



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: 16 25/26

Dear Families,

What a wonderful week we had celebrating 180 years of Hormead School! It truly felt like stepping back in time. Thank you so much for helping to make it so special - the children all fully embraced the experience.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our *Oliver!* performance. The children were phenomenal; their singing, dancing and confidence in front of you made us incredibly proud. I do hope you enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed bringing it to life.



Our "Back in Time" day was an absolute highlight. Seeing the children arrive in their Victorian outfits, complete with their pennies for schooling, was just wonderful. They lined up beautifully, with boys at the front and girls at the back, and I must say, I have never known the school to be so quiet as I used my very best stern Victorian voice to keep everyone in order!

I must admit, I rather enjoyed having the children stand when I entered the classroom too - it was nice to feel important for a day 😊

Both teachers and children fully embraced the day, which continued in true Victorian fashion with quiet movement between lessons and wonderfully focused learning. The staff certainly entered into the spirit of things, some perhaps a little too convincingly, with canes in hand and dunce hats at the ready. I think we may have a few Oscar-worthy performances amongst us! You can read more about this in the class news.

In the afternoon, our community exhibition was very well received. Many visitors commented on how fascinating it was, and we have been asked if we might run another event for those who were unable to attend. Sadly, our cine reel camera had other ideas and stopped working early on, but we hope to include it next time.

A particular highlight for many was the old punishment book, which caused much amusement as people read the reasons children found themselves in trouble. A few entries that raised smiles in war time included:

25th April 1941 – William Neil (age 10): 4 strokes, for handing a very important packet, entrusted to him by Miss Hodges, to a 7-year-old boy, where it was lost for 10 days.

26th Sept 1941 – William Neil (again!): 4 strokes, for giving a 5-year-old a ride on the bar of his bicycle amongst military traffic.

2nd March 1942 – Reginald Scripps (age 8½): 4 strokes, for playing truant and throwing stones at the school bell, making it ring (in wartime!).

Thank you again for your support in making this such a memorable and special week.

Mrs Cowler Headteacher

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Reasons to Celebrate

Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	Jacob Stanning	Always showing his school values
Cherry	Roman Kostur	Super effort in learning and trying his best!
Willow Y1	Emilia Dodd	Improved confidence in maths and working hard to find ½ of shapes and quantities
Birch Y2	Spencer Britton	Always having a great attitude to learning
Oak Y3	Joe Webb	Showing courage and taking part in the Oliver show as a main character
Oak Y4	George Graham	Continued improvement in his English work

Values Hearts



Cooperation	Nazar in Reception	Working hard as part of a team in PE
Courage	Louie in Year 1	For being brave on our Victorian day even when it was different and strange
Kindness	Winnie in Year 4	Helping a child who got stuck on the monkey bars
Kindness	Poppy in Reception	Helping her friends when they are hurt
Resilience	Mia in year 3	Answering questions in maths in front of the class
Resilience	Beau in Nursery	For keeping going and trying hard in phonics
Aspiration	Evy, Aubrey, Adeline, Luca, Archie and Thomas in Year 1	For always trying their absolute hardest and using their neatest handwriting for ALL work!
Aspiration	Yarchyk, Winnie, Brooke, Penny, Theo, Holly, Joe, Archie	Showing aspire in their science work
Aspiration	Charlie M in Reception	For independent writing
Aspiration	Izzy in Nursery	Being a shining example of a super Hedgehog!
Aspiration	Cody in Nursery	Being a role model and super Hedgehog at all times!

Congratulations to:

For earning a pen licence



Congratulations for completing the house point challenge:

BRONZE AWARD: Amelia Tinklin

**SILVER AWARD: Luca Castronovo,
Julia Zolti, Wojciech Kusion**



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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: £2,551

- ✓ £1,291 from Crowdfunder
- ✓ £1,000 donation from the Hornead Community
- ✓ £ 260 other donations



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!
- **Oliver Ward** played 180 minutes of pool with family and friends raising £120.



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

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Other news

Goodbye Mr Mead



Today we said goodbye to our wonderful caretaker, Mr Mead.

Mark has been such an important part of our school community and will, I am sure, be fondly remembered by the children for his roller skating, his willingness to dress up, and his warm, welcoming presence each morning.

Thank you, Mr Mead — we will all miss you and miss you making us laugh with your very creative and mischievous costume designs!

A big thank you also to all the parents who kindly contributed towards his leaving gift. I know he will be very surprised when he opens it, and it will be greatly appreciated as he begins work on his house renovations.

Year 3 Maypole Dance

It was such a treat to watch our Year 3 children perform the Maypole dance beautifully in their Victorian dress. Well done, Year 3! You did such an amazing show for us all.



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Class News

Forest School



Everyone who visited the Hormead Forest on 30th June stepped back in time - and it was quite a sight to see Victorian children gathered beneath Mother Beech. Willow Class took on the important task of doing the school laundry, scrubbing clothes by hand in soapy suds on a washboard until they were as clean as possible, before hanging them out to dry in the sunshine. Once the chores were complete, the children enjoyed some Victorian nursery rhymes and a lively game of Oranges and Lemons.



In the afternoon, Oak class split up into boys and girls as they did in the olden days and so Oak Class boys came to Forest School for their woodwork class.

They tried their hand at making their own toys - cars or trains with moving wheels. It was certainly not as simple as popping along to Smyths, but they showed impressive resilience, careful tool use, and plenty of



encouragement for one another.

Suy Eileen

Hoglets Class – age 2 and 3 years



Over the past fortnight, Hoglets have been incredibly busy and immersed in a range of exciting learning experiences. Our themes have centred around Police Officers and Firefighters, alongside a very special celebration marking 180 years of Hormead school.

We are sure you will agree that the children did amazingly well taking part in the Oliver performance. It was such a joy to watch them in the lead-up, practising their words and dance moves with growing confidence. Their enthusiasm and effort really

shone through on the day, and we are so proud of every single one of them.

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As part of our whole-school celebrations, the children also enjoyed our wonderful 'Back in Time' day. While we kept things a little less strict in Hoglets, the children fully embraced the spirit of the day. They loved taking part in old-fashioned games such as hopscotch and beanbag throwing, as well as spending lots of time on the field engaging in imaginative play.

Linking to our Police theme, the children have been exploring patterns, with a particular focus on fingerprints. They learnt that everyone has unique fingerprint patterns and had great fun using ink pads to discover their own. It was fantastic to see their curiosity and excitement as they compared their findings.

We have also continued to build on both fine and gross motor skills through our firefighter-themed activities. The children especially enjoyed using water spray bottles to 'put out fires', as well as the challenge of rescuing people from jelly, which proved to be a messy but very popular activity! In addition, they designed and navigated obstacle courses, carefully carrying buckets of water, helping to develop balance, coordination, and teamwork.

It has been a wonderful and eventful two weeks in Hoglets, filled with creativity, celebration, and lots of hands-on learning. We are incredibly proud of how well the children have engaged with all activities and supported one another throughout.



Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb

Hedgehogs Class – age 3 and 4 years

Last week, our learning was buzzing with excitement as we explored flowers and bees through the story *The Very Greedy Bee*. The children loved diving into the world of busy bees, colourful petals, and the importance of sharing — themes that sparked wonderful conversations and creative activities.



This week, we shifted into a deliciously vibrant theme of fruit and vegetables, inspired by the classic book *Each Peach Pear Plum*. The children enjoyed spotting characters, exploring rhyming language, and investigating the colours, textures, and smells of real fruits and vegetables.

Our 180 Years Back in Time Victorian Day was another highlight. The children arrived dressed in fantastic Victorian-style outfits, ready to step into the past. The Hedgehog teachers took their roles very seriously, or at least tried to, though a few children found our attempts at stern Victorian expressions more funny than frightening.

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Throughout the day, the children explored activities inspired by Victorian classrooms: blackboards and chalk, charcoal drawing, graphite crayons, wooden bricks, hoopla, and sand-tray mark making. It was wonderful to see them embrace old-fashioned learning with such curiosity and enthusiasm.

To finish the week, we couldn't be prouder of the courage and confidence the children showed during their Oliver performance. Their teamwork, bravery, and joy shone brightly.

Mrs Stuart, Mrs Larman, Miss Jackson

Maple Class – SEND



Maple Class have had such a lovely couple of weeks and we are so proud of all the children. Last week, we really enjoyed our special celebration week marking **180 years of Hornead**. The children took part in exploring playground games from the past, including skipping, and we even attempted hopscotch! Some of the children especially enjoyed saying the numbers out loud as they jumped between the boxes, showing great confidence and enthusiasm. It was so lovely to see everyone having a go and attempting to join in with games that have been played for many, many years.

Maple Class also joined the rest of the school for the picnic on the field. This was a big change to our usual routine, and the children coped brilliantly. It was wonderful to see how happy, calm and settled they were while eating lunch outside with their friends. Moments like these really show how far the children have come and how confident they are becoming in different situations.

Over the last couple of weeks, Maple Class has been full of smiley faces and settled learners, which makes us incredibly proud. The children have worked hard to engage with new activities, routines and experiences, and their positive attitudes have really shone through.

Well done, Maple Class - we are so proud of each and every one of you!

Mrs Lynch, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wade





Cherry Class – Reception



Cherry Class have had a great fortnight and thoroughly enjoyed our Back in Time Day celebrations last week. We hope you enjoyed our Oliver performance - the children worked so hard to learn their lines off by heart and practice their dance, and they were amazing on the day - we are sure you will agree they are a class of performers!

On Thursday, we celebrated our Back in Time Day by heading back to the Victorians. The children looked amazing in their Victorian outfits. We began the day by experiencing what life in a Victorian classroom would have been like. The children practiced the alphabet by chalk writing, and they did this in complete silence! It was very different to our normal busy fingers time. When Mrs Cowler entered the room, all the children had to stand! The children also practiced their maths and addition facts by rote learning and chanting the answers. Cherry Class loved going to the Meads to watch the Maypole dance in the lovely sunshine! Throughout the day, we also learnt a Victorian poem and the children had lots of opportunities to engage in Victorian activities such as hopscotch, sand writing, skipping, cup and ball and a 'pass the rolling pin' game.

This week, our learning has been all about teeth. The children have been busy exploring how and why we look after our teeth, and the types of teeth we have and their purpose. The highlight of the week has been practicing our teeth brushing each day - it has caused lots of giggles, and some very mixed expressions to the taste of mint toothpaste! Our theme will now take us on to exploring hygiene, exercise and what a healthy, balanced diet looks like.

Mrs Guillian, Miss Griffin and Mrs Villar

Willow Class – Year 1



Willow Class had a wonderful time stepping back in time for our Victorian Day! The children certainly enjoyed themselves, starting the morning with a silent line and calm entry to the classroom, which really set the tone for the day. We have never known Willow Class to be so quiet for almost the entire morning!

After registration, the children practised Victorian-style handwriting, carefully writing the same word repeatedly over several lines. They also had the opportunity

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to try writing with chalk on blackboards. Opinions were mixed: Some children loved using chalk, while others found it much trickier than the usual pencils on paper.

We then enjoyed a walk to The Meads to watch Year 3 perform their beautiful maypole dances. Willow Class loved listening to the music and clapped along enthusiastically to show their support.



In the afternoon, the children took part in typical Victorian activities. They washed clothes by hand and hung them out to dry, learning that this would have been a daily chore for many Victorian children. We also explored the different activities boys and girls would have learned during that time such as gardening and woodwork for boys or dance and languages for girls.

We ended the day with the traditional Victorian craft of decoupage, which required great resilience and careful cutting. The children did an amazing job with such a fiddly activity.

Many children asked if it could be Victorian Day every day because it was so quiet! While we enjoyed the calm, we much prefer our focused classroom conversations. Mrs Ward has, however, agreed to put the tables back into rows if needed!

Well done for being such good sports for the day Willow, you all looked amazing in your beautiful Victorian costumes. A special thank you to Mrs Heraud who supported us on our Back in Time Day. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Mrs Ward, Miss Ellis and Miss Webb

Birch Class – Year 2

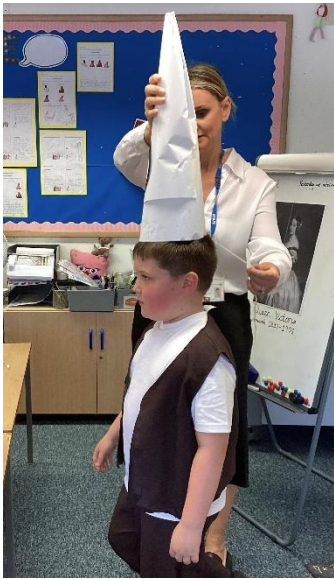


Last week we had a fantastic 'Back in Time Day' and the children very much got into the spirit of things. As they would have been segregated in the past, boys and girls were sat in different parts of the classroom, everyone in rows – some were even asking that we keep it like this by the end of the day! Absolute silence was expected and instead of whiteboards, we wrote onto blackboards using chalk (occasionally accompanied by the ear-piercing screech). Everyone was supposed to write with their right hands and if people did not follow instructions or misbehaved, they may have got the dunce hat and stood in the corner (or in Victorian times, considerably worse). We also had checks for clean hands – anyone who was not completely clean had to go back and wash them again as 'cleanliness is next to Godliness'.

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We started the day practicing our letters, then spellings and writing sentences. In our maths lesson we learned our 10, 2, and 5 times tables, reciting them repeatedly to help them get into our brains – the expectation in the past would have been to just memorise the facts not know how to work them out. In the afternoon, everyone had a go at some decoupage, something that people may have done as a Victorian pastime, decorating boxes with carefully selected pieces of tissue paper. Typically, in a Victorian school, the afternoons looked different for



boys and girls. The boys stayed to learn a bit more maths, this time learning addition facts, while the girls had a go at some knitting. We also learned some traditional folk songs, and for exercise, children did some stretches and marching.

*"Good, better, best.
Never let it rest,
'Till your good is better,
And your better best."*

In lessons this half term we have been learning about monarchs. We found out about our current monarch, Charles III, and what his role is. We also found out about coronation ceremonies and how there are many similarities to the past, even using the same coronation chair. Now, we are learning about how William the Conqueror became king by defeating King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, and how he defended his land and armies with different types of castles. We have

been using our historian brains to look for clues in sources such as the Bayeux Tapestry to help us discover things about the past.

Miss Sawyer and Mrs Buckmaster

Oak Class – Year 3 & 4



This half term in History, the class has been diving into the fascinating world of the Mayan civilisation. We've explored what life is like in the dense rainforest, discussing both the challenges, such as dangerous wildlife and limited farmland, and the benefits, including plentiful natural resources and protection from invaders. The children have also been learning about key features of Mayan cities, from towering temples to bustling marketplaces, and they've shown great curiosity when

comparing these landmarks to modern settlements.

A particular highlight has been studying the Mayan creation story and meeting some of their most important gods. The class can now confidently talk about Chaac, the god of rain; Ixchell, the goddess of the moon and

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weaving; Hun Hunaphu, the maize god; and Kukulchan, the famous feathered serpent. Their enthusiasm has been brilliant to see.



We also had our exciting "Back in Time Day", where the classroom was transformed into a strict Victorian schoolroom, complete with no electricity or modern devices. The day began with traditional spelling practice before the Year 3 children headed off for their wonderful Maypole performance. Afterwards, we returned to our Victorian routine to focus on the "three R's": reading, writing and arithmetic. The children wrote out times tables, practised key addition and subtraction skills, and copied the school rules as they were dictated.



In the afternoon, the boys and girls split for Victorian-style activities. The boys headed to Forest School for woodworking, creating their own wooden cars by sawing, drilling and hammering. Meanwhile, the girls stayed in class to enjoy decoupage, decorating beautiful keepsake boxes to take home.

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

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Summer Term Dates for your Diary		
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 22nd	May	Non uniform Day & Cake Sale
Fri 22nd	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 8th	June	PHONICS SCREENING WEEK / MULTIPLICATION TEST WEEK
Thu 11th	June	6pm - New Reception Parents Induction Evening
Fri 12th	June	Newsletter 18
Wed 17th	June	2pm - New Reception children and parents Teddy Bears Picnic
Thu 18th	June	Whole school trip (R to Y4) to KNEBWORTH (not preschool & Nursery)
Sat 20th	June	Vintage Summer Fair
Thu 25th	June	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 1
Thu 25th	June	1pm - District Athletics – team to be confirmed
Thu 25 th	June	Newsletter 19
Fri 26th	June	SPORTS DAY – starts at 1pm (arrive 12:45pm)
Wed 1st	July	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 2
Wed 1 st	July	Birch Class trip to Clacton
Mon 6th	July	10am - Oak Class Summer production rehearsal
Tue 7th	July	2pm - Oak Class Production of Aladdin
Tue 7th	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 10th	July	PTA treasure hunt after school
Fri 10 th	July	2pm - Reception Graduation ceremony – Parents and Grandparents welcome
Mon 13th	July	Year 4 lesson taster Edwinstree
Thu 16th	July	4:30pm - Y4 leavers Pudding party
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)	

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