



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: 15 25/26

Dear Families,



Isn't it just wonderful to have the sunshine back again? I was very lucky to enjoy a truly memorable Easter holiday in Zimbabwe with my wonderfully crazy children. It was full of adventure – including travelling for two hours down a dirt road that suddenly ended abruptly after being washed away, trying to navigate an alternative route through the bush, and coming across nine lions strolling calmly down the road! We also saw plenty of elephants (including one that charged at our vehicle!), lots of giraffes, a leopard up a tree, mosquitos galore, and so much more.

Perhaps the most terrifying moment for me though, was discovering a snake in my room! Despite all this excitement (and the occasional scare), I am back safe, very much alive, and genuinely refreshed after some precious quality time with my family. I hope that you and your families were also able to enjoy a restful and happy break.

Returning to school has been full-on, just as we expected, with the summer term already in full swing. We are delighted to share that we have 28 Reception children this year – our highest ever intake. Even more special is the fact that all our Nursery children have chosen to continue their journey with us at Hormead. We cannot wait to welcome them fully into school life and continue to nurture their curiosity, confidence, and independence as they grow.

We are also very pleased to hear that most of our Year 4 pupils received their first-choice middle school, and that those who did not are feeling happy and secure with their allocations. This term will be a particularly special one for our Year 4s as we continue to prepare them for the next chapter of their learning while making many more wonderful Hormead memories for them to take with them.

This week has seen the school buzzing with activity as we prepare for our exciting 180-year celebration week. Thank you so much for your engagement and support with these events. They do take a little extra organisation (and keep the staff on their toes!), but they are what make our school so special. We are never afraid to go off-timetable when it means valuing the moments that matter most to children – sparking joy, building confidence, and keeping a love of learning alive. On the next page you'll find a list of important reminders for the week ahead.

In this week's news, we are also sharing some of our RE learning, which highlights the wonderful ways children learn about a range of world religions. At the heart of our school, however, is our Christian foundation, which underpins our school values and feeds directly into our behaviour policy and everyday life at Hormead. These values guide how we treat one another – with kindness, respect, forgiveness, and love.

We hope your children talk to you about our school values at home, as they are not only important here at Hormead, but are values that will support them throughout their lives.

Thank you, as always, for being such a supportive and valued part of our school family.

Mrs Cowler

Headteacher



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Reasons to Celebrate

Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	Sulley Richardson	For settling in so well into Hedgehogs
Hedgehogs	Raphael Frearson	For coming in well and joining in our songs
Cherry	Charlie Dunn	Showing his school values every day!
Cherry	Matilda Risley	Showing resilience
Willow Y1	Travis McCulloch	Amazing effort and confidence in counting in 2s, 5s and 10s!
Willow Y1	Arthur Frearson	Writing an excellent invitation to his family for 'Back in time' day
Birch Y2	Maggie Kirwin	Brilliant measuring in maths
Birch Y2	Albert Walker	For being ready to learn and starting tasks quickly
Oak Y3	Lenny Doust	Continued improvement in writing
Oak Y3	Sully Warby	For trying really hard to improve his handwriting
Oak Y4	Theo Morrison	Helping to teach the class about Mayans
Oak Y4	Joey Kostur	Trying really hard in dance rehearsals

Values Hearts



Love	Riley in Nursery	For being so kind and caring to the younger Hedgehogs
Cooperation	Poppy in Nursery	For always doing super tidying up every day
Courage	Evie & Jude in Y1	Trying something new to eat at lunchtime
Courage	Tommy in Y2	Being brave with his broken finger
Courage	Sophie in Nursery	For coming into Hedgehogs on her own in the mornings
Courage	Arnie in Nursery	For staying at after school club without becoming upset
Courage	Brooke in Y3	For being brave when she got glass in her foot at home
Resilience	Louie in Y1	Not giving up when learning a new skill of counting in 5's
Aspiration	Thomas in Y1	For writing an amazing letter to the Nasa astronauts
Aspiration	Sulley in Nursery	For being amazing and showing the skills needed to be a great Hedgehog!
Aspiration	Mason, Sienna & Theo in Y4	For showing their aspiration in French, counting in 10s

Congratulations to:

Hattie Foster

For earning a pen licence



Congratulations for completing the house point challenge:

BRONZE AWARD:

SILVER AWARD: Jude Rogers



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180 Years Fundraising News

Thank you so much!

Every pound makes a difference. Let's keep the momentum going!

Total Raised So Far: £2,203

- ✓ **£1,203** from Crowdfunder
- ✓ **£1,000** donation from the Hornead Community



If you have given money directly to the school bank please let us know your child's name in the reference

Link to Crowdfunder below:

[Help Us Build a New Hall for Hornead School - a crowdfunding project in Buntingford by Hornead CofE First School](#)

Please note – there is a slider to donate a portion of money to crowdfunder. **You DON'T need to do this.**

Spotlight on the 180 Challenge!

EVERY child taking part in the 180 challenges will receive a special bear gift from Hornead as a thank you

Our current fundraising champions are:

- **Thalia and Eva Jechorek** raising £67.95 by selling sweets from Poland in school
- **Flo Eastwood** has raised £390 in her challenge of swimming 180 lengths
- **Ember Bilton** has raised £50 so far by drawing 180 pictures of people
- **Carter Carlson** is collecting 180 eggs to sell – watch this space!
- **Leo Darmody** is walking to school 180 times to raise money – watch this space!
- **Arthur & Raphael Frearson** are planting and selling 180 sunflowers – watch this space!
- **Julia Zolti** is currently selling handmade necklaces in school – watch this space!
- **Joey, Romie, Zac & Oakley's** have raised £135 for collecting 180 pieces of rubbish each around Hornead
- **Thomas Stanning** has raised £203 so far in a litter Picking campaign!
- **Ellis Plummer** has built 180 sandcastles on holiday for his fundraising – watch this space!
- **Aubrey Buzzing** has raised £85 so far planting 180 different seeds at her Nana's allotment to raise money
- **Alex Baker** has raised £120 by bouncing 180 times
- **Arthur Rodgers** is completing 180 yoyo's – watch this space!



Please let us know if we have left your child off the list!

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Timetable and reminders for next week's 180 year Celebrations

Monday 27th April

Oliver! School Rehearsals

Children will take part in rehearsals for the upcoming Oliver! show during the school day.

Tuesday 28th April

Oliver Show – 2:00pm at the school

- The show will begin at **2:00pm at the SCHOOL** – **please bring a picnic blanket or chair**
- Children should **bring their Oliver costumes** to school so they can change before the performance.
- We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us to enjoy the show.

Thursday 30th April

Main Celebration Day – 180 Years of Our School

- Children will **need one penny** to enter the school and a **packed lunch** (or choose a school packed lunch)
- They should arrive at school **dressed in Victorian-style outfits** (the same costumes as for the Oliver show).
- Children will be asked to line up outside their classrooms for the beginning of a fun filled day as a Victorian school
- At **9:45am**, we will walk up to **the Meads** to watch the **Year 3 Maypole Dance at 10am**. (You are all invited to this)
- A **whole-school photograph** will be taken in front of the school, recreating photographs from years past to mark this special occasion.
- An afternoon of 'boys' and 'girls' activities planned

Afternoon Event (Adults Only):

- At **1:30pm**, we will open the school to the public to view our **school archives**.
- **Tea and scones** will be available.
- This event is for **grown-ups only**.

Friday 1st May

INSET Day – School Closed

School will be closed to all pupils on this day.





Sporting News

Cross Country



We are incredibly proud of our Year 3 and 4 children who took part in the Primary School Cross Country event at Heath Mount School. This is always a very tough challenge, often tougher than the children expect, especially as they compete against pupils who train and race outside of school. Every runner showed fantastic determination and resilience throughout the course. A particular well done to **Oliver Ward**, who achieved an impressive **4th place overall in the boys' race**.

Class News

Forest School



Thanks to plenty of Spring sunshine and blue sky, Forest School has had sprinkles of joy, singing and amazement recently. The frogspawn hatched and the tadpoles are amazing to watch wriggling their tails and growing each week. Some of the seeds we planted have germinated already, our greenhouse bulbs are flowering and the newly planted trees are also showing signs of growth. Mother Beech has her leaves, as do all the other trees in our Forest.

Many Hormead pupils have had a go at hapa zome, the Japanese practice of leaf bashing. No fingers were hammered and we have some beautiful leaf prints hanging in the forest. It is a remarkable time of year to be outside and the Hormead Forest is certainly delightful to be in.



Ivy Eileen



Hoglets Class – age 2 and 3 years



We've had a lovely start to the half term over the last couple of weeks, our theme this half term is 'When I grow up' So we have been looking at 'I can be anything' and 'Doctors and nurses'. The children have really enjoyed these themes by getting stuck in to our doctors surgery, where they act out being a patient and a doctor to each other or choosing to dress up as a superhero.

With the weather being so nice the children have enjoyed spending a lot of time outside, investigating the environment, enjoying the sunshine or running around on the field, including having our music lessons outside with Emma.



We celebrated St Georges Day this week where the children decorated a dragon picture and made an England flag, we also spoke a little bit about what St Georges day is and why we celebrate it. We have also been practising our song for the Oliver show which the children are very excited about.

Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb

Hedgehogs Class – age 3 and 4 years



What a wonderfully rich and reflective two weeks it has been in Hedgehogs. The children have embraced their RE learning with such enthusiasm and curiosity. Each Monday, we gather for our RE lesson, and after every session I record the children's thoughts, reflections, and photos in our Spiritual Journey book. It has become a treasured space where the children love to pause, look back, and recognise how their

understanding is growing week by week.

Last week, we explored The Tortoise and The Hare, using the story to think about feelings, behaviour, and the values we show through our actions. The children reflected thoughtfully on how the tortoise felt at the beginning, why the hare chose to nap, and how each character felt at the end. Their responses showed a deepening sense of empathy and moral awareness.



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This week, we turned to *The Crocodile and The Priest*, discussing how the crocodile felt at the start, how the priest behaved, and how his feelings changed by the end. We finished by creating a class list of encouraging, uplifting things we can say to one another—words that help us build a kind and caring community. This now sits proudly in our Spiritual Journey.

In maths, we explored repeating patterns in objects, music, and the environment. In phonics, last week's sound was f with *Five Speckled Frogs*, and this week we are learning j with *Jack and Jill*.

Mrs Stuart, Mrs Larman, Miss Jackson

Maple Class – SEND



What a great start we have had to the summer term! The children have been so happy to be back at school and to carry on with all their new learning opportunities. It has been lovely to see so many smiling faces, happy greetings and settled routines as everyone has returned refreshed and ready to learn.

As the weather begins to be a little more predictable, we will be spending more and more time outside to complete small parts of the children's learning, including story times. Being outdoors is a really positive experience for Maple class, giving the children opportunities to explore their environment, enjoy fresh air and engage with learning in a calm and relaxed way.

Although Maple class children will not be a part of the Oliver performance next week, we have still been listening to the songs in class. The children have shown great enthusiasm for the fast-paced songs, moving their bodies to the music and throwing in some happy vocalisations too! Music continues to be a lovely way for the children to express themselves and have fun together.

We are excited to see what new memories will be made over the next few weeks as we continue our learning journey and enjoy the changing season.

Keep up the hard work, Maple class. Well done!

Mrs Lynch, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wade

Cherry Class – Reception

Cherry Class have been busy with our new theme all about growing and changing. Last week, we focused on how a human changes from being a baby, and the children compared what they could do now versus what they couldn't when they were younger. This week, we have been looking at the human body. The children are loving our doctor's surgery role play - especially using the bandages and working



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at the receptionist desk! Our Literacy has also linked to this theme; the children have begun writing their books about the human body and what they use their body to do. In phonics, the children have started phase 4. Although no new sounds are taught, phase 4 gives the children to explore longer words and words with adjacent consonants. Thank you for your continued support with home reading - we want to keep the momentum going and aim for 5 reads a week!

In RE, our new question is **'What can we learn from stories?'** - during this unit we will explore different stories and think about the lessons they teach us, including those stories significant to different religions. We have started this unit by exploring the story of the boy who cried wolf which has prompted some great discussion about the importance of telling the truth and being honest with others.



The children are doing really well at our rehearsals for our Oliver performance. If your child has a spoken part, I have sent you the line via ClassDojo so please practice as much as you can over the weekend. We can't wait to show you!

Mrs Guillian, Miss Griffin and Mrs Villar

Willow Class – Year 1



In RE, Year 1 children continue to show wonderful curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about different beliefs and faiths. They are really enjoying exploring how our school's Christian values are reflected in other religions, particularly Christianity and Judaism, which are our focus this year.

The children are learning about key religious festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Shabbat, and are becoming familiar with important religious artefacts including the Bible, the Christian cross, the Torah and Havdalah candles. They have been discussing the significance of these items and why they are special.

We are currently exploring the question, **"Is Shabbat important to Jewish children?"** The class has been thinking about the days of the week, which days are important to them and why, before learning that Saturday is the Jewish holy day. The children have also begun learning about the Jewish creation story, making thoughtful links and spotting similarities with the Christian creation story. They were fascinated to discover that many stories in the Bible can also be found in the Torah.

Next, we will be learning about the Ten Commandments, exploring what Shabbat involves and why it is special to Jewish families, as well as learning new vocabulary linked to Jewish artefacts such as the Kippah and



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Shofar. The children continue to show respect, tolerance and genuine fascination when learning about other religions. We are so proud of you Willow, well done!

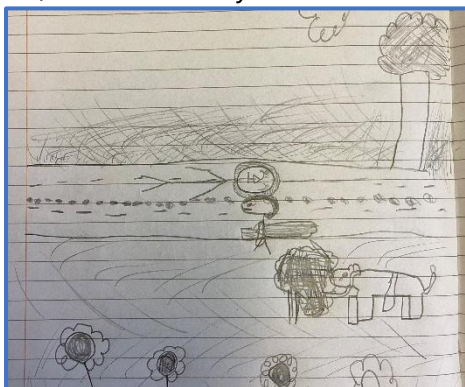
Mrs Ward, Miss Ellis and Miss Webb

Birch Class – Year 2

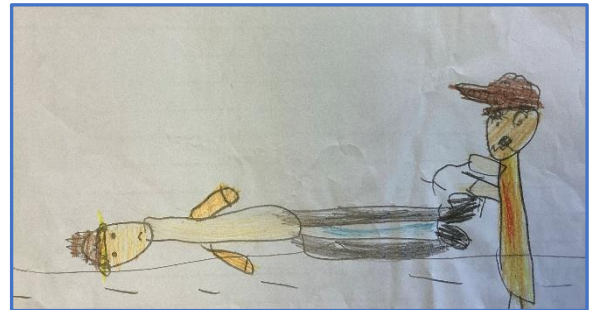


In our RE this half term, Birch class are considering the question '**Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time?**'. We started the topic by looking at a range of scenarios where it might be tricky for us to show kindness and thinking of examples of how we could show kindness, acting out the scenes in groups. For example, we discussed how we could be kind and still include someone who spoke a different language, and also how we can respect people's boundaries.

We have now started to learn about some of the examples from the bible of showing kindness when it is difficult to do so, beginning with the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). This is a story that Jesus told to help people understand



one of his key rules, 'love your neighbour as yourself'. We decided



that the message of the story is that we should try to be kind and compassionate even if there are differences in belief, language, or race and that a 'neighbour' is anyone in need.

Later this half term we will be learning about when kindness was shown to Zaccheus, a debt collector, and when Jesus showed kindness to someone who had let him down. We will use what we learn to help us answer our enquiry question, and considering why kindness is important and how we can show it in our own lives.



Miss Sawyer and Mrs Buckmaster

Oak Class – Year 3 & 4

Oak Class have been exploring a big question in RE this half term: "**Does a Christian need to go to church?**" This has led to some thoughtful discussions and a growing understanding of how Christians express their faith in different ways.

We began by thinking about what a church is used for. The children shared their ideas about worship, celebration, community events and quiet reflection. This helped us see that a church can be both a special religious space and an important place for the wider community.

We then learned about baptism, looking closely at the ceremony and its symbolism. The class discussed whether babies should be baptised or whether it is better to wait until someone is old enough to choose for

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themselves. The children offered mature and respectful viewpoints, recognising that Christians hold a range of beliefs on this.

Next, we explored Holy Communion. Some children shared their own experiences, which really enriched our learning. We talked about the wafer and wine, what they represent, and why this ritual is so significant for many Christians.

Looking ahead, we will be asking whether churches help people to pray and feel closer to God. We will also explore the different ways churches support their communities, from hosting groups and events to offering help to those in need.

Through all of this, Oak Class are developing a deeper understanding of Christian practice and the many ways people choose to live out their faith.

Mr Armes, Miss Wentworth, Mrs Crowe and Miss Standing



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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TOP UP YOUR ARBOR ACCOUNTS

Arbor accounts **must** stay in credit please to avoid us having to chase you up for money.

Thank you



Calendar Dates coming up

Changes and additions to original diary dates are written in red

Summer Term Dates for your Diary		
Tue 28th	April	2pm Whole School Back in Time Performance – Village hall- Victorian costumes
Wed 29th	April	Safari Stu
Wed 29th	April	3:15pm Residential meeting for Year 4 parents & children
Thu 30th	April	Back in time Day (1846) - Victorian dressing up day
		10am - Maypole Dance – Village Meads (everyone invited – bring a chair)
		From 1:30pm School Exhibition
Fri 1st	May	INSET DAY (School Closed for Staff Training)
Mon 4th	May	Bank Holiday
Fri 8 th	May	PTA AGM School Hall 2pm – everyone invited
Fri 8 th	May	Newsletter 16
Mon 11th	May	9:30am Year 1 Infant Agility at Sele School
Tue 12th	May	11am Reception Screening – if required
Wed 13th	May	Year 4's leave for residential trip to Norfolk
Fri 15th	May	Year 4's return from residential trip
Mon 18th	May	Class Photos + Whole School Photo
Fri 22 nd	May	Non uniform Day & Cake Sale
Fri 22 nd	May	Newsletter 17
25th May to 1st June		HALF TERM
Mon 1st	June	INSET DAY (School Closed for staff training)
Tues 2nd	June	Back to school
Mon 8 th	June	PHONICS SCREENING WEEK / MULTIPLICATION TEST WEEK
Thu 11 th	June	6pm - New Reception Parents Induction Evening
Fri 12 th	June	Newsletter 18
Wed 17 th	June	2pm - New Reception children and parents Teddy Bears Picnic
Thu 18 th	June	Whole school trip (R to Y4) to KNEBWORTH (not preschool & Nursery)
Sat 20 th	June	Vintage Summer Fair
Thu 25 th	June	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 1
Thu 25 th	June	1pm - District Athletics – team to be confirmed
Thu 25 th	June	Newsletter 19
Fri 26 th	June	SPORTS DAY – starts at 1pm (arrive 12:45pm)
Wed 1 st	July	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 2
Wed 1 st	July	Birch Class trip to Clacton
Mon 6 th	July	10am - Oak Class Summer production rehearsal
Tue 7 th	July	2pm - Oak Class Production of Aladdin
Tue 7 th	July	6pm - Oak Class Production of Aladdin
Thu 9 th	July	Moving up day (SWAP classes – Y4's to Middle School)
Thu 9 th	July	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 3
Fri 10 th	July	Newsletter 20
Fri 10 th	July	PTA treasure hunt after school
Fri 10 th	July	2pm - Reception Graduation ceremony – Parents and Grandparents welcome
Mon 13 th	July	Year 4 lesson taster Edwinstree
Thu 16 th	July	4:30pm - Y4 leavers Pudding party

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Thu 16th	July	Reports out
Fri 17th	July	Newsletter 21
Wed 22nd	July	10am - Year 4 Goodbye Service
Wed 22nd	July	1pm School ends for Summer holidays
Mon 3rd	August	School open for Summer Club (2 weeks)
September 2026		
Tuesday 1st	INSET Day (School closed for Staff Training)	
Wednesday 2nd	All children return to school	
New Reception cohort (8:45-11:45am for first 3 days)		

CELEBRATE

180 YEARS OF OUR SCHOOL

1846 – 2026

HORMEAD FIRST SCHOOL

YOU'RE WARMLY INVITED TO OUR

SCHOOL EXHIBITION

- Old school diaries and registers
- Historic photographs
- Cinefilm
- Children's artwork on display

☝ Tea and freshly baked scones

THURSDAY 30TH APRIL

FROM 1:30PM

ALL WELCOME – PAST PUPILS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND THE COMMUNITY

COME AND HELP US CELEBRATE 180 YEARS OF LEARNING, MEMORIES AND COMMUNITY

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