



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: 20 25/26

Dear Families,

Well, we have made it through another *very* hot week!

It was lovely to see so many of you at Sports Day. The children had a fantastic time and, luckily, there were not too many accidents during the parent races! The children found out today that **Wind House** were the overall winners of Sports Day, earning an extra **100 house points** towards their Summer Tally. Well done to everyone in Wind House.

We have also received the exciting news that our Summer Fair raised an incredible **£2,511**. We are so grateful for everyone's support and generosity. On that note, I would like to say a huge thank you and goodbye to **Shelley Ward and Hayley Buckmaster**, who are stepping down as Co-Chairs of the PTA. It is difficult to put into words just how much time, effort and commitment they have given to our school over the years. Their fundraising and behind-the-scenes work have made such a difference to the opportunities we can offer our children. Thank you both for everything you have done. We are delighted that Frankie will be taking over as Chair in September.



It has been an exciting week as the end of term draws closer. Play rehearsals are gathering pace and there is a real sense of anticipation around school. Our Year 4 pupils enjoyed their transition day at their new schools yesterday and somehow seemed a little taller when they returned today! The rest of the school spent a lovely morning with their new teachers. Although the children will remain in the same classes next year, we have reassured them that their classrooms will look and feel very different, giving them plenty to look forward to.

Last night, we opened our school archives once again and welcomed many members of our community through the doors. Despite the heat, around 50 former pupils attended, which was wonderful. Some particularly enjoyed finding their names - or even their parents' names - in the old punishment book! The cine reel also sparked many happy memories. Watching Sports Days from the 1970s, complete with wheelbarrow races and obstacle courses that would probably never pass today's risk assessments, was great fun. I must admit that seeing children (and Headteacher) enjoying the old school swimming pool did leave me wondering why on earth it was filled in; we could certainly have done with it this week!

This week's class news has a 'Computing' theme.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend and try to stay cool!

Mrs Cowler Headteacher



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Reasons to Celebrate

Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	Louanna Ellis	For showing resilience in tricky situations
Hedgehogs	Sophia Barlow	For always being there for everyone
Cherry	Hermione Hagley	Working hard in phonics trying your best with your writing
Cherry	Lenny Berger	For his super transition morning
Willow Y1	Alex Baker	Amazing work in computing recreating Kandinsky artwork
Willow Y1	Evy Stock	For writing an excellent version of 'we're going to find the monster'
Birch Y2	Ivy Stock	Showing maturing in the PSHE all about the body lesson
Birch Y2	Albie Hennessey	The brilliant progress he had made when writing his name neatly
Oak Y3	Amelia Tinklin	For working hard on money problems in maths
Oak Y3	Thalia Jechorek	For her incredible singing during Aladdin
Oak Y4	Edie Hall	For fabulous rehearsals as the genie
Oak Y4	Harper Munday	For always helping with morning jobs on a Friday

Values Hearts



Love	Eva Jechorek & Ivy Stock	For rescuing a bee on the running track
Love	George Berger	For supporting Albie and checking in with him on our school trip
Cooperation	Beau Burrowes	For continual growth in his learning
Cooperation	Alex, George & Elliot in Y2	For working well together in PE
Courage	Jacob Stanning	For just getting on daily with all the demands of an older class.
Kindness	George Graham	For looking after Harry when he hurt his knee
Kindness	Cody Dunn	For daily kindness to everyone
Kindness	Eva Crippen	For always being a good friend
Resilience	Charlie Munday	For such an effort in his phonics
Resilience	Izzy Green	For always showing super school values
Aspiration	Myles Larman	For his excellent effort in maths using teen numbers
Aspiration	Conor Cawthorn	For amazing memory recall



Congratulations for completing the house point challenge:

BRONZE AWARD: Hermione Hagley, Aubrey-Mae Piper, Charlie Munday

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80 Years Fundraising News

Thank you so much!

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

Total Raised So Far: £4,847

- ✓ **£2,030** from Crowdfunder
- ✓ **£1,000** donation from the Hornead 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 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 – **£179 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..**
- **Sienna & Tommy Sandford** for 180 pogo stick jumps and 180 goals scored! Raising **£100!**
- **Lenny, Harry, Freddie, Leo and Oscar** took 180 penalty shootouts – watch this space!



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

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Class News

Forest School



Recently in Forest School, we've been keeping cool in the shade of the trees as the children have built brilliant dens and crafted their own natural jewellery. It's been lovely meeting a few new-to-Hormead children, and I look forward to lots of outdoor fun with them from September. Our wildlife camera has been a real highlight too — it's always exciting to discover the little creatures who wander through the forest at night, giving us a secret glimpse into their world.



Lvy Eileen

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Hoglets Class – age 2 and 3 years



Over the last few weeks, the Hoglets have been enjoying our story focus on Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Ugly Duckling. The children have loved listening to the stories and have become increasingly confident at retelling them to their friends, using wonderful language and lots of enthusiasm.

To bring *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* to life, we explored a variety of exciting tuff trays. The children particularly enjoyed filling and emptying their own porridge bowls while developing their understanding of different sizes. We talked about

the little baby bear, the medium mummy bear, and the big daddy bear, encouraging the children to compare and describe objects using size vocabulary during their play.

One of the children's favourite activities was making and taste-testing their own porridge! They had great fun choosing their own toppings from honey, jam, strawberries, and bananas. It was lovely to see everyone trying different flavours and talking about which toppings they enjoyed the most.

With the recent heatwave, we have been making the most of the warm weather while keeping cool and safe. The children have loved lots of water play, and the paddling pools have been a huge hit, providing plenty of opportunities for splashing, cooling off, and having fun with friends.



We have also been exploring ice during our play, watching what happens as it melts in the sunshine and talking about the changes we could see. These simple investigations have sparked lots of curiosity and discussion.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for kindly bringing in ice lollies for the children. They have been very much appreciated and have helped everyone stay cool during the hot weather.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to sharing more exciting adventures with the Hoglets over the coming weeks!

Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb

Hedgehogs Class – age 3 and 4 years

Last week, we enjoyed exploring the story The Enormous Turnip. The children had great fun listening to and retelling the story while using mathematical language from the book, including words such as *huge*, *enormous*, *big*, *small*, and *heave*. It was wonderful to hear them using this vocabulary during their play and discussions.

In phonics, we focused on the digraph 'sh', and our song of the week was "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe." In maths, the children practiced sorting objects according to different criteria, including shape, size, and colour.

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This week, our theme has been The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children have loved retelling the story, acting out the characters, and stomping around the classroom, enthusiastically chanting, "who's that trip trapping over my bridge!" In phonics, we have been learning the digraph 'th', and our

song of the week is "Pat-a-Cake." During our maths activities, we explored size, with the children drawing different-sized shapes, such as a small, medium, and large circle.

Yesterday, the children visited the forest area, where they used a classroom iPad for perception photography as part of this week's computing focus. They were excited to explore their surroundings and capture pictures independently.

As we approach the end of the school year, we are busy preparing for the children's move to their new classes. We will continue to share updates on ClassDojo, although these may be less frequent than usual while we focus on ensuring a smooth and exciting transition for everyone.

Mrs Stuart, Mrs Larman, Miss Jackson

Maple Class – SEND



What a warm couple of weeks it has been! We are so proud of how well Maple class have managed in this heat. The children have shown fantastic resilience and have coped brilliantly with the warmer weather. To help keep cool and make the most of it, we have taken part

in lots of water and ice play, which has been a huge hit with everyone. We have also enjoyed exploring ice-cream during *Fun with Food*, using our senses to investigate textures, temperatures and tastes – lots of smiles all round!

Maple class also took part in their very first Sports Day last week and we honestly could not have been prouder of them. In the morning, the children enjoyed the Carousel of activities, which included jumping, balancing, scoring a goal, stacking and a firm favourite in Maple class... bubbles! In the afternoon, the children took part in the Maple class race and coped amazingly, running alongside their 'Big Friends' from Oak class.

We are so proud of how Maple class managed the change in routine, having parents watching, and all of the amazing cheering and encouragement. What a special day! 🌟

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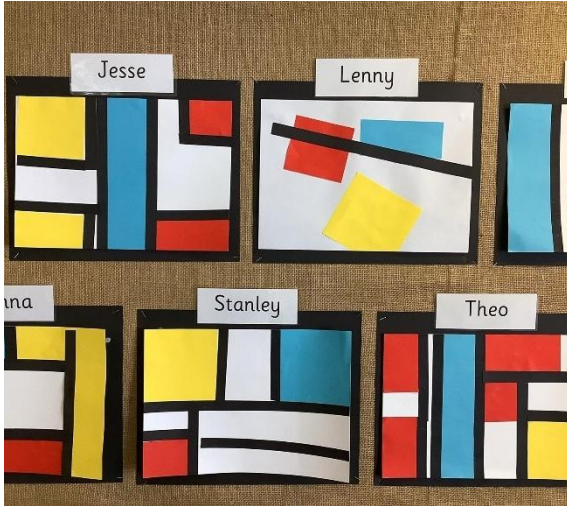


We have lots of fun activities planned as we start to get ready for the summer holidays!

Keep up the good work, Maple Class!

Mrs Lynch, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wade

Cherry Class – Reception



Cherry Class have had a busy fortnight, full of learning and preparations for moving to Year 1! Last week, the children explored being artists. We looked at the work of Piet Mondrian and the children created their own beautiful pieces of artwork in his style, which are now proudly on display in the school. Cherry Class are such a creative bunch and always put so much thought and care into their making, designing and art. In phonics, we have continued to embed all of the sounds we have learnt this year and applying it to words with different endings such as -ing, -es, and -est. This week, we have been storytellers. The children are working hard on their very own story books, thinking this week about their front covers, their main character, and the setting. We can't wait to see the finished stories. In RE, we have been looking at special

places for us, before moving on to the Church as a special place. The children studied features of a church before focusing in on stain glass windows and the stories they can tell. The children then had a go at creating their own stain glass window artwork.

The children thoroughly enjoyed Sports Day and we are so proud of them for the resilience and sportsmanship they showed, even in the hot weather!

Today is a very special day for Cherry Class as they graduate from EYFS. It is lovely to celebrate all of their achievements this year, and we also want to thank you for all of your support at home in helping our lovely Cherry Class to grow and flourish. We can't wait to see all the things they achieve next year.

Mrs Guillian, Miss Griffin and Mrs Villar

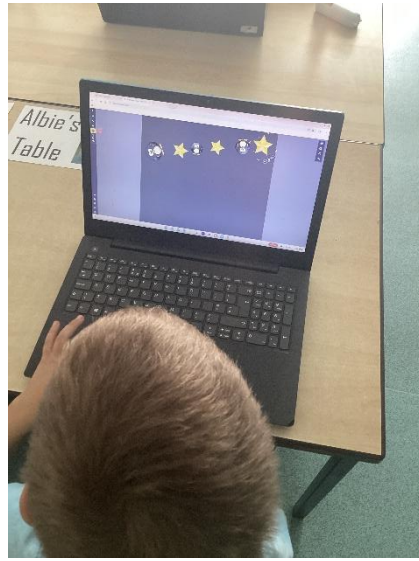
Willow Class – Year 1

This year, the children in Year 1 have been steadily developing their computing skills and growing in confidence when using technology. We began by learning about online safety, discussing ways to keep ourselves safe when using the internet and exploring some of the potential dangers that can be found online. The children showed great maturity in understanding that technology can be both exciting and useful when used responsibly.

We then moved on to exploring Bee-Bots, where we learned all about robots and the different jobs they can do. The children enjoyed discovering how robots are used in everyday life, including mowing lawns and vacuuming homes. Through practical activities, they learned about commands and discovered that a set of commands is called an algorithm.

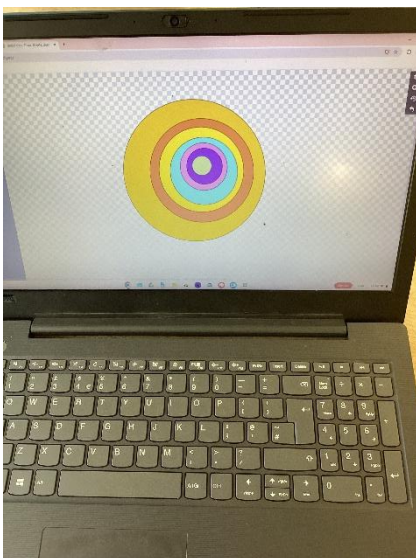


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Using algorithms, the children programmed Bee-Bots to complete a range of challenges and tasks. They also became computer detectives by searching for “bugs” in picture-based code. Once they had identified the bug, they worked together to debug the algorithm and fix the mistake. This was often quite a tricky process, but the children demonstrated fantastic teamwork and problem-solving skills by physically acting out the programs to help identify where things had gone wrong.

Most recently, we have focused on developing our mouse control and



computer navigation skills. The children have learned how to log on to laptops independently using their personal QR codes, a task that requires patience, accuracy and careful positioning. This half term, we have been using Sketchpad to improve our click-and-drag skills and to explore a variety of digital tools. The children have created artwork inspired by Kandinsky’s circles, designed scenes from The Three Little Pigs story, and are now preparing for their final challenge of creating a self-portrait using shapes, colours and resizing tools.

We are incredibly proud of how hard the children have worked and the resilience they have shown in learning completely new skills. They have developed valuable computing skills that will support them in a world where technology and digital literacy are becoming increasingly important.

Please note: Next week, children will be tested on all Spelling Bee words from this year. This assessment will go up to their new teacher as a baseline for reading and writing the year 1 common exception words as they start year 2 and begin to learn the year 2 common exception words. A list of all the Year 1 words has

been sent home.

Mrs Ward, Miss Ellis and Miss Webb

Birch Class – Year 2



Birch class always show enthusiasm in our computing lessons! Last half term they loved learning how to block code and this half term we have been learning the secrets of the keyboard. We began our unit by being keyboard detectives and looking for different keys. We explored what happened when we pressed the shift key and noticed that it helped us to



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type symbols and make capital letters. We then began to develop our tying skills, placing our hands over the keys and trying to use all our fingers to type.

We have also been learning some helpful keyboard shortcuts to make our word processing activities quicker. The children have been selecting text, copying, pasting, and cutting as well as learning how to change the appearance of text using bold and italics. They have applied their skills to make short news reports and have also made poetry books by copying from a website and added images.

Miss Sawyer and Mrs Buckmaster

Oak Class – Year 3 & 4

This term, we have been exploring how technology can be used to access, collect and organise information about the weather. We began by looking at a range of weather websites, including the Met Office, and learned how to search for weather forecasts in our local area. We also explored weather conditions in different countries around the world, comparing temperatures and weather patterns in a variety of locations.

During these activities, we discussed how weather forecasts are created using data collected from satellites, weather stations and other technologies. We learned that forecasts are predictions based on the information available at the time and that weather conditions can sometimes change unexpectedly, meaning forecasts are not always completely accurate.

We then developed our data-handling skills by using Google Sheets. After researching weather information from around the world, we entered our findings into a spreadsheet, recording countries, temperatures and weather conditions. This helped us practise entering data accurately, organising information into rows and columns, and understanding how spreadsheets can be used to store and present data clearly.

In future lessons, we will continue to explore weather forecasting in more detail. We will investigate examples of extreme weather events and learn how technology helps meteorologists predict and monitor these conditions to help keep people safe. Through these activities, we will further develop our understanding of how computing and technology are used in the real world to collect, analyse and communicate important information.

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

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Great British Summer Savings

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

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 in **Summer Club** on Wednesday 29th & Friday 31st July

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Dairy Dates for the Summer Term

Any changes are in red font

July 2026		
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 16 th	July	4:30pm - Y4 leavers Pudding Party
Thu 16 th	July	Reports out
Fri 17 th	July	Newsletter 21
Wed 22 nd	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!

Discover the Magic of Music!

Free trial lesson!

Start in September

Sign up for classical guitar, electric guitar ukulele or piano lessons

1:1 and group lessons available

Contact Mr Burton directly at: matt.burtonguitarlessons@gmail.com

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

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