



# 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: 17 25/26

Dear Families,

Isn't it wonderful to see a glimpse of summer just around the corner? If all goes to plan, it looks as though we are in for a warm and sunny bank holiday weekend and half-term break.



Our Year 4 children were not quite so lucky with the weather on their trip to PGL, but it certainly didn't dampen their spirits. From all accounts, they made the absolute most of every moment. For many, this was their first time away from home and their families, so it was a true adventure. There were a few tears on that first evening, and I think it's fair to say the staff didn't get much sleep, finally turning in around 3am before being up again at 6am for breakfast and a full day of activities!



What followed was a packed and exciting programme including abseiling, jungle vine, bush craft, and tunnel trails. By the second evening, everyone was so thoroughly worn out from the day's adventures that settling down was much easier. The children enjoyed a lovely campfire with songs and marshmallows – a perfect way to end their 2-night adventure.



We were so proud of how the children embraced each challenge, showing real courage as they tried new activities and overcame their fears. It was wonderful to see their resilience and growing independence. A huge thank you to Mr Armes and Miss Standing for giving up their time, supporting the children, and fully joining in the fun and adventure.

We are also delighted to share that thanks to funding from the Diocese, we are now able to move forward with restoring the additional classroom space that was generously donated to us, located next to the Hoglets building. Our vision is to create a nurturing, engaging, and well-resourced environment across both buildings, designed specifically to help our youngest children thrive. Bringing the settings closer together will also enable us to offer a more seamless and consistent curriculum, ensuring children experience a smooth transition as they move through their early years. Just as importantly, it will allow our staff to work more closely as a team, getting to know all of the children well and supporting their individual needs effectively.



As we approach the half-term break, I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable time with your families. A quick reminder that Monday 1st June is an INSET day, so we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 2nd June for the final half of the summer term. It promises to be a fun and busy one, with sports day, our summer play, report writing, and many more exciting opportunities ahead.

Enjoy the sunshine! *Mrs Cowler* Headteacher

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## Reasons to Celebrate

### Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	Freddie Newman	For increased return and serve conversation
Hedgehogs	Jude Bates	For amazing work in phonics and maths!
Cherry	Theo Foskett	For amazing work in knowing all of his number bonds to 10
Cherry	Charlie Munday	For amazing effort in phonics and writing
Willow Y1	Alex Baker	For her excellent effort in science, recognising and identifying deciduous and evergreen leaves.
Willow Y1	Albie Mulberry-Laurie	For amazing effort and improved sentence writing
Willow Y1	Leo Darmody	For writing some amazing sentences independently
Birch Y2	Evie Parry	For all her hard work in writing.
Birch Y2	Alex	For being so welcoming to a new pupil in the class
Oak Y3	All Year 3s	For being so mature and well-behaved this week without the year 4's and taking on older responsibilities so well.
Oak Y3	Ellis	For great independent work in maths
Oak Y4	Yarchyk	Teaching us all about plants in science

### Values Hearts



Love	Sophia and Mia in Nursery	For always looking out for their friends
Cooperation	George and Daphne in Y1	Working together in music, combining their ideas
Cooperation	Myles in Reception	For working well as a team in PE
Cooperation	Matilda in Y2	For folding all the art aprons for the class
Courage	Emilia in Y1	For being brave and having the courage to try more school lunches
Kindness	Nazar in Reception	For making all his friends paper planes
Kindness	Alex in Y2	For being a great buddy to James
Aspiration	Charlie D in Reception	For his enthusiasm and effort when making pizza
Aspiration	Wren in Nursery	For always showing her school values



Congratulations for completing the house point challenge:

**BRONZE AWARD:**

**SILVER AWARD:** Archie Brazza, Evy Stock, Aubrey Buzzing, Holly Hagley, Mia Santoli

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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: £4,016

- ✓ **£1,471** from Crowdfunder
- ✓ **£1,000** donation from the Hormead Community
- ✓ **£1,545** 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 Hormead School - a crowdfunding project in Buntingford by Hormead 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 Hormead 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 Hormead
- **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.
- **George Apostolos** has been on the lookout for 180 churches raising £40 so far!
- **Matilda Risley** for swimming 180 lengths and raising an incredible **£1,050!!**



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

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## Sporting News

### Year 1 Sports Event at Sele School



On Monday 11th May, our Year 1 children were fortunate to attend a fun filled sports event at Sele School. Although the weather was cold and grey, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits!

The children took part in a variety of exciting activities. They enjoyed cricket, taking turns to bat and score runs while their teammates fielded and returned the balls. Tennis followed, where pupils practised their throwing, catching and racket skills, hitting the ball after one bounce.

After a short break, the children tried throwing rocket javelins and ribboned shot puts, before moving on to track events including hurdles and a lively relay race. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and determination, with children challenging themselves and embracing a little friendly competition.

We rounded off the day with football activities led by Coach Matt, focusing on aiming and goal scoring. Just as we finished, the rain began to pour, making the warm coach journey home even more welcome.

A huge thank you to Sele School for hosting such a fantastic event and to all the sports leaders who guided the children through the activities. It was a brilliant morning, enjoyed by all.

## Class News

### Forest School



Art and DT flourish naturally at Forest School. Our holistic approach nurtures the whole child: while bodies and minds are challenged by the outdoors, being in nature also opens space for creativity. Children design with what the forest offers - sticks, leaves, beech nuts, pinecones, mud - and many



creations are delightfully temporary, left for wind and rain to reshape. Sometimes an adult manages to capture the magic on camera; other times, the moment is too precious to interrupt. The process matters as much as the product: it's therapeutic and refreshingly unhurried.



This term, creativity has taken many forms: den building that calls for teamwork and collaboration; hands-on making with real tools, used safely, to craft wooden discs and simple toys and hapa zome, hammering texture and tint into flags. Our mud kitchen allows chefs to blend textures



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and experiment with form; hot chocolate with sprinkles anyone? Whether the artwork lasts a minute or a month, the experience grows confidence, problem-solving, and a connection to the natural world.

*Ivy Eileen*

### **Hoglets Class – age 2 and 3 years**



This last two weeks, Hoglets Class have been very busy exploring our exciting themes of Builders and Farmers!

We have shared lots of themed books together and enjoyed using the story sacks to bring our stories to life. The children have also been developing their gross motor skills and getting creative with pens and large chalks.

Our tuff trays have been a huge hit recently. Last week, the children loved exploring our building site tuff tray using our new mini bricks. They really got into character and showed fantastic imagination and teamwork. This week, we have transformed the tray into our very own farmyard, which has sparked lots of imaginative play and discussion.

Hoglets have also been busy designing their own beautiful butterflies using a variety of arts and crafts materials. The children showed great creativity and independence in their designs.

We are so grateful to Ivy & Evy Stock's grandad for kindly gifting us a market stall and accessories. The children are absolutely loving using it in their role play and it has already become a firm favourite in the classroom.

Our outdoor areas have been very popular too. The children have been building houses using the large bricks and shaving foam as "cement" - this activity was a huge success and lots of fun!

One of the highlights of the term was showing the children how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. We carefully kept them warm and safe while they transformed, and once they were ready to fly, we released them into the wild. The children were fascinated and loved watching the butterflies fly away.

With the warmer weather arriving, the children have also enjoyed spending lots of time outside in the sunshine, especially running and playing on the field.

We look forward to welcoming you all back after the break. Have a wonderful half term!

*Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb*

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## Hedgehogs Class – age 3 and 4 years

Our Hedgehogs have been bursting with creativity lately, and their enthusiasm has inspired us to transform our environment into an even richer world of imagination and expression. With their growing passion for art exploration, we expanded our indoor art area, giving the children more space to paint, build, and experiment. We also introduced a self-serve creative station stocked with paints, glue, collage materials, and an ever-changing selection of treasures from our junk-modelling box. Throughout the day, the children confidently help themselves to resources, following their ideas wherever they lead.



Outdoors, our new creative wall has quickly become a favourite spot. With accessible paper, brushes, and paints, the Hedgehogs have been making bold marks in the fresh air, often moving between the wall and the drawing table to extend their ideas.



Each week, we set out at least two themed crafts. Last

week's theme, 'Superworm' inspired the children to wrap wool around cardboard worms and crawl across the floor making wiggly line patterns. A highlight of the week was our forest bug hunt, where the children eagerly used their tick lists to spot tiny creatures in their natural habitats.



This week, our focus on frogs has sparked just as much excitement. The children have carefully cut and sequenced the frog life cycle, created vibrant frog masks, drawn clusters of frogspawn, and crafted lily pads from toilet-roll tubes. Their creativity continues to shine in every corner of our setting.

*Mrs Stuart, Mrs Larman, Miss Jackson*

## Maple Class – SEND

What a wonderful couple of weeks we have had in Maple class! The children have continued to make such lovely progress, and it has been a real joy to see their confidence grow each day. One of the highlights



has definitely been our very first offsite visit to the local park. This was a huge milestone for Maple class, and the children did us incredibly proud.

The children walked beautifully to and from the park, showing great listening skills and teamwork along the way. Once we arrived, they had the best time running around, exploring the space and using the park



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equipment. There were lots of smiles, laughter and moments of excitement as everyone joined in and enjoyed the freedom of being outdoors.

Most importantly, the children showed fantastic confidence and resilience with the change in routine and being in a different context. We are all so proud of them!



After such a successful visit, we feel like a trip to the local park could definitely become a regular thing for Maple class.

We are continuing to love the sunshine and are making the most of it by spending more time outside whenever we can. Outdoor learning has been a real hit and supports the children's wellbeing and engagement so well.

What a great half term we have had! We hope everyone has a lovely and restful half term break!

*Mrs Lynch, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wade*



## Cherry Class – Reception



Cherry Class have had a busy fortnight and we are so impressed with how hard the children are working. In Phonics, the children are continuing to work through phase 4 and have been reading and writing some very challenging words such as squelching, twisting and softest. We are so impressed with all of their writing; Mrs Ward visited to take a look too and was equally impressed! In Literacy, the children have finished their fairytale books - there has been so many lovely ideas and exciting things happening in their stories, and the children were very excited to share and read their stories with Year 1. In Maths, we have been working on our addition and subtraction. The children have been applying this using resources and have started to become confident at representing these in written form too. The children were also very excited to release our butterflies - one friendly butterfly decided to stay a little while allowing lots of the children to hold it, prompting lots of discussion about how delicate and beautiful butterflies are.

Last week, we explored hygiene and the importance of exercise before then moving on to our final focus of healthy eating. We read the book 'The Runaway Pea' as our key text. The children have been enjoying playing in our role play cafe serving food to their friends and taking orders at the till. We also had lots of fun on Wednesday making our own pitta pizzas. The children had a range of toppings to choose from and independently created their own pizzas. They were the perfect snack for after our PE session.

Next half term, we will move on to our 'Curious Creators' theme where we will explore different creative jobs such as being a gardener, a builder, a chef and an artist.

*Mrs Guilliam, Miss Griffin and Mrs Villar*





## Willow Class – Year 1



This half term, Year 1 have been busy exploring the exciting world of sculpture. The children have been learning how to fold, bend and manipulate paper to create a range of interesting shapes and effects. Using their developing fine motor skills, they have scrunched, curved and folded paper to design their own 'Tree of Life' themed sculptures.

We discovered that sculptures are 3D works of art, rather than flat images, which inspired lots of creative thinking. The children particularly enjoyed exploring the work of famous artists. We looked at Marco Balich's impressive Tree of Life sculpture and Louise Bourgeois' giant spider, Maman. Inspired by this, the children created their own large paper spider sculpture, carefully applying the skills they have learned to form the body and legs.

To complete their work, the children painted the sculpture to add texture and detail. This unit has truly sparked their imaginations while helping to develop creativity and fine motor control.

Next half term, we will be moving on to our final Design and Technology unit: Stable Structures. The children will investigate how structures stay balanced and will design and make a stable pencil pot for a specific user. We can't wait to see their creativity come to life.

*Mrs Ward, Miss Ellis and Miss Webb*

## Birch Class – Year 2



including tints and shades by adding white and black.

This half term in our art lessons, Birch class have been exploring colour and texture. We began by reminding ourselves of the primary colours and investigating how they mix together to make secondary colours by watching them move across damp paper. We then made a range of tones by combining different amounts of each primary colour, seeing how we can create lots of different colours from just a small selection of paints,

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We went on a texture hunt around the classroom and outside, making rubbings with wax crayons and collecting objects with interesting textures and practising using a range of vocabulary to describe textures such as rough, bumpy, smooth, and fluffy. Then we used a wide range of tools to try to recreate some of these textures using paint. We made sure we were looking really closely at all of the things we found to help us notice the little details.



We have also looked at the art of Romare Bearden, who used collage to create scenes from daily life and would often add additional details and textures using a range of media. Inspired by this, we have been making our own collages, thinking carefully about the colours, textures, and shapes we want to use.

Finally, when creating our artworks for Back in Time Day, we used our careful observation skills to look very closely at plants before sketching them, inspired by scientists and artists of the past and the work of Charles Darwin. We noticed the different parts of the plants, shapes, and textures that we could see and everyone made sure to keep looking back at what they were drawing throughout.



*Miss Sawyer and Mrs Buckmaster*

## Oak Class – Year 3 & 4



This half term in Oak Class, we have been exploring the exciting topic of sculpture and structures in Art. We began by discussing what a sculpture actually is and whether certain objects could be considered sculptures. We had some great class discussions about things

like the Eiffel Tower, hieroglyphics and even balancing stone stacks, sharing our own opinions and ideas.

We then looked at the work of ceramic artist Magdalene Odundo and explored how she carefully plans her creations by sketching ideas before sculpting. Inspired by her work, we practised drawing some of her sculptures and focused particularly on adding shading to make our sketches look more realistic and three-dimensional.

Next, we explored the idea of creating sculptures from bars of soap. We thought carefully about the size, shape and thickness of the soap and discussed which designs would work best. Oak Class came up with lots of imaginative ideas including fish, turtles, cars, pizza slices, game controllers and many more! Before beginning our final piece, we sketched several possible designs and evaluated which one would be most successful.

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Finally, we used a range of sculpting tools to carve our designs into the soap. This was definitely challenging at times, but everyone showed fantastic perseverance and creativity throughout the process. We are very proud of the wonderful sculptures we created!

*Mr Armes, Miss Wentworth, Mrs Crowe and Miss Standing*

### Attendance Reminder

We would like to remind everyone of the importance of regular school attendance and the procedures to follow should you need to request absence during term time.

At our school, we expect all children to maintain at least **96% attendance** which is our individual target set by government for our school.

Whilst we do not encourage parents to take children out of school during term time, we understand that there may occasionally be exceptional circumstances. If you plan to request leave, a Leave of Absence form **must be completed at least two weeks in advance** and returned to the school office.

Please also be mindful that there are **two sessions in a school day (morning and afternoon)**. If a child accumulates **10 or more unauthorised sessions within a 10-week period**, this **may result in a Penalty Notice being issued by Hertfordshire County Council** for both parents of the child.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that all pupils attend school regularly and make the most of their learning opportunities.

Mrs Cowler

### 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)

Class photos are now available to purchase. Please order before Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June for free delivery to the school.

Bucket hats need to be ordered via the office and paid for on Arbor.

Please complete Ping form for lunch choices for the Knebworth trip asap.

Thank you



Any changes are in red font

<b>Summer Term Dates for your Diary</b>		
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>		<b>HALF TERM</b>
<b>Mon 1st</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>INSET DAY (School Closed for staff training)</b>
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Back to school</b>
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	<b>Whole school trip (R to Y4) to KNEBWORTH (not preschool &amp; Nursery)</b>
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 <sup>th</sup>	June	Newsletter 19
Fri 26th	June	<b>SPORTS DAY – starts at 1pm (arrive 12:45pm)</b>
Wed 1st	July	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 2
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	July	<b>Moving up day (SWAP classes – Y4's to Middle School)</b>
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup>	July	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 3
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	July	Newsletter 20
Fri 10th	July	PTA treasure hunt after school
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	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
<b>Wed 22nd</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>1pm School ends for Summer holidays</b>
<b>Mon 27th</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>School open for Summer Club</b>
<b>Mon 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>August</b>	<b>School open for Summer Club</b>
<b>September 2026</b>		
<b>Tuesday 1st</b>		<b>INSET Day (School closed for Staff Training)</b>
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		<b>All children return to school</b>
		New Reception cohort (8:45-11:45am for first 3 days)

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**COME ONE AND ALL!**  
FAP OF HORMEAD SCHOOL PRESENT

**180** Years  
*Celebration*

**SATURDAY 20TH JUNE** | **HORMEAD SCHOOL FAYRE** | **12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM**  
GREAT HORMEAD, BUNTINGFORD, SG9 0NR

**GAMES STALLS BOUNCY CASTLE BAR BBQ MUSIC  
ENTERTAINMENT TRACTOR RIDE RAFFLE  
AND MUCH MORE!**

Performance by  *Pets Corner with* 

**FREE ADMISSION**

mapac 

**Whenever I see chocolate I hear two voices in my head...**

**Eat the Chocolate!**  

**You heard her... EAT THE CHOCOLATE!**

**FREE CHOCOLATE**  
**WITH EVERY BAG ORDER!**

**HURRY...ends 17.07.26!**



**DOWNLOAD THE ORDER FORM HERE!** 

**180** Years  
*Celebration Fayre*

We are looking for Stall Holders to attend our '180 Year Celebration Fayre' to celebrate Hormead School turning 180 years old!

This will be held on  
**Saturday 20th June 2026, 12-4pm**  
@ Hormead C of E First and Nursery School, Buntingford.

Stalls cost £10 each and we also ask for a donation to our raffle. Stall payment is non-refundable and is **PAYABLE IN FULL, IN ADVANCE.**

**Thank you**

For more information and to apply for a stall, please email: [faphormead@gmail.com](mailto:faphormead@gmail.com)

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