



HORMEAD (VA) C of E 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: 21 25/26

Dear Families,

Where has that year gone? It seems only yesterday that we were welcoming children back through our doors, and now we are preparing to say goodbye for the summer and, for some, goodbye to Hormead.

I feel incredibly privileged to be the Headteacher of such wonderful children. They make me smile every day and are the reason I look forward to coming to school each morning. One of the joys of school life is that no two days are ever the same. From celebrating achievements and creating special memories to dealing with everything from new Government guidance to burst ice packs and missing jumpers, every day brings something different. It is a very busy role, but one that is filled with rewards, thanks to the amazing children who make our school such a special place.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the incredible Hormead team. Our staff work tirelessly to make learning exciting, engaging and fun whilst supporting every child to grow, learn and achieve their very best. I would also like to recognise the many people who work behind the scenes to keep our school running smoothly. From keeping our school safe, clean and welcoming, to preparing meals, organising resources and ensuring families are kept informed, their contribution is invaluable. They are a tremendous support to me and to the whole school community.

One of the highlights of last week was our Reception Graduation. Seeing the children proudly dressed in their gowns and collecting their certificates was a truly special moment. They have grown into such confident, funny and delightful young learners, and we are excited to see all they will achieve as they continue their journey through the school.



The final two weeks have been particularly memorable as we celebrated our fantastic Year 4 children. Their production of Aladdin was simply outstanding. The children worked incredibly hard, and it is fair to say that we may have some future stars of the stage amongst them! The acting was wonderful, and the singing from the entire cast was exceptional. Despite rehearsing in extremely hot weather and then performing on a night where the wind seemed determined to compete with them, they rose to the challenge brilliantly and delivered a performance we were all incredibly proud of.



We also enjoyed our much-anticipated Year 4 Pudding Party and Water Fight! There was so much fun, laughter, excitement and sheer determination from the children as they made it their mission to soak the teachers and Headteacher! I can confirm they were very successful! The evening was filled with happy memories.

Our Year 4 cohort has truly been a delight. They have been wonderful ambassadors for our school and have left us with memories that we will cherish. While we will miss them enormously, we are also incredibly proud of them and excited to see what the future holds as they move on to middle school. We wish them every happiness and success in the next stage of their education.

Finally, thank you to all of you for your support, kindness and partnership throughout the year. I hope you all have a wonderful summer break filled with fun, laughter and time together. Please feel free to contact me if there is an emergency or something you need to notify us of before September. Email: head@hormead.herts.sch.uk

We look forward to welcoming many of you back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year at Hormead.

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Reasons to Celebrate

Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	Poppy Flanagan	For having an amazing year with confidence
Cherry	Whole Class	For being an absolutely fabulous class!
Willow Y1	Oliver Ambler	Showing amazing kindness and sportsmanship in PE.
Birch Y2	Alyssia Tache	For always showing her values of being a role-model for others.
Oak	Oak Class	For amazing performances of Aladdin, battling heavy winds.



Congratulations for completing the house point challenge:

BRONZE AWARD:

SILVER AWARD: Amelia Bates



Goodbye Mrs Prior

As Sandra begins her well-earned retirement, we would like to thank her. Joining in 2014, she has been a much-loved part of our community, supporting children at lunchtime and creating a warm, welcoming start to the day in Breakfast Club.

Sandra's commitment, reliability and genuine love for the children has touched the lives of so many families over the years. She will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and parents alike. On behalf of everyone at Hornead, thank you, Sandra, for everything you have done, and we wish you a very happy and rewarding retirement. ☀️



Mr Bartlett has asked me to pass on his sincere thanks for making him feel so welcome since joining the school. He has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know both the children and their families and feels very fortunate to be part of such a supportive school community. He would also like to extend a special thank you to the PTA for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Your support at school events has made a real difference and has certainly helped make his role a little easier.

For now, he is enjoying a well-deserved holiday with his family in Australia and sends his best wishes to you all for a happy and relaxing break.

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Oak Class Production of Aladdin!



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180 Years Fundraising News

Thank you so much!

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

Total Raised So Far: £6519.45

- ✓ **£2,186** from Crowdfunder
- ✓ **£1,000** donation from the Hornead Community
- ✓ **£1,645** other donations
- ✓ **£753.45**



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 – **£150!**
- **Arthur & Raphael Frearson** are planting and selling 180 sunflowers – **£235!**
- **Julia Zolti** is currently selling handmade necklaces in school – **66!**
- **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 – **41!**
- **Matilda and Louis** from telling 180 jokes and doing 180 cartwheels - **£20**

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

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Class News

Forest School



We have watched Mother Beech through all four seasons this year: Autumn, as her leaves changed colour and fell; Winter, standing quietly in the chilly breeze with frost on the ground; Spring, when fresh green leaves finally unfurled; and now Summer, laden with beech nuts and deep green foliage.

Mother Beech is not the only Forest School participant to have changed over the past year. Hormead children too have grown and developed — their confidence has sparkled, their creativity

flourished, their social skills deepened, and their sense of adventure sharpened within the Forest. Awe has been shown, nature marvelled at, and many moments of great fun (and delicious food) shared.

Now it is time for a rest and a change, and then the wheel of the year will begin again, with learning refreshed.

Sue Eileen

Hoglets Class – age 2 and 3 years



What a fantastic final week we have had in Hoglets! We have continued exploring our fairy tale theme, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed listening to the stories and bringing them to life through their imaginative play and storytelling.

We have also had two wonderful final music sessions with Emma. The children loved learning about and playing a range of instruments, including the djembe drum and the castanets. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and enthusiasm grow during these sessions.

As we come to the end of the year, we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved. They have all made such fantastic progress, and it has been a privilege to be part of their learning journey. Watching them grow in confidence, independence, and curiosity has been truly rewarding. We wish all of our Hoglets the very best as they begin their next adventure, whether that is moving into Hedgehogs or starting somewhere new. We know they will all continue to shine.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year. We hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer holiday, and we look forward to seeing many of you again in September!

Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb



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Hedgehogs Class – age 3 and 4 years



What an incredible year it has been with our wonderful Little Hedgehogs! It has been such a pleasure to watch each and every one of the children grow in confidence, independence, and their love of learning. They have achieved so much this year, and we are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished. We have thoroughly enjoyed caring for them, supporting them, and being part of their early learning journey.

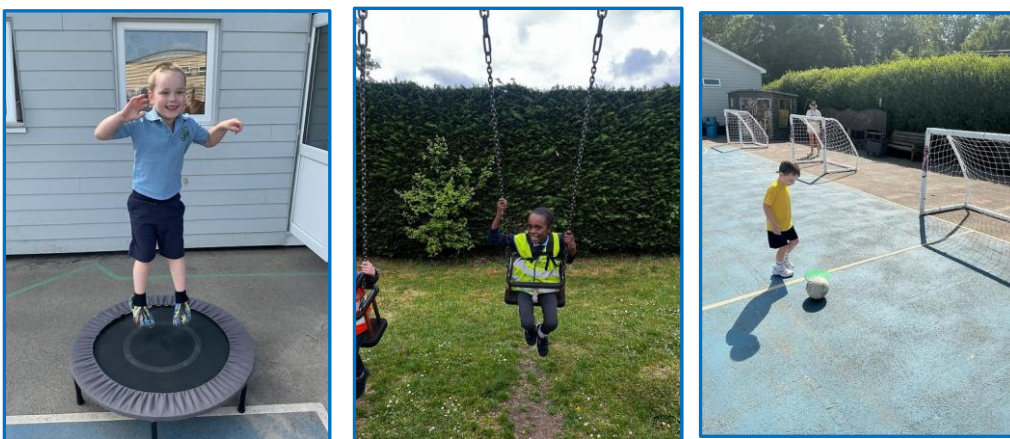
Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been very busy helping us prepare for their next exciting chapter. They have enjoyed helping to move our classroom resources out and bring in new equipment ready for their Squirrel classroom. It has been lovely to see their excitement as they begin to look forward to what comes next.

Today, we are celebrating in true Hedgehog style with a fantastic end-of-year party! The children have had a wonderful time playing party games, dancing and singing along to their favourite songs, and making their own colourful party crowns. They are now eagerly looking forward to enjoying the delicious party food that you kindly brought in.

Thank you for your continued support, kindness, and generosity throughout the year, and for the thoughtful gifts we have received. We truly appreciate it. We wish you all a happy, safe summer, and every success as your children begin Reception. They are all so ready for their next adventure, and we know they will continue to shine!

Mrs Stuart, Mrs Larman, Miss Jackson

Maple Class – SEND



What a great year we have had in Maple Class! We have loved watching the children grow, make huge amounts of progress and create so many wonderful memories together. It has been a year full of achievements, smiles and exciting new experiences.

There have been many firsts for Maple Class this year. We

enjoyed our very first off-site visit to the park, which the children absolutely loved. It was wonderful to see their happy, content faces as they explored, played and ran around with their friends. We also took part in our very first Sports Day! The children approached every activity with enthusiasm and determination, making us incredibly proud.

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Throughout the year, the children have shown so much resilience while learning new things, developing new skills and taking on new challenges. Their confidence has grown tremendously, and it has been a joy to celebrate every success along the way. We could not be prouder of all they have achieved this year!

We hope you all have an amazing summer holiday and enjoy a well-deserved break with your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back and seeing you all again in September!

Mrs Lynch, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wade

Cherry Class – Reception



What a wonderful year Cherry Class have had - we are so proud of how far they have come and all that they have achieved. It was lovely to celebrate at their graduation with you all and recognise all of their individual achievements. Thank you for coming along to this, and a special thank you to Frankie and Katie who helped with all the decorations. They have been a pleasure to teach this year and have blown us away with their enthusiasm, energy and creativity. I have never known a class love recycling as much as this cohort, and a class who are still raring to go come 3.15pm! Reception is a really important year as children begin on their school journey, and

we have covered so much learning - but, in addition to this, the children have also developed so many new skills like how to be independent, how to navigate different social situations and how to work as part of a team. They have always been ready to give any challenge a go and are now more than ready for the challenges ahead in Year 1! We hope that you all have a lovely summer break and thank you for all the support this year.

Mrs Guillian, Miss Griffin and Mrs Villar

Willow Class – Year 1

What an incredible year it has been in Year 1! It is hard to believe how quickly the year has flown by. We are so proud of the amazing progress the children have made and the way they have grown in confidence, independence and maturity throughout the year.

In English, we have gone from writing simple words to creating full sentences, learning how and when to use different types of punctuation, and developing our understanding of nouns and adjectives. The children approached their Phonics Screening Check with smiles on their faces and have grown into much more fluent, confident readers.

In Maths, we have stepped well beyond our comfort zone of numbers to 10 and explored numbers all the way up to 100. The children have applied their understanding of number and place value to a wide range of concepts, including arrays, money, time, and the operations of addition and subtraction.

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And that is just English and Maths! Across the curriculum, the children have learned so much this year and have approached every challenge with enthusiasm and resilience. Even on the hottest and most tiring days, they have continued to work hard, try their best and make us proud.

As we come to the end of the school year, we would like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to Miss Webb. It has been a privilege to watch her grow into such a confident, capable and enthusiastic teacher. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has done this year. The children have absolutely loved having her in the classroom, and she will be greatly missed as she begins her exciting new adventure as a qualified teacher in Dubai. We wish her every success and happiness in this next chapter and hope it is everything she has dreamed of and more.

A huge thank you also goes to Miss Ellis for her hard work and dedication throughout the year. From delivering interventions and supporting groups of children to bringing positivity and energy to every day, her contribution has been invaluable.

We are all immensely proud of how far the children have come this year, and it has been a true joy to teach Year 1. Keep working hard as you move into Year 2, Willow Class. Miss Ellis and I cannot wait to hear about all the wonderful things you achieve next year. Have a fantastic summer and good luck in Year 2!



Mrs Ward, Miss Ellis and Miss Webb

Birch Class – Year 2



What a busy and memorable year it has been in Birch Class! Since joining the class in January, I have had the pleasure of getting to know the children and watching them grow in confidence, independence and enthusiasm for learning. It has been a wonderful final term, packed full of exciting experiences and

achievements.

One of the highlights of the year was our Geography trip to Clacton. We were incredibly lucky with the weather and enjoyed a beautiful day by the North Sea. The children had great fun exploring the beach, playing in the sand and collecting interesting shells. As we walked along the seafront, we identified different human features and discussed how people use and enjoy our local coastline. Of course, no trip to the seaside would be complete without an ice cream, and we certainly enjoyed some impressive ones! A few children even managed to wear more ice cream than they ate, which provided plenty of laughter.



This half term, the children have shown fantastic determination in DT while designing and making their own felt pouches. They demonstrated excellent resilience and focus as they carefully followed their designs and practised their sewing skills. Mrs Buck and I were particularly impressed by how much their running stitches improved from their first

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attempts. The finished products were beautifully made and reflected the effort and care that every child put into their work. Everyone should feel incredibly proud of what they achieved.

In Science, we have been learning about eco-friendly materials, recycling and the process of paper-making. The children loved putting their learning into practice by creating their own recycled paper. We began by tearing up wastepaper from our recycling bin and soaking it in water. We then mixed everything together to break down the fibres before shaping and pressing it into new sheets of paper. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that helped the children understand how materials can be reused and transformed into something new.

Birch Class has had a fantastic year filled with learning, creativity and fun. The children have worked hard, shown kindness to one another and embraced every new challenge with enthusiasm. Mrs Buck and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them and are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished. We wish them every success as they move on to Year 3 and look forward to hearing about their future adventures. Have a wonderful, restful and well-deserved summer break!



Miss Sawyer and Mrs Buckmaster

Oak Class – Year 3 & 4

Looking back over the year, Oak Class has filled every week with curiosity and fun. In the classroom, they stretched their thinking in maths and became imaginative, confident writers. Science took them into the world of circuits, sound and animal classification, while history and geography carried them from the Egyptians and Mayans to Antarctica, the Endurance expedition, rivers and the water cycle. It has been a year rich with discovery.

Oak Class also deepened their understanding of the wider world. Through RE, they explored Sikhism, Hinduism and Judaism with respect and interest. In computing, they stepped into the role of digital creators, coding games on Scratch and presenting weather forecasts with increasing independence. Every subject offered something new, and the children embraced each challenge with enthusiasm.

Beyond lessons, their creativity and teamwork shone brightly. Their performance of *Aladdin* was a true highlight - full of energy, confidence and joy. PE brought plenty of fun and laughter, and their trip to PGL created memories that will last for years: high ropes, archery, bushcraft, campfires and the thrill of trying something new together.

As the year comes to a close, it's clear that Oak Class has grown not just in knowledge, but in resilience and friendship. They have supported one another, celebrated each other's successes and shown what can be achieved when a class works as a team. It has been a wonderful year.

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Thank you, Oak class, for the wonderful memories, I certainly won't forget this enormous, crazy class!

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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Parents home



IMPORTANT

PLEASE ORDER BEFORE **31ST JULY** TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Please note: This date applies to schools returning at the start of September. Parents of schools with earlier return dates will need to order sooner.

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Thank you for all your Summer Club bookings. We have a great number of children attending each day, which is wonderful and should make for lots of fun!

At the moment, Mondays and Fridays tend to be our quieter days, so if you are still looking to book sessions, we do have some availability.

Final bookings will close on Wednesday. However, we understand that plans can change over the summer holidays, so if you need your child to attend after this date, please bring them along. We will have sign-up sheets available and will do our best to accommodate everyone.



Dairy Dates for the Summer Term

September 2026	
Tuesday 1st	INSET Day (School closed for Staff Training)
Wednesday 2 nd	All children return to school
	New Reception cohort (8:45-11:45am for first 3 days)

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