



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: 19 25/26

Dear Families,



What an *interesting* week it has been! Experiencing a red weather alert while caring for a school full of energetic little children has certainly kept us on our toes.

Despite the soaring temperatures, our staff have done a remarkable job keeping their cool (in every sense!), reminding children to stay in the shade, resist the temptation to run around, drink plenty of water, and manage those all-important toilet breaks - all while continuing to teach in classrooms full of warm, slightly sticky bodies.

Thank you, too, for your understanding regarding our early closure at 1:15pm. It can be difficult to convey just how intense the heat becomes in our classrooms from midday onwards, as the heat hits the tarmac playground, the sun shifts to the windows, and our fans begin to admit defeat. These moments do make you reflect on how our Victorian school buildings are increasingly challenged by changing weather patterns. I do hope there will be growing recognition at a national level of the need to invest in adapting our schools to a changing climate.

Interestingly, I found myself thinking about my own school days in Zimbabwe this week. Our school day began at 7am and finished at 1pm, something that felt unusual reflecting back on but now seems perfectly logical in such heat!

On a much more festive note, it was wonderful to see so many of you at the school fair on Saturday. There was such a lovely atmosphere, full of laughter and community spirit. From bouncy castles to a pony, a tractor, and even reptiles, there truly was something for everyone. It was lovely seeing the children enjoying our traditional stalls - the coconut shy, Splat the Rat, crockery smash, the teddy tombola, and of course the spectacular plant stall which was my firm favourite!



Events like this take an enormous amount of effort, and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success. In particular, a huge thanks to Frankie, Shelley, Hayley and Helen for all their hard work behind the scenes in pulling everything together. We are also very grateful to our sponsors, including Johnathan Hunt, and to everyone who contributed or came along and supported the event.



Finally, we had had such a lovely time meeting the new Reception children and their families at our afternoon picnic. I must also say how proud we are of our Year 3 pupils, who will take on the role of 'Big Friends' next year. They showed such kindness and maturity, playing with the younger children, getting to know them, and ensuring they felt safe and welcomed at Hormead.

Wishing you all a lovely week ahead.

Mrs Cowler Headteacher

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Reasons to Celebrate

Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	Wren Duffin	For being such a good example of a brilliant Hedgehog!
Hedgehogs	Arnie Goddard	For super maths counting and mark marking this week
Cherry	Cherry Class	For being so well behaved and attentive on our school trip
Cherry	Stanley Archibald	For his effort in phonics and showing more independence
Willow Y1	Albie Lees	For some amazing writing and trying hard with his bug cycle.
Willow Y1	Luca Castronovo	For writing lots of super questions in English writing
Birch Y2	Evie Parry	For excellent enthusiasm for learning in Year 2
Birch Y2	Elliot Villar	For trying so hard to improve his handwriting
Oak Y3	All the Year 3's	For being such amazing 'big friends' at the new Reception picnic
Oak Y3	Noah Davidson	For taking on a bigger part in Aladdin and doing incredibly well
Oak Y4	Sienna Sandford	For learning all of her lines and performing well as Widow Twanky!
Oak Y4	Mason Larman	For taking advice & improving his performance every time he is on stage

Values Hearts



Love	Harper and Hattie in Y4	For helping Sienna when she was hurt at breaktime
Love	George in Year 4	For helping Albie in year 2 put his shoes back on at lunchtime
Love	All of Year 3	For being brilliant at looking after our new reception children,
Love	Freddie in Year 4	For being so kind and encouraging children in football matches
Cooperation	Poppy in Reception	For playing kindly with her friends
Cooperation	Alfie in Year 2	For helping Albie complete work in science
Courage	Albie L in Year 1	For being brave and staying in the pool for swimming lessons
Courage	Matilda in Year 2	For being brave going on the slide at Knebworth
Courage	Sulley in Nursery	For always being a strong little Hedgehog
Kindness	Evie in Year 1	For always thinking of others and being so kind
Kindness	Harper in Year 4	For sharing and looking after her friend
Kindness	Harry C in Year 4	For helping Leo when he had an asthma attack
Kindness	Charlie D in Reception	For showing kindness to his friends
Honesty	Ember in Nursery	For using her value of honesty in Hedgehogs
Resilience	Zac in Reception	For working hard independently
Aspiration	Archie B & Arthur in Year 1	For writing an excellent lifecycle of an imaginary minibeast
Aspiration	Evie, Ernie, Tommy, Ivy, Spencer, Jackson, & Jude	For super writing and brilliant effort in English
Aspiration	Evie in Year 1	for always thinking of others and being so kind
Aspiration	Archie, Harry, Sienna, Leo S, Dawid, Mia, Fed, Freddie and Winnie	For challenging themselves in the English lesson

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Congratulations for completing the house point challenge:
BRONZE AWARD: George Apostolos and Jude Martin

80 Years Fundraising News

Thank you so much!

The challenge will continue through the summer holidays and the new year

Total Raised So Far: £4,651

- ✓ £1,934 from Crowdfunder
- ✓ £1,000 donation from the Hornead Community
- ✓ £1,545 other donations

Thank
you!

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 **£80** 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 – **£123 so far!**
- **Julia Zolti** is currently selling handmade necklaces in school – watch this space!
- **Joey, Romie, Zac & Oakley's** have raised **£155** for collecting 180 pieces of rubbish each around Hornead
- **Thomas Stanning** has raised **£281** so far in a litter Picking campaign!
- **Ellis Plummer** has built 180 sandcastles on holiday for his fundraising –raising **£100!**
- **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 – raising **£60**
- **Oliver Ward** played 180 minutes of pool with family and friends raising **£120.**
- **George Apostolos** has been on the lookout for 180 churches raising **£230 so far!**
- **Matilda Risley** for swimming 180 lengths and raising an incredible **£1,050!!**
- **Albie Lees** is walking his dogs 180 minutes per week and has raised **£175 so far..**



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

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A Fantastic Whole School Adventure to Knebworth House and Gardens



Last week, our whole school enjoyed the most wonderful trip to Knebworth House and Gardens – and what a day it was! We were incredibly lucky to discover that we were the only school visiting and that the grounds were closed to the public. We felt very privileged to



have such a special experience, and it meant the children had plenty of space to explore, learn and enjoy everything Knebworth had to offer.

Our adventure began in the beautiful gardens where the children became nature detectives, learning about a variety of plants and trees. One of the most fascinating facts of the day was about the enormous Redwood trees in America. Did you know that some are so huge that tunnels have actually been cut through them for cars to drive through? The children were amazed!

Our older pupils visited the impressive Walled Garden, where they discovered a wonderful selection of herbs, vegetables and plants. They also learnt why gardens were traditionally surrounded by high walls.

Meanwhile, the younger children enjoyed a fun shape hunt around the beautiful Golden Garden. They discovered lots of different shapes hidden in nature and learnt why it is called the Golden Garden. Throughout the year, golden blooms such as daffodils and lilies create a stunning display of warm, glowing colours.



No visit to Knebworth would be complete without tackling the famous box hedge maze! The children's mission was to find the lion statue hidden in the centre. There were plenty of wrong turns, lots of giggles and a fair amount of getting lost, but everyone eventually found the lion and had enormous fun burning off some energy along the way.

The Dinosaur Trail was another huge highlight for every class. Knowing the children were safely enclosed within the park, we were able to give them the freedom to explore independently, which they absolutely loved. They raced around discovering dinosaur after dinosaur, reading the information boards and sharing interesting facts with each other. Our Year 2 children were especially excited to discover the Woolly Mammoth, linking perfectly with one of the books they have been reading in class.



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After all that exploring, we climbed back onto the coach for the short journey to our lunch spot beside the adventure playground. We enjoyed a lovely picnic together, although we had to keep a close eye on the cheeky crows, who were more than happy to investigate any unattended lunchboxes!

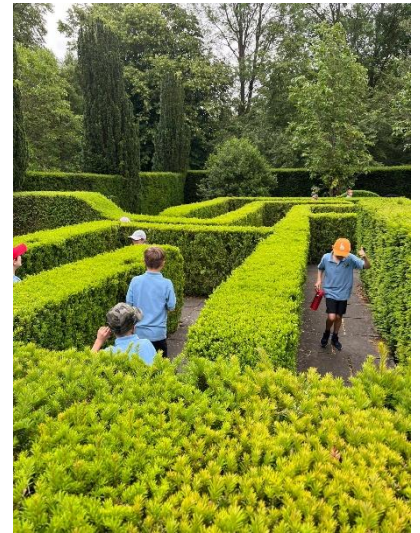


Then came what was, for many, the highlight of the day – Knebworth Fort. With so many climbing frames, tunnels, bridges and activities, the children could easily have stayed for hours! The biggest excitement came from the enormous slides. Everyone had to sit on a hessian sack before zooming down the bumpy slopes at incredible speed. Some children were a little nervous at first, but after finding their courage, they discovered just how much fun it was. Our older children were tall enough to brave the famous drop slide, which looked absolutely terrifying from the top!



The loudest screams, however, came from the teachers, much to the children's delight, creating plenty of laughter and unforgettable memories.

By the time we boarded the coach to head home, we had a bus full of very tired but incredibly happy children. We were so proud of how impeccably they behaved throughout the entire day. Their excellent manners, enthusiasm and sensible behaviour made the trip such a pleasure for everyone involved.



We know the children will be talking about their Knebworth adventure for a long time to come!



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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

We need a little...
SUMMER PARENT POWER

Simply become one of

Friends and Parents of Hormead School

supporters on **easyfundraising**

- 1 Get the app & join for free
- 2 Shop online at no extra cost
- 3 We get a cashback donation

Argos | ebay | JOHN LEWIS | TESCO | M&S | 8,000+ online brands

When you install the app and become our supporter, we get a bonus £3

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Dairy Dates for the Summer Term

Any changes are in red font

July 2026		
Wed 1st	July	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 2
Wed 1 st	July	Birch Class trip to Clacton
Fri 3rd	July	SPORTS DAY – starts at 1pm (arrive 12:45pm)
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	10am - Oak Class Summer production rehearsal
Tue 14th	July	2pm - Oak Class Production of Aladdin
Tue 14th	July	6pm - Oak Class Production of Aladdin
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 27th	July	School open for Summer Club
Mon 17th	August	School open for Summer Club
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)	

Mr Burton will also be offering **Piano lessons** from September.

He is taking bookings now for all musical instrument lessons – please contact him directly for more information.

Music lessons are on a Monday with limited availability so get in quick if you want them!

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Bookings now open! Please contact the office for a form.

HORMEAD SCHOOL
SUMMER CLUB

OPEN FOR 2 WEEKS!

FUN • FRIENDS • ADVENTURE • CREATIVITY

WEEK COMMENCING

27TH JULY and 17TH AUGUST

GREAT VALUE CHILDCARE
RUN BY STAFF OF HORMEAD

FULL DAY
8:30 – 4:30
£30

HALF DAY
MORNING OR AFTERNOON
£20

OPEN TO CHILDREN FROM ALL SCHOOLS
AGES 3 TO 11

BOOK NOW

01763 289201 Office@hormead.herts.sch.uk

Ivy Eileen will be running 'Fun in Forest School' sessions on Wednesday 29th & Friday 31st July of our Summer Club

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