform in the Festive Festival. The weather was just perfect, allowing us to enjoy the performance outside in front of the Christmas tree and lights. The children entertained us beautifully, with plenty of laughs about Brussels sprouts and mince pies, gentle reminders of the true meaning of Christmas, and some very special memories made along the way.

Yesterday was another very special day with the arrival of Father Christmas in school. The excitement on the children's faces was truly magical. Their questions were both hilarious and heart-warming, as they tried to work out whether he really was the real Father Christmas – asking how he gets through alarm systems and how he manages to be everywhere at once. Of course, Father Christmas had all the answers, which only added to the excitement. Thank you so much to Father Christmas for coming to our school and the presents you brought for the children.

On Monday, we also enjoyed a lovely morning out in the community delivering our Christmas calendars. The children absolutely loved knocking on doors – especially when someone actually opened it and they were able to proudly shout, 'Merry Christmas!' We received some wonderful feedback from members of the community, who were so touched by the children's manners and confidence. It was a real pleasure to see our children spreading festive cheer and representing our school so beautifully.

Christmas lunch was also a real highlight. You may not know that we have an amazing new cook, Claire, who has quickly made lunchtimes a very popular part of the day. For Christmas lunch, Claire truly went above and beyond with a delicious festive meal, along with homemade Christmas cakes and cookies beautifully decorated for the children. Thank you, Claire, for making Christmas lunch so special.

We ended the term today with a beautiful Christingle service, beautifully led by our Year 4 children. For those who were able to join us, I'm sure you'll agree it was the perfect way to finish the term - a wonderful reminder that Jesus is the light of the world and that there is light even where there is darkness. Thank you to everyone who donated to The Children's Society; your generosity will be passed on to support their important work.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas, filled with special moments and Memories with your children. We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

*Mrs Cowler, Headteacher*



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## A Christmas week in Hormead



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## Reasons to Celebrate

### Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	<b>Wren Duffin</b>	<i>Consistently showing concentration skills during learning and play</i>
Cherry	<b>Hermione Hagley</b>	<i>For fabulous writing in literacy.</i>
Willow Y1	<b>All of Willow Class</b>	<i>For being so amazing in the Festive Festival performance</i>
Birch Y2	<b>Tommy Sandford</b>	<i>For excellent moves as a 'brussel sprout' in the Festive Festival</i>
Birch Y2	<b>George Berger</b>	<i>For trying so hard to improve his handwriting</i>
Oak Y3	<b>Brooke Richards</b>	<i>For applying her new knowledge into her English story writing</i>
Oak Y4	<b>Harper Munday</b>	<i>Always being helpful around the classroom</i>

### Values Hearts



Kindness	<b>Daphne Richardson</b>	<i>Always showing kindness towards her friends and teachers</i>
Kindness	<b>Poppy Flanagan</b>	<i>For being our best tidy-upper without asking</i>
Aspiration	<b>Freddie Foskett</b>	<i>For coming into school independently</i>
Aspiration	<b>Freddie Newman</b>	<i>For using his words to communicate what he wanted to play with</i>

### HOUSE POINT AWARD



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

**BRONZE AWARD:** Matilda Risley, Nazar Kozub

**SILVER AWARD:** Elliot Villar, Ivy Stock

**GOLD AWARD:**

Well done to FIRE House who are the winners of the Autumn term cup!

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## Winners of the Christmas Story Cup

Congratulations to the Winners of our Christmas Story Cup about Mog the Cats Christmas Calamity! All the children tried so hard and it was very difficult this year to only choose one winner.

Well done to everyone. We are very proud of you.

### Key Stage 2 Story Cup

Winnie Richardson – Year 4 (winner)

Eva Austin – Year 3 (runner up)

Wojciech Kusion (Highly commended)

### Key Stage 1 Story Cup

Jackson Parkyn – Year 2 (winner)

Spencer Britton – Year 2 (runner up)

### Up and coming Early Years Star

Nazar Kozub - Reception



## *Getting to know our School Governors*



Lizzie joined the Governing Body in September 2021 whilst she was a parent at the school. She is the Governor responsible for Safeguarding and SEND amongst other roles. She has a Degree in English Literature from Durham University and worked for 13 years in the media and communications industry across London, Singapore and Jersey.

Lizzie and her family have lived in the area since August 2020, but she has spent much of her life in Hertfordshire as her husband grew up in Little Hornead/ Buntingford and his family still live here. She has three children and is currently training to be a fitness instructor.

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As we come to the end of another year, all of us at Essex & Herts Air Ambulance want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. 🎄 🎅

Your kindness and generosity have made an extraordinary difference in 2025. Thanks to supporters like you, our crews have been able to reach people in their most critical moments, delivering care across our communities- day and night, 365 days a year.

We truly couldn't do it without you. ❤️

This festive season, we hope you enjoy time with loved ones and stay safe. 😊

Warmest wishes,  
Jess



## Fun in Forest School



At Forest School we've been getting into the Christmas spirit in the best way we know how – outdoors and together. The children have been wonderfully busy dancing among the trees, singing festive songs that echoed through the forest, building dens and hunting for worms. We've also been planting hedge trees, helping nature as well as learning how to care for our environment.

Hattie hedgehog and myself wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy, restful holiday with your family. See you in 2026. 🎄

**Ivy Eileen**



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## Hoglets Preschool – 2-3 year olds



We have had such a lovely couple of weeks at Hoglets, filled with festive fun as we celebrated Christmas together. The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit and taking part in a wide range of seasonal activities.

Our craft table has been very busy, the children loved creating their own Christmas cards, calendars, stockings, snowmen, and Christmas trees. There was plenty of glitter and sequins involved. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and enthusiasm as they proudly showed off their festive masterpieces.

We had lots of fun at our Christmas party, which was full of laughter, music, and smiles. The children also enjoyed sitting down together for a delicious Christmas dinner, which was a lovely, shared experience.

One of the highlights of the past few weeks was a very special visit from Father Christmas himself! The children were so excited and amazed, making it a truly magical moment that we will all remember.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have done during their first term back at Hoglets. They have settled in beautifully, shown great confidence, and made fantastic progress.

We would like to wish all our families a lovely break and a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2026.



*Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb and Mrs Villar*

## Hedgehogs Nursery – 3-4 year olds



This Autumn term, the Hedgehogs have grown so much since they started, and we are incredibly proud of the progress they have made. They have settled into a positive daily routine, enjoying phonics, maths, RE, PE, a love of reading, music, and Forest School.

In phonics, the children began by listening to environmental sounds, clapping syllables, exploring alliteration, and identifying rhyming words linked to our weekly nursery rhyme. They have quickly adapted and are now confidently segmenting and blending sounds, including s, a, t, p, i, n.

In maths, the Hedgehogs have progressed from understanding the value of numbers 1 to 3, representing them with objects, exploring repeating patterns, and recognising both 2D and 3D shapes.

In mark making, the children are going from strength to strength, with some recognising letters and beginning to write their names, while others are making meaningful marks and developing their early writing skills.

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The children come into school each day ready to learn, showing kindness to their friends and demonstrating our school values throughout the day. We look forward to welcoming the Hedgehogs back in January and continuing their learning journey together.

**Mrs Larman, Mrs Stuart, Miss V Jackson**

## Maple Class – SEND Room



What a fantastic term we have had in Maple Class! The children have continued to amaze us with their resilience and progress already this school year, and we are so proud of everything they have achieved. Every day has been filled with smiles, small victories and big moments of learning, and it has been a joy to watch the children grow in confidence and independence.

Maple Class celebrates every step forward, and this term has been full of them. The children have worked incredibly hard on their individual targets, showing determination, curiosity and a real willingness to try new things. Whether it's developing communication skills, building friendships, or exploring learning through play, the progress we've seen has been truly heart-warming.

Christmas has been in full swing over the last couple of weeks and the children have absolutely loved it! The classroom has been filled with festive cheer, with twinkling lights, bright colours and plenty of sparkles. These have been a fantastic addition to our sensory learning, helping to create a calm, engaging and exciting environment for everyone. The children have enjoyed exploring Christmas-themed activities, songs and stories, and soaking up the festive atmosphere.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our families for your continued support this term. We really appreciate everything you do.

As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, we hope you all have an amazing Christmas and a Happy New Year. We can't wait to welcome everyone back for another exciting term in Maple Class!

**Miss Lynch, Mrs Wade and Mrs Dunn**

## Cherry Class – Reception



What a wonderful first term of school we've had in Reception! The children have been brilliant and it's been amazing to see how well they have all settled into school life and the progress they have already made since the start of the year. In Cherry class we've been getting ready for Christmas with lots of different crafts, decorating our classroom, and pretending to be elves working hard in Santa's workshop.



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It has been a pleasure teaching the children in Cherry class and I'll miss seeing their smiling faces every morning, but I'm sure I'll be popping my head in the classroom often to see what everyone has been getting up to. Mrs Guillian is going to be a very lucky teacher to have you when we come back after Christmas.

Thank you, Cherry class! I hope everyone has a joyful and restful Christmas.

**Miss Sawyer and Mrs Griffin**

## *Willow Class – Year 1*

What an amazing start to the year we have had in Year 1! The children have truly blown us away with their enthusiasm for learning and the fantastic way they have adjusted to their new routines. They have settled in so well and it has been wonderful to see how quickly their confidence has grown. Already, we can see clear development in their learning behaviours, alongside an increase in resilience and independence, which puts us in such a strong position as we head towards the spring term.



This week has been particularly special as we enjoyed a lovely festive week full of excitement and celebration. The highlight for many was a visit from the Big Man himself! The children were thrilled to meet Father Christmas and enjoyed asking him lots of thoughtful questions about life at the North Pole. It was a magical experience that brought plenty of smiles and festive cheer.

We have also enjoyed many memorable moments throughout the term. Our Festive Festival was a real success, with the children putting on brilliant performances and showing such confidence and enthusiasm. Another highlight was our sports event at Wodson Park, where the children had the opportunity to try a fantastic range of activities, including curling and archery. They approached each new challenge with excitement and determination, making us incredibly proud.

In January we will be welcoming Miss Haywood, a student teacher who will be with us while Miss Webb experiences teaching in another school as part of her university course. We are very grateful for everything Miss Webb has done to support us this term and we wish her lots of luck in her next school.

The children have worked so hard this term, and we are immensely proud of everything they have achieved. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved rest and has a wonderful Christmas break spent with family and loved ones.

Curriculum letters will be uploaded on Dojo before the start of the new term. Please take a few moments to read them, as they will



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outline our learning for next term and highlight any important updates or changes. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting term ahead.

Merry Christmas!

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

## ***Birch Class – Year 2***

What a busy and rewarding half term it has been for Birch Class! The children have thrown themselves into their learning with enthusiasm and curiosity, and it has been wonderful to see just how much progress they have made across all areas of the curriculum.

One of the highlights of the term was our visit to the Victorian Schools Museum. The children loved stepping back in time and experiencing what school life was like in the past, from classroom routines to strict rules. Back in school, our learning continued with plenty of hands-on activities. In Design and Technology, the children became budding chefs as they designed and made their own healthy wraps, carefully choosing ingredients and learning about balanced nutrition.

In science, Birch Class investigated whether woodlice prefer to live in damp or dry conditions. The children planned their enquiry, made predictions and observed the results with great interest, showing fantastic teamwork and scientific thinking. In maths, they have worked hard on adding and subtracting, exploring shapes and building confidence with their number skills. In English, the children have written some wonderful narrative journeys, using their imagination and developing their storytelling skills.

Birch Class have all worked incredibly hard this half term and should be extremely proud of themselves. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach them this past term, and I wish them all the very best in January as Miss Sawyer takes over teaching the class.

I would also like to say a big thank you to parents and carers for all of your support this term. It is very much appreciated and makes a real difference. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas, enjoy a well-deserved rest, and return refreshed and ready for the new term ahead.

***Mrs Finch and Mrs Buckmaster***





## Oak Class – Year 3 & 4



Wishing all of Oak Class a very happy Christmas! What an amazing first part of the year it has been, and I couldn't be prouder of everything Year 3 and 4 have achieved so far.

The children have worked incredibly hard across the curriculum – mastering times tables all the way up to 12s, exploring area in maths, building circuits in science, and learning how to classify animals. We've travelled back in time to discover how children's lives have changed since Tudor and Victorian times, journeyed to Antarctica to learn who lives there and all about the incredible Ernest Shackleton, and explored important beliefs in Sikhism, including the 5 Ks, as well as the Nativity story.

There's been plenty of creativity too – from designing and making slingshot cars, developing new drawing skills, and learning the basics of the ukulele, to building confidence in understanding relationships and how to stay healthy. We've even started our journey into French with some brilliant enthusiasm!

Oak Class have shown curiosity, resilience and kindness throughout the term, and it's been a joy to see them grow in confidence and independence. Well done to each and every one of you – you should be very proud of yourselves. Have a restful, happy Christmas and I can't wait to see what we achieve together in the new year!

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

### Super Star Sports – Spring Term 2026

Parents can view and book their child's place via the links below:

**Monday Gymnastics Club (Rec - Yr 4):** <https://pbbl.uk/4pomI4u>

**Tuesday Ninja Warrior Club (Rec - Yr 4):** <https://pbbl.uk/3KtygEk>

**Wednesday Football Club (Rec - Yr 4):** <https://pbbl.uk/4pfu7D3>

**Thursday Lego Club (Rec - Yr 4):** <https://pbbl.uk/4rKe6XA>

**Friday Multi-Sports Club (Rec - Yr 4):** <https://pbbl.uk/3YaDpUU>

### Calendar Dates coming up

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 Hornead 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>

## 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)

### Arbor Payments

Please could you ensure all your child's Arbor accounts are paid before we come back in January.

Thank you.