



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: 01 Sept 26/27

Dear families,

What a fantastic start to the new school year we have had! The school has been full of happiness, excitement and enthusiasm to learn and embrace all that a new year brings.

One of the most exciting developments this year is finally having single year group classes. Staff are loving the opportunities this brings and the smaller class sizes, particularly in Year 4, are already making a positive difference. To help us sustain this structure, please continue spreading the word about our wonderful village school.



Our new nursery was completed just in time for the start of term, and the soft play surface was installed last week. We are absolutely delighted with how it has all come together, and most importantly, the children are loving their new space. While the building is now complete, we still have lots of exciting ideas to help it better reflect our love of nature, outdoor learning and exploration. It will very much be a work in progress over the coming months, and we look



forward to sharing the journey with you and seeing the space continue to evolve into something even more special for our youngest children.

We are delighted to have welcomed 27 children into Reception this year, making this our largest Reception intake ever. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Phoebe Tinklin (Year 2), Sadie Dedman (Year 1), and the Burton family; Izzy (Year 1) and Casper (Year 3) who have joined us all the way from San Francisco. We are so pleased you have become part of the Hormead family.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher morning. We hope you found it informative and enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about your child's year ahead. We are also planning to introduce regular coffee mornings, with workshops and guest speakers on topics that may be of interest to parents. Finding a time that works for everyone can be challenging, but we will do our best to make these as accessible as possible.

Our Collective Worship focus this term is on the words and teachings of Jesus, linking closely to our school values and helping children reflect on how we can be positive citizens in the world. Reverend James is currently on sabbatical and will return in December, so the children have the pleasure of seeing a bit more of me as I lead worship twice each week!

This term I am also teaching in Year 1 one day each week until Mrs Finch returns. It has been wonderful to spend time back in the classroom. Whilst my emails are still waiting for me afterwards, it is a privilege to work so closely with our children and share in their achievements, personalities and daily adventures.

As always, please remember that my door is open. If you have a question, concern or simply wish to chat, please contact the office and they will happily arrange a time for us to meet.

Here's to a fantastic start to the year and an exciting term ahead.

Mrs Cowler, *Headteacher*

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Reasons to Celebrate

Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	Sulley Richardson	For increased independence and helping our new Hedgehogs settle in
Squirrels	Olive Rowley	For making a lovely effort and showing green choices
Squirrels	Sonny Vander Belinis	For always trying his best and contributing well in class
Otters Y1	Izzy Burton	An incredible first week at Hornead, we are so lucky to have you!
Otters Y1	Theo Foscett	An amazing effort in learning all week and a great start to Year 1!
Otters Y1	Sadie Dedman	Her incredible sentence writing in English
Badgers Y2	Phoebe Tinklin	For settling in so well into her new class and school
Badgers Y2	Poppy Green	For trying hard in all her work
Foxes Y3	Ivy Stock	A wonderfully confident start to life in Year 3
Foxes Y3	Evie Parry	Showing aspire in every lesson across the curriculum this week
Owls Y4	Mia Santoli	For contributing in lessons and putting her hand up to have a go
Owls Y4	Julia Zolti	For making fantastic improvements to her persuasive speech writing

Values Hearts



Love	Sophia B in Reception	For looking after her friends
Cooperation	Aubrey in Y2	For tidying up everyone's resources without being asked
Cooperation	Henry in Y2	For helping his friends
Cooperation	Oliver and Evy in Y2	For working well together in science
Cooperation	Louanna in Reception	For working in a team to tidy
Courage	Harry in Y2	For not crying when he had a fall
Courage	Arnie in Reception	For coming into school independently
Courage	Amelia in Y2	For being brave at her hospital appointment
Courage	Flo in Reception	For retelling part of a story to the whole class
Kindness	Sonny in Reception	For helping look after a friend
Kindness	Sadie in Y1	For helping a child that fell over at lunchtime
Kindness	Dylan in Hedgehogs	Being a shining example of a super Hedgehog and always being kind
Honesty	Myles in Reception	For telling the truth when he was worried.
Honesty	Isla in Hedgehogs	For showing resilience everyday and being a real helper in Hedgehogs
Resilience	Oakley in Hedgehogs	Coming in to Hedgehogs independently and waving happily to his mum
Aspiration	Nazar, Zac, Sadie, Jessie, Stanley, Hermione & Carter	For their amazing effort and hard work in this first week back at school in year 1!
Aspiration	Harry in Y4	Practising additions at playtime so he was ready for adding house points
Aspiration	Poppy in Y2	For working hard in all lessons today
Aspiration	Jude in Reception	For his effort in phonics



Congratulations for completing the House Point Award:

BRONZE AWARD: Sienna Haylock, Carter Carlson, Aubrey-Mae Piper, Theo Foscett, Matilda Risley
SILVER AWARD: Leo Darmody

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Congratulations to the NEW Pupil Parliament

The following children who have been democratically elected by their peers:

The Education Party

Reception – **Conor & Grace-May**
 Year 1 - **Carter & Sadie**
 Year 2 - **Arthur & Aubre-Mae**
 Year 3 – **Alex H & Albert**
 Year 4 – **Holly & Wojciech**

The Green Party

Year 1 - **Hermione & Izzy**
 Year 2 - **George & Leo**
 Year 3 – **Harper & Jude**
 Year 4 – **Dawid & Julia**

The Christian Party

Year 2 - **Phoebe & Thomas**
 Year 3 – **Spencer & Ivy**
 Year 4 – **Jude & Mia**

House Captains

Fire Captain Harry
Fire Vice Lenny
Wind Captain Amelia
Wind Vice Ellis
Earth Captain Freddie
Earth Vice Sully
Water Captain Millie
Water Vice Leo

Values Ambassadors

Year 1- Charlie M
 Year 2 – Luca
 Year 2 - Amelia
 Year 3 – Alyssia
 Year 4 – Penny

Fitness Fanatics (aka Sports Crew)

Noah
 Lenny
 Leo
 Penny
 Sully

Congratulations

to **Michaela and Conor Piper** on getting married. Aubrey-Mae and Maya were very proud little girls to be with you and can't stop talking out 'their' wedding 😊 It looked like such a beautiful day!



Congratulations to **Katie and Ewan White** on the arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Lockie, and a little brother for Dottie! Lockie was born on 10th September, weighing 7lb 10oz. Dottie is absolutely besotted with her new baby brother, and we send the whole family our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

The 180 Challenge is Back!

This year, we are excited to continue our **180 Challenge** as we work towards our dream of building a new school hall. Last year, thanks to the incredible enthusiasm and generosity of our children, families and supporters, we raised an amazing **£4,847**. What a fantastic achievement!

This year, we'd love to make an even bigger impact, and we need your help. If you have any fundraising ideas, contacts, skills or suggestions, please do get in touch. Every pound raised brings us one step closer to making our new hall a reality.

Introducing the 180 Business Club

One exciting idea is the launch of our **180 Business Club**. Imagine if we could find **180 businesses** willing to donate **£180 each**. Together, that would raise a staggering **£32,400** towards our hall fund! If you own a business, work for a local company, or know someone who might like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Children Can Be Fundraising Superstars Too!

We know how creative and determined our children can be. Whether it's a sponsored walk, bake sale, challenge event, car wash, or something completely unique, every fundraising effort counts.

Children can:

- Set up their own campaign on our Crowdfunder page
- Use a traditional sponsor form
- Take part individually or with friends and family

As a thank you, every child who takes part will receive:

- A special mention in Celebration Assembly
- A feature in the school newsletter
- The opportunity to take home one of our special memorabilia teddy bears



Let's see how much we can achieve together this year. With the support of our wonderful school community, there's no limit to what we can accomplish!

Crowdfunder Link: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/help-us-build-a-new-school-hall-for-hormead-school>

Please note: When donating, Crowdfunder includes a slider suggesting an additional contribution to Crowdfunder itself. This is entirely optional, and you can reduce this amount to £0 if you wish.

Let's make this our biggest fundraising year yet!



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Class News

Sporting Updates



Year 3 had a fantastic afternoon at Chauncy School, taking part in a Sports Development event. We travelled by coach and were lucky to enjoy some beautiful sunshine as we headed out onto the school field for an action-packed afternoon.



Our first activity was golf, where the children developed their chipping and putting skills through a variety of fun and engaging games. It was wonderful to see them showing focus, determination and resilience as they practised their technique.

Next, we moved on to athletics activities. The children had the opportunity to throw javelins, race over hurdles and take part in running challenges. They demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout, encouraging one another and competing fairly.

We then took part in a series of team-building challenges that required us to work together to overcome different obstacles. These activities encouraged communication, problem-solving and cooperation, and it was great to see the children supporting one another and celebrating their successes as a team.

To finish the afternoon, we enjoyed some netball games. The children learned the fundamental skills needed to play netball and were introduced to some exciting adaptations of the game that made it accessible and enjoyable for everyone, including those who were completely new to the sport.

The children represented our school brilliantly throughout the afternoon. Their enthusiasm, positive attitudes and willingness to try new activities made the event a huge success, and they returned to school with smiles on their faces and plenty of stories to share.

Forest School

"Everyone is welcome in Forest School".



It is so nice to hear happy sounds and busy noises again as all groups have settled back well.

Mother Beech unfortunately lost one of her branches over the Summer, likely caused by stress from the extreme heat and dryness. It has given us great opportunities to practice sawing, and some children have delighted

in having a wooden slice of beech wood.



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We are also practising Nordic weaving with the aim of creating friendship bracelets when we've mastered the rhythm. Using a rod and steel fire starter is another skill many Hornead pupils are perfecting. Hopefully the Autumn term ahead will treat us with tasty edible treats cooked over our fires. Lots to look forward to.

Lvy Eileen



Hoglets Class – age 2 and 3 years



What a wonderful and exciting start to the year we have had in Hoglets! Our theme this term is **"All About Me"**, and we have been exploring *Who Am I?* and *My Family*.

It has been lovely getting to know the children and watching them settle into nursery life so confidently. They have been busy exploring our provision, making new friends and developing their confidence through play. We are so proud of how well they are settling in.

The children have explored what makes them special and unique through a range of creative and sensory activities. They particularly enjoyed hand painting and creating self-portraits using playdough and mirrors, encouraging them to look closely at their own features. Messy play activities, including spaghetti hair and scissor practice, have helped develop fine motor skills while providing lots of fun.

Our dolls house and small-world area have been popular, with children using the figures to represent their own families. We have also created family collages and enjoyed caring for baby dolls in our role-play area, encouraging imagination, communication and nurturing play.

In Maths, we have been exploring colours through sorting activities, while our sensory resources have encouraged children to talk about different textures and materials. The children have also enjoyed building with bricks and Duplo, developing both fine motor skills and creativity

Outdoor learning continues to be a favourite. The children have loved our new outdoor book area, sharing stories with blankets and teddies, as well as exploring the mud kitchen, water play and other outdoor activities.

It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence, develop new friendships and become familiar with our routines. We look forward to seeing them continue to flourish as we explore more of our **"All About Me"** theme together.

Mrs Plumb and Miss Jackson



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Hedgehogs Class – age 3 and 4 years



Welcome back! We have had a wonderful first few weeks returning to the Hedgehogs class. All the children have settled in incredibly well, adjusting beautifully to our new daily routine with only a few gentle reminders. It has been an absolute joy to watch them dive into their new school schedule with so much enthusiasm.

The children have been deeply engaged in our new daily lessons, showing great curiosity during phonics, maths, PE, RE, music, and our outdoor Forest School adventures. The developmental progress they have made in such a short time is truly remarkable. A particular highlight of our week was attending the whole-school assembly this morning. The Hedgehogs did us incredibly proud by sitting beautifully, listening intently, and joining in enthusiastically with our school song.

Outside the classroom, the children are thoroughly enjoying our fantastic new outdoor area. Having this open, safe space allows for free-flowing play, giving them the independence to choose their own activities and lead their own creative learning journey. We are so proud of how well they have embraced the start of the term, and we cannot wait to see them continue to grow.

Mrs Stuart, Mrs Larmar, Miss Jackson



Robin Class – SEND



What a great couple of weeks we have had in Robin Class! It was so lovely to welcome the children back to school with their smiley faces, enthusiasm and excitement for the year ahead. They have all settled in brilliantly and have adapted really well to our new routines and timetable. We are also very proud of how positively they have accepted our new class name.

This half term, the children have been introduced to our new sensory curriculum, and they are absolutely loving it. The different sensory experiences have created lots of opportunities for exploration, engagement and learning. We have already started to see some fantastic progress, and we couldn't be prouder of the children and all that they are achieving.

After the incredible progress the children made with Fun with Food last year, we decided to keep it as part of our timetable this year. We are so pleased we did! The children have already been fully embracing the different foods on offer, showing great courage and curiosity when trying new things. We are incredibly proud of how brave they have been. So far, Honey Hoops cereal has been a huge hit with many of the children, while gherkins were definitely a little

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less popular! It has been wonderful to see the children exploring new tastes, textures and smells with growing confidence.

We are looking forward to making lots of wonderful memories together this school year and celebrating all the amazing progress the children continue to make. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings for our fantastic Robin Class!

Mrs Lynch, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wade

Squirrels Class – Reception

Squirrels Class have had a fantastic start to Reception, and we are really proud of how well they have adapted to the new routines and environment. They have shown lots of positivity, courage and independence. We have been enjoying getting to know each other, building new friendships, and exploring the classroom.

We have begun our daily phonics teaching. Each day we are learning a new initial sound and beginning to build on our early blending skills, as well as learning how to form letters correctly and hold a pen in a comfortable position. We have also started our literacy and math sessions. In literacy, the children have begun creating their books all about themselves. In maths, the children have started their first unit focusing on matching, sorting and comparing objects. Yesterday, the children also enjoyed their first PE session. This half term, we are focusing on navigating a space safely and working together as a team to play different games.

Last week, our book of the week was called "What I like" and this prompted lots of good discussion about all of our favourite things and hobbies. The children also created some beautiful self-portraits that are now proudly on display in our classroom.

This week, our book of the week has been "We're going on a bear hunt" - the children have absolutely loved this book and by the end of the week, some of the children have been retelling it in front of the class independently! We have been discussing our houses and families and learning how we are all unique. Outside, the children have been enjoying using shaving foam cement to build houses and towers using bricks. They also created some lovely bear pictures by painting using a fork to create the effect of fur.

Next week we will move on to thinking about our friends and what it means to be a good friend to others.

Thank you for all of your support during these first few weeks.

Mrs Guillian, Miss O'Connor, Miss Griffin and Mrs Eves

Otters Class – Year 1

What an incredible first two weeks back! The children have been superstars as they have adapted to their new timetable and embraced the exciting challenges of the Year 1 curriculum. We have been very impressed by their independence and the fantastic way they demonstrate our school values of resilience and aspiration every day. We could not be prouder of how well they have settled into Year 1. Well done, Otter Class!

We have already enjoyed some wonderful learning experiences, including PE and Forest School which have quickly become firm favourites for the whole class.



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In English, we are enjoying our work based on the book 'Someone Just Like You', which links beautifully with our PSHE learning about emotions. The children have explored different feelings, discussed what might make us experience them, and reflected on the important idea that although we all look different on the outside, we share the same emotions on the inside. We have also been applying our phonics knowledge in our writing, producing labels for body parts, captions and lists of things a friend might need.

In Maths, we have been revisiting numbers to 10 through counting and grouping activities. The children have represented numbers using objects, ten frames and number words, and have enjoyed comparing numbers using the greater than (>), less than (<) and equal to (=) symbols.

In Phonics, we have reviewed the sounds and decodable words learned in Reception while practising our sounding out and blending skills. We will soon begin learning the Year 1 sounds and exploring the different spellings for sounds we already know.

It has already been such an enjoyable start to the term; Miss Ellis and I are really looking forward to an exciting term of learning ahead.

Mrs Ward, and Miss Ellis



Badger Class – Year 2



What a fantastic start to the year it has been in Badgers! We have been busy learning, exploring and developing lots of new skills across the curriculum. Children are also getting used to new routines and expectations in Year 2 and continue to work hard.

In English, we have been focusing on writing clear sentences, remembering to use a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop. We have also been joining sentences using coordinating conjunctions such as and, so and but. We have particularly enjoyed getting creative with *Frog and the Stranger*, writing

our own disaster stories where Rat comes to the rescue and saves one of the characters!

In Maths, we have been learning about numbers up to 100 and developing our understanding of tens and ones. We have used base ten equipment and tens frames to represent numbers and help us understand their value. We have also been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

We have been revising our Phase 5 phonics and strengthening our word memory through regular dictation lessons, helping us to apply our phonics knowledge when reading and writing.

In History, we have been discovering what schools were like in the past. We even had the opportunity to ask a special visitor questions to find out more about the history of our own school.



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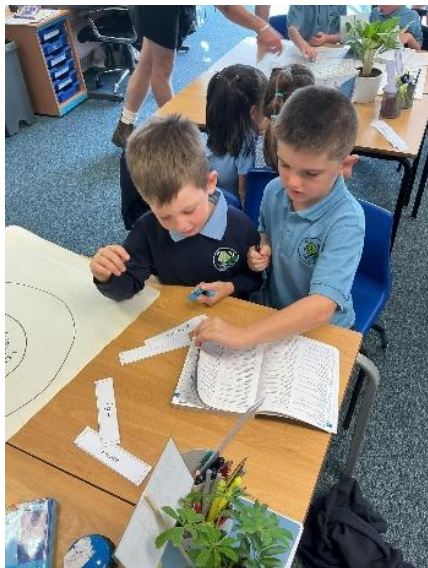
Our science learning has focused on living things and the life processes that help us identify whether something is alive. In RE, we have been exploring how and why people show thanks.

In Music, we have enjoyed exploring untuned percussion instruments and creating animal sounds. We are also continuing to have lots of fun and develop our skills in Art, PE and Forest School each week!

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and curiosity Badgers have shown so far!

Mrs O'Mara and Mrs Crowe

Fox Class – Year 3



It has been a fantastic start to the year in Year 3. I have been incredibly pleased with how well the children have settled into their new class and adapted to the routines and expectations of Key Stage 2. They have approached each day with enthusiasm and a positive attitude, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow already

The children are gradually learning the new routines and expectations of the classroom through consistent high standards and clear guidance. They are showing increasing independence and responsibility, and I am very proud of the effort they are putting into their learning. I have been particularly impressed with the quality of their

writing and their strong core understanding in Maths.

We have already started exploring many exciting areas of our curriculum. In Maths, we have been learning about place value, including hundreds, tens and ones, as well as flexible partitioning. In English, the children wrote imaginative adventure stories based on Mini Rabbit and his journey to find berries for a cake at home.



In RE, we have begun exploring the question, What makes us human? In Science, we have identified vertebrates and invertebrates and started learning the names of some of the bones in the human body. The children have also begun learning French greetings, developing their shading skills in Art, and exploring staff notation in Music.

I am looking forward to seeing the children continue to grow in confidence and make excellent progress throughout the year.

Mr Armes and Miss Standing

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Owl Class – Year 4



We have had a great first few weeks back at school and are already back into our routines and the full swing of learning. The children have returned with enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see them settling so quickly into Year 4.

In maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value and number, working with numbers into the thousands. We have explored different ways to partition numbers and have been practising finding 1, 10, 100 and 1,000 more and less than a given number. The children have shown great resilience when tackling challenges and have been building confidence in explaining their mathematical thinking.

In English, we have been writing persuasive speeches inspired by The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. We considered the wolf's side of the story and whether he could persuade us of his innocence. By reading examples of speeches, children have learnt how to use persuasive devices effectively including the power of three, rhetorical questions, and backing up their opinions with facts and evidence. Today they delivered their speeches brilliantly, using clear voices to help make their message clear.

Science this half term has got off to a very messy start! To help us understand the human digestive system, we created models using Weetabix, orange juice and tights. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that helped the children understand what happens to food as it travels through the body.

In art, we have been exploring cave paintings and thinking carefully about how people in the stone age observed the world around them. We looked for shapes we could see in animal forms, using these observations to support us in drawing more accurately.



Miss Sawyer, Miss Wentworth & Mrs Kozub

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

Dairy Dates for the Summer Term

Any changes are in red font

September		
22/09/2026	Tuesday	3pm Family photos (Book a slot)
23/09/2026	Wednesday	Individual School Photos
25/09/2026	Friday	European Day of Languages
28/09/2026	Monday	1:45pm Under 4's stay and play in Forest School (advertised externally)
28/09/2026	Monday	9:30am Year 1 Sports Development Day (Simon Balle)
29/09/2026	Tuesday	9:15am - Stay and watch phonics (Nursery, Reception, Year 1)
30/09/2026	Wednesday	9:30am Open Morning for prospective Reception 2027
October		
02/10/2026	Friday	Newsletter 02
05/10/2026	Monday	2:45pm Reception Celebration of Learning (parents and family)
06/10/2026	Tuesday	1:30pm Open Afternoon for prospective Reception 2027
12/10/2026	Monday	1:45pm Under 4's stay and play in Forest School (advertised externally)
13/10/2026	Tuesday	2:45pm Y1 Celebration of Learning (parents and family)
15/10/2026	Thursday	10am - Harvest Festival led by Y2's at St Nicholas Church
16/10/2026	Friday	Newsletter 03
16/10/2026	Friday	World Food Day - details to follow
17/10/2026	Saturday	10am-12pm School Open Morning for Prospective Parents
19/10/2026	Monday	Black History Focus Week - details to follow
19/10/2026	Monday	Flu Vaccinations - need to sign agreement please, info to follow
20/10/2026	Tuesday	Parent Consultations pm (R-Y4) – from 2pm in hall
23/10/2026	Friday	Non-uniform Day / Cake Sale (please bring cakes to sell)
26/10/2026	Monday	Half Term

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HORMEAD C of E FIRST SCHOOL
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

A NIGHT
FULL OF
COLOUR AND
EXCITEMENT!

FIREWORKS *Spectacular*

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Gates open at 4:45pm

Fireworks display will start at 6:30pm

BONFIRE • BAR • BBQ • MUSIC
REFRESHMENTS • GLOW WANDS & MORE • RAFFLE • AND MUCH MORE!

★ TICKETS ★

ADULT: £8.00

CHILD: £5.00

(Under 2's FREE)

FAMILY TICKET
(2 Adults, 2 Children)

£25

FOR TICKETS

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★ ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TOWARDS ★
OUR NEW SCHOOL HALL AND CLASS WISH LISTS! ★

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