



# 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: 9 25/26

### Dear Families,



Welcome back, and a very happy New Year to you all. I hope you enjoyed a restful Christmas break with your families. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school so excited, settled, and ready to learn. Although we are officially in the Spring Term, it still very much feels like winter, and we certainly have a busy and exciting term ahead as we journey towards Easter.

There will be no class blogs in this newsletter; instead, this newsletter serves as a reminder of some important information and an overview of what is coming up this term.

### Staffing Updates

Today would have been Mrs Finch's last day before she begins her maternity leave; however, it looks like baby may be arriving earlier than planned. We are super excited and very much looking forward to welcoming baby Finch, possibly in the next few days. We wish Steph and Sam every happiness at this very special time.

During Mrs Finch's absence, she has handed over the role of SENCo to me, and I will do my very best to continue the excellent work she has established. Mrs Finch will also be returning on occasional days, as well as for two weeks in July, to support with pupil information handovers to new classes.

We have also welcomed back Mrs Guillian to Reception class, Miss Sawyer's move to Year 2 and Miss Haywood, who has joined Year 1 as a trainee teacher for the term. You may have noticed a few changes to our support staff arrangements; class teachers will already have shared any relevant updates with you.

### Parent Consultations

We are very much looking forward to meeting you at our Spring Term parent consultations in February. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to see the progress your child has made and to discuss any questions or concerns with their class teacher.

### Celebration Assemblies

This term, class celebration assemblies will take place in the **morning rather than the afternoon**. This change has been made to help ease traffic congestion at the end of the school day, which had become increasingly challenging. We hope this adjustment will make pick-up times smoother for everyone.

### Valentine's Disco

Our Valentine's Disco will take place **in school** ( and during school hours) on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, rather than at the village hall. I feel more comfortable hosting these events on site, and we are looking forward to providing a fun and safe celebration for the children.

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## Parking and Road Safety

We are currently in discussion with the council regarding improved signage to alert the public to our school, the possibility of speed cameras, and addressing roadside parking. We are also exploring options with a local farmer regarding the potential use of land at the rear of the school for parking and a turning circle.

In the meantime, I kindly ask that everyone remains patient, considerate, and respectful when driving and parking around the school.

## Celebrating 180 Years of Our School



This year, we will begin celebrating our school's 180th birthday. As part of this, I have applied for funding towards a new school hall. While this is an ambitious project, and a big ask, demonstrating strong community fundraising may help strengthen our case.

We will shortly be launching a GoFundMe page, alongside a fun opportunity to purchase a commemorative brick featuring your family name. Please watch this space, and we would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this initiative. We are also exploring ideas such as a vintage summer fair, an auction, a recipe book, 180 commemorative items etc and would welcome help from anyone who may be able to support us with getting these going.

## Outdoor Classroom – Thank You



We are incredibly grateful to have recently had an outdoor classroom installed, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Friends and Parents of Hormead School (FAP). The outdoor classroom seats 30 children, and we are very much looking forward to using it for lessons. It will be particularly valuable for Forest School activities and will allow us to deliver music, science, and other curriculum lessons outdoors during the warmer months.

Thank you for every penny contributed through last year's events, and sincere thanks to the PTA for all their hard work and dedication in making this possible.

## Easyfundraising

Another simple way to support school fundraising is by signing up to Easyfundraising and selecting our school. By accessing retailers such as Amazon and Booking.com through the Easyfundraising site, a small donation is made to the school at no extra cost to you. Please consider using this especially if you are making a large purchase.

So far, 36 supporters have raised £256 for the school—thank you very much for your continued support.

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## Arbor Accounts

Please help us by ensuring your Arbor account remains in credit wherever possible. We do not like having to chase payments for things like school dinners and clubs but as costs come out of the school account first, it is important that balances do not build up. Please make a habit of checking your Arbor account regularly and try to keep your child's account in credit.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please do let us know so that we can support you.

## Breakfast and After School Clubs

Breakfast Club continues to grow in popularity. While we are happy to accommodate ad hoc bookings, it would be extremely helpful if families who use the club regularly **could let us know**, as this enables us to staff it appropriately. The same applies to Hedgehogs After School Club.

## Important Reminders



- Wherever possible, please adhere to the school uniform policy. Once one child goes rogue, they all think they can. For PE, particularly in the colder months, children may wear a tracksuit; however, we do ask that this is plain navy if possible.
- For health and safety reasons, earrings should not be worn in school. If a child does need to wear earrings, they must be small, plain studs and will need to be taped for PE lessons.
- With the colder weather, please ensure children are dressed warmly. Gloves are permitted for playtimes, but children are responsible for keeping them safe.
- If the field is dry, even if it has snowed, children may use it, so please ensure welly boots are kept in school.

## Severe Weather Procedures

In the event of severe weather, we do our best to avoid closing the school. However, if conditions are unsafe, we will communicate with you as early as possible via ClassDojo and SchoolPing.

Our procedure is that Mr Mead will travel to school at 6:30am and, provided the roads are safe, the school will open. A late register may be used to allow families additional travel time if needed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another positive and successful term together.

*Mrs Cowler,  
Headteacher*



## Reasons to Celebrate

### Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

<b>Hedgehogs</b>	<b>All the Hedgehogs</b>	<i>For all walking into the classroom so independently this week.</i>
<b>Cherry</b>	<b>Myles Larman</b>	<i>For putting in 100% effort and always helping to tidy.</i>
<b>Willow Y1</b>	<b>Emilia Dodd</b>	<i>For returning to school with a positive and determined attitude to learning</i>
<b>Birch Y2</b>	<b>Ernie Mulberry-Laurie</b>	<i>For a great attitude to learning in all subjects</i>
<b>Oak Y3</b>	<b>Penny Flanagan</b>	<i>For trying hard to write a greater length in English</i>
<b>Oak Y4</b>	<b>Esmae Paine</b>	<i>For fantastic improvement in her reading</i>

### Values Hearts



<b>Cooperation</b>	<b>Ernie, Alfie, Alex, Harper, Maggie &amp; Albie in Y2</b>	<i>For working together brilliantly to create some amazing performances in English</i>
<b>Cooperation</b>	<b>Carter in Reception</b>	<i>For working together to tidy the classroom</i>
<b>Courage</b>	<b>Thomas in Y1</b>	<i>For continuing with all his learning with a smile even with one hand in a cast and sling!</i>
<b>Kindness</b>	<b>Archie &amp; Adeline in Y1</b>	<i>For being an amazing friend to Thomas and keeping him company in the daily mile and at lunch times</i>
<b>Kindness</b>	<b>Mia in Nursery</b>	<i>For showing kindness to the new Hedgehogs</i>
<b>Kindness</b>	<b>Arthur in Y1</b>	<i>For helping his friends to do up their zips on their coats without being asked.</i>
<b>Resilience</b>	<b>Nazar in Reception</b>	<i>For taking such care and effort when crafting</i>
<b>Aspiration</b>	<b>Theo in Reception</b>	<i>For listening so carefully and trying his best</i>
<b>Aspiration</b>	<b>Sienna in Reception</b>	<i>For trying her best in phonics</i>
<b>Aspiration</b>	<b>Freddie N in Nursery</b>	<i>For using alphabet letters to spell and match words and pictures</i>

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## After School Clubs and Wraparound

Please see below the clubs we are offering for the Spring term

### Breakfast Club – Every day

Time	Location	Year group	Lead Staff	Cost
7:45 to 8:45am	School Hall	Reception to Y4	Mrs Prior	£2
7:45 to 8:45am	School Hall	Nursery & Preschool	Nursery Staff Rota	£4

Included in the cost, children can choose a variety of foods for breakfast including toast, cereals, croissants and fruit.

Bookings can be made via Arbor

### Come and Play in Hedgehogs Club – Every Day

Time	Location	Year group	Cost
2:45pm to 3:15pm	Hedgehogs Nursery	Hoglets & Hedgehogs	Free of charge
3:15pm to 4:15pm	Hedgehogs Nursery	Hoglets, Hedgehogs Reception, Year 1 & Year 2	2-3 years - £9 per hour 3-4 years - £6.50 per hour School age - £5.50 per hour
3:15pm to 5:15pm (2 hours)	Hedgehogs Nursery	Hoglets, Hedgehogs Reception, Year 1 & Year 2	School age - £5.50 per hour

- For Hedgehogs wraparound club there is a ratio of one adult to 5 children
- Children in Reception to Year 2 not wanting to attend Superstar Sports can attend Hedgehogs club at £5:50 per hour
- All bookings must be made via the Arbor app and paid for **in advance before 3.00pm** on the day of the activity.

### Superstar Sports clubs

Clubs and late clubs should be booked directly through Super Star Sports:

Activity – 3:15-4:15pm in school hall - £5.50 per session

Late Provision – 4:15-5:30pm in school hall - £11 which includes the Club session and a light snack

**Monday Gymnastics Club (Rec - Yr 4):** <https://pbbl.uk/4poml4u>

**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>

If you have any queries, or are having trouble booking on Arbor, please speak to Mrs Tompkins in the office.

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## Calendar Dates coming up

### January 2026

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	INSET DAY
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Hormead 180 years
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mini Mozart start every Tuesday pm for Hedgehogs & Hoglets
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Singing with Emma starts every Thursday pm for Hedgehogs & Hoglets
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Forest School for all classes every Thursday
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Finch's last day (Maternity leave)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter 09
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9:30am Cinderella Pantomime – (Village Hall)</b>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	School Admissions deadline
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	School dinners - Burger Day Menu
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	World Religion Day
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Newsletter 10

### February 2026

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am Cherry Class Celebration Assembly
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter 11
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations (Y4 only) – 2pm start in classroom
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations (Y1 to Y3) – 3pm start in hall
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations (Nursery & Reception) – 1:30pm start in hall
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Non-Uniform Day / Cake Sale after school</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Valentines Disco (during school day) – Bring £1 donation</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HALF TERM WEEK</b>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Y1 Willow Class Celebration Assembly (9:30am)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter 12

### March 2026

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Y3/4 Dance Festival (5pm) team tbc
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oak Class Rapid Fire Cricket – Sele School
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Y2 Birch Class Celebration Assembly (9:30am)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day – Dress up as a book character.
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2:45pm – Parents stay and read
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Y3 Oak Celebration Assembly (9:30am)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter 13
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers Day
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Y3/4 Bikeability training - Day 1
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Y3/4 Bikeability training - Day 2
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Y4 Oak Celebration Assembly (9:30am)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Eid
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	PTA Colour Run – details to follow
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter 14
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10am Easter Service at St Nicholas Church led by Cherry Class</b>
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	School ends at 1pm for Easter Holidays

### April 2026

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Back to school**

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