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 HONESTY KINDNESS CO-OPERATION LOVE ASPIRATION

Issue No: 04 Nov 26/27

Dear Families,



There is always so much fabulous learning happening at Hormead, but I have to admit that Science is one of my favourite subjects to peek into. There is something wonderful about seeing children fully immersed in hands-on learning, whether they are exploring habitats, investigating materials, learning about nutrition or discovering the surprising things we can learn from animal poo!

Miss Sawyer is often one of the last people to leave school, usually because she is busy dreaming up weird and wonderful ways to bring learning to life. Her latest challenge was making a lesson on digestion as memorable as possible. This involved a pair of tights, a rather revolting mixture of mushed-up food and plenty of enthusiastic volunteers to demonstrate how food travels through the digestive system.

Not content with that, she also decided the children should become experts in identifying animal droppings. Inspired by some owl pellets she had found, she painstakingly created a collection of incredibly realistic animal poo samples using all sorts of materials. Such was her dedication to scientific accuracy that some of her own hair even made its way into the mixture!



The children absolutely loved examining the samples and guessing which animals they belonged to. The real highlight, however, came the following day when the collection was accidentally left on display in the library during a parent tour. One parent glanced across at the remarkably realistic creations and, with genuine curiosity, asked whether the children had been making brownies. Needless to say, there was a great deal of laughter!

Meanwhile, excitement is building around school as we prepare for our Fireworks and Bonfire Night celebrations this evening. Our fantastic PTA team have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to organise what is one of the highlights of the school year. Weeks of preparation go into an event that seems to fly by in just a couple of hours.



We hope to see many of you there tonight. Wrap up warm, enjoy a hot dog or burger, grab a drink and join us for an evening of fireworks, a bonfire, friends and fun.

Mrs Cowler,
Headteacher

Reasons to Celebrate

Stars of the Week ☆☆☆ ☆☆☆ You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	**Isla Webb**	*For setting such a good example of what a 'Hedgehog' should be!*
Hedgehogs	**Blake Britton**	*For trying hard in the next stage of phonics*
Squirrels	**Jasper Lee**	*His effort when writing independently*
Squirrels	**Arnie Goddard**	*A great attitude and independent learning*
Otters Y1	**Aubrey Piper**	*Her wonderful list poem all about the colour yellow*
Otters Y1	**Myles Larman**	*His amazing effort and independence with adding numbers on a number line*
Badgers Y2	**Leo Darmody**	*Showing confidence in speaking in front of the class and giving definition to words in reading.*
Badgers Y2	**Daphne Richardson**	*For working so hard in Maths and doing amazing work!*
Foxes Y3	**Alyssia Tache**	*Always using her imagination to be creative in English*
Foxes Y3	**Arthur Rogers**	*For making a noticeable effort to improve the quality of his writing.*
Owls Y4	**Penny Flanagan**	*Her focus when sewing and the support she freely gave to others*
Owls Y4	**Lenny Doust**	*For brilliant participation and help in PE*

Values Hearts



Thank you to the following children for going above and beyond in demonstrating our Christian values this week. We are incredibly proud of them.

Love	Eva (R), Beau (R), Alex (Y2), Ellis (Y4), Jasper (R), Flo (R), Dylan (N)
Cooperation	Penny & Thalia (Y4), Wren (R), Cody (R), Poppy (Y2)
Courage	Miss Standing, Conor (R), Nate (R), James (Y3), Sophia B (R) Aubrey (Y1)
Kindness	Cruz (Y4), Mia (Y4), Albie L (Y2), Sophie (N), Matteo (N)
Honesty	
Resilience	Jude M (Y4), Oscar (Y2), Dylan (N), Noah (N)
Aspiration	Thomas (Y2), Albie L (Y2), Brooke, Freddie, Millie & Cruz (Y4), Theo & Charlie M (Y1), Sulley (N)

House Point Award



Well, done to the following children on the fantastic achievement of filling up their House Point Chart and progressing to the next level! Your hard work, positive attitude and commitment to our school values have truly paid off. Keep up the great work!

BRONZE AWARD	
SILVER AWARD	Alfie Dunn
GOLD AWARD	

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180 Years Fundraising News

Every pound makes a difference. Let's keep the momentum going!

We are incredibly proud of our historic school and ambitious about its future. We have a dream that one day we will be able to build a brand-new school hall that will become the heart of our school community.

Total Raised So Far:

£7,384.87



Our Top 10 Fundraisers of 2026!

Matilda Risley	**£1,050.00**
Amelia & Phoebe Tinklin	**£595.20**
Flo Eastwood	**£390.00**
Thomas Stanning	**£341.22**
George Apostolos	**£280.00**
Aubrey-Mae Piper	**£255.00**
Arthur & Raphael Frearson	**£235.00**
Albie Lees	**£175.00**
Nazar Kozub	**£163.00**
Leo Darmody	**£150.00**
Nate Kelly	**£150.00**



How Can You Help?

We would love our children to play an active role in shaping the future of their school. We are therefore launching our **Hormead Hall Fundraising Challenge** again and inviting every child to take part in fundraising in any way they choose. Fundraising ideas could include:

Sponsored walks, runs or cycles, Bake sales, Car washes, Challenge events, Craft sales or something completely unique!

No amount is too small – every penny makes a big difference!

Every child who takes part will receive one of our special Hormead memorabilia teddy bears.

Join Our 180 Business Club

Do you own a business, work for a local company, or know someone who may be interested in donating £180 and become part of our network of supporters helping to make this vision a reality?

We will mention and promote all businesses that support us.

Ways to Donate

Donations can be made in several ways:

- Via Arbor using the "180 Challenge" payment item
- Directly into the school's fundraising account. Ask office for banking details.
- Using the traditional sponsor form – please ask your child's teacher or the office.
- By donating to our Crowdfunder or setting up a personal fundraising page linked to our Crowdfunder:

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

(Please note – there is a slider to donate a portion of money to crowdfunder **- you DON'T need to do this.)**

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Sports News



Reception had a particularly exciting surprise this week when a set of balance bikes suddenly appeared. Mr Armes had forgotten to mention that he had arranged a special PE session, much to the teacher's surprise!



The children, however, were absolutely delighted. They spent the morning learning how to balance, steer and weave confidently around cones, with smiles stretching from ear to ear. Lesson 2 will take place on the 16th November!

Forest School



Much scientific exploration takes place throughout the year at Forest School. Observations of seasonal growth, change, life cycles and habitats happen continuously.





By greeting 'Mother Beech' and asking her permission to enter the forest, we encourage ourselves to notice the changes in her leaves. This week they are a beautiful fiery orange. Soon they will fall, and her branches will reveal signs of new growth in the buds that are already present.



Children of all ages delight in discovering worms, millipedes and spiders. Learning about their habitats and how to care for them allows us to appreciate creatures that are so different from ourselves.

This week there was much discussion about a group of ladybirds that appeared to be trapped in the mud kitchen. In fact, they are probably sheltering there as they prepare for the colder months ahead.

Another scientific delight has been the abundance of mushrooms visible throughout the forest. As beginner mycologists, we remember not to touch any fungi, but we have started learning about the different parts of a mushroom, including the cap, stalk, gills and spores.

Many thoughtful faces were seen around the log circle as we have considered the remarkable relationship between fungi and trees. We have learned that mushrooms can communicate with trees through underground fungal networks connected to their roots. It has led us to wonder: what might the brittle stem mushroom be saying to Mother Beech?







Ivy Eileen

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Hoglets Class – age 2 and 3 years



Our topic this term is 'Me and My World', and this week we have been exploring the exciting theme of 'Bonfire Night'!

The children have had a fantastic week full of creativity and fun. We have been busy creating splatter firework pictures using paintbrushes, and the children absolutely loved using toilet roll stamps to print colourful fireworks. We also enjoyed making our own chocolate-dipped sparklers using breadsticks and sprinkles. The children loved getting involved and tasting their delicious creations!



Our cosy teepee was transformed into a dark den, where the children could experience their very own firework display. Our sensory table was filled with oil and water bottles to create a wonderful lava lamp effect, encouraging the children to explore colours and movement.

Over on our tuff tray, we have embraced autumn with a pumpkin-themed tray filled with autumn leaves and conkers, giving the children lots of opportunities to explore different textures and natural materials.

It has been lovely to see how well all the children have settled back into Hoglets. They have returned so happily, and we are so pleased to see them enjoying their time with us again!

We will be learning all about Remembrance Day. We have some amazing activities planned that we are sure the children will love!

Mrs Plumb, Miss Jackson and Mrs Villar

Hedgehogs Class – age 3 and 4 years



Our science investigation area is a wonderful space where children can explore, experiment and develop their curiosity about the world around them. Each week, we change our investigation area to link with our theme of the week, providing new and exciting opportunities for discovery. We offer a variety of resources, including magnifying glasses, torches, magnets and tweezers, encouraging the children to look closely, ask questions and investigate how things work.



Next week, to celebrate the Festival of Light, we will be exploring light by shining torches through different coloured, transparent shapes. We will also be investigating colour mixing, discovering how we can combine different colours to create new ones. The children have free access to paints and often ask which colours they need to mix to make a particular colour!



Outdoors, the children have been experimenting with pipettes and measuring tubes in the water, exploring filling, pouring and measuring. We have also recently explored our five senses and investigated the different forces we experience around us.

As the weather is getting colder, please could you ensure your child comes to nursery with suitable warm clothing, including a warm coat, hat and gloves, so we can continue enjoying our outdoor adventures. Thank you!

Mrs Stuart, Mrs Larman, Miss Jackson

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Robin Class – SEND



What a great first week back we have had in Robin Class! The children have been so happy to return to school, and it has been wonderful to see all of their smiley faces back in the classroom. Everyone has settled back into our routines brilliantly and has shown lots of enthusiasm for learning.

This week, we have spent a lot of time focusing on Bonfire Night. The children have loved exploring the different colours, bright lights and exciting sounds associated with fireworks and celebrations. We have enjoyed a range of sensory activities that have encouraged curiosity, communication and exploration.

One of the highlights of the week has definitely been our fireworks sensory trays. The children have thoroughly enjoyed investigating the different textures, colours and materials, and it has been lovely to see their excitement and engagement during these activities. There have been lots of opportunities for sensory play, creative exploration and shared learning experiences.

We are incredibly proud of how well everyone has done during their first week back. The children have shown fantastic engagement, positive attitudes and a constant enthusiasm for learning throughout the week.

Well done, Robin Class! We are so proud of you and cannot wait to see what the rest of the term brings.

Mrs Lynch, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Munday



Squirrels Class – Reception

As always, we have been super busy in Squirrels Class. At the end of last term, we rounded off our learning on 'All About Me' by thinking about how we have changed since we were a baby. We read the book 'Once There Were Giants' and discussed all the different things we have learnt and mastered doing since we were born. The children loved exploring the class baby photos and having a go at drawing themselves as a baby.



This half term, we have started our new theme "Me and My World" - during this half term we will be exploring different celebrations such as Festivals of Light and Christmas, as well as looking at seasonal changes as we move into Winter. This week, we have been looking at Bonfire Night. The children have discussed bonfire safety and created some beautiful firework artwork and there has been lots of excited talk about the upcoming school Bonfire Night. Next week, we will move on to learning about another festival of light, Diwali, and how this is celebrated.



We are also busy preparing for our Nativity - we have started practicing songs in class and next week, we will begin practicing in the Hall. You will receive a slip next week with your child's part, any costume requirements and any lines to practice.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

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Otters Class – Year 1

Last half term, Year 1 had lots of fun learning about the seasons and how they affect the world around us. We explored how trees change throughout the year, noticing differences in their leaves, colours and appearance.

As part of our learning, we investigated different types of weather associated with each season and discussed how these changes influence what we wear. The children enjoyed sorting and talking about clothing suitable for summer and winter, thinking about how to stay cool in the sunshine and warm in colder weather.

We also had great fun finding out which season our birthdays fall in and learning about some of the festivals and celebrations that take place throughout the year. This helped us make connections between the seasons and events that are familiar to us.



This half term, we will be learning about materials. We will begin by identifying different objects and exploring the materials they are made from, such as wood, plastic, metal, glass and fabric.



As learning develops, we will investigate the properties of materials, including whether they are flexible, durable or waterproof. We will also think about why certain materials are chosen for specific purposes. For example, why is a window made from glass? Why might a saucepan be made from metal? Through lots of practical investigations, the children will begin to understand how the properties of a material make it suitable for a particular job.

We are looking forward to a fun and hands-on topic that will encourage the children to observe, question and investigate the world around them. We can't wait to see the fantastic results throughout the half term.

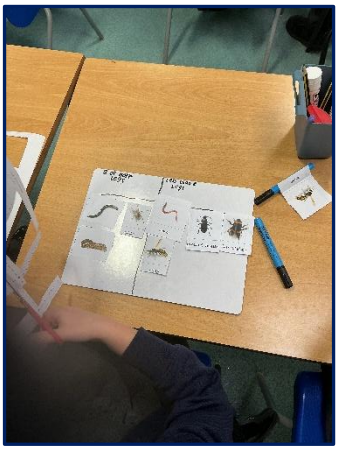
Mrs Ward, and Miss Ellis

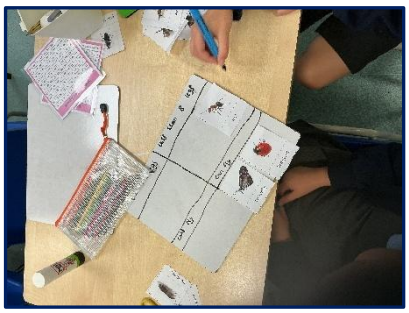
Badger Class – Year 2



Badger Class have been busy exploring the wonderful world of habitats in our science lessons! We have been learning about different habitats, including woodlands, rainforests and the ocean, and discovering how each one provides the food and shelter that animals need to survive. We explored some of the animals that live in these environments, such as foxes in woodlands, colourful dart frogs in rainforests and sharks in the ocean. We also learnt all about food chains and how living things depend on one another. The children enjoyed creating their own food chains, identifying the producer (seaweed), prey (turtle) and predator (shark). There were some fantastic discussions about who eats what!

This half term, we have started a new topic exploring micro-habitats. This week, we discovered that the word 'micro' means 'small' and began investigating the tiny creatures that live in these environments. We started sorting minibeasts into different categories, thinking carefully about which have eight or more legs, which can fly and which have a stinger. The children showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as they shared their ideas and observations.





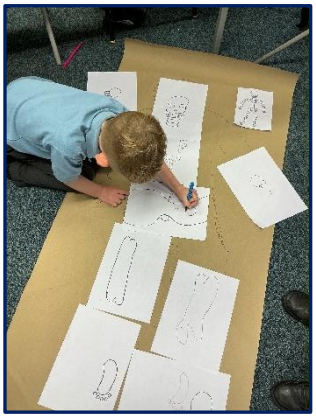
There is lots more exciting science to come! In our upcoming lessons, we will be making our very own wormery and heading outside on bug hunts to discover what minibeasts we can find. Luckily, bug

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hunting is something the children already love doing during playtimes, so we know they will be very excited to become little scientists and explore even further!

Fox Class – Year 3

Fox Class has had a fantastic start to the year in science and has already learned lots of exciting new knowledge. Last half term, our topic was Muscles, Bones and Nutrition. We explored the human skeleton and learned the names and functions of several important bones, including how they work together to support and protect our bodies. We also investigated different muscles and discovered how they contract and relax to help us move in a variety of ways.


As part of our nutrition learning, we developed our understanding of healthy eating and the importance of a balanced diet. We learned about the different food groups and discussed the important jobs they do within our bodies. For example, carbohydrates provide us with energy, proteins help our bodies grow and repair, and fats can store energy for later use. We also explored the concept of calories and discovered that they are a measure of energy. We learned that the more active we are, the more energy our bodies need to perform everyday activities and exercise.

This half term, we have started our new topic on Forces. So far, we have investigated different types of forces and explored how objects move when they are pushed, pulled or twisted. Through practical investigations and discussions, we have begun to understand how forces act on objects in the world around us.

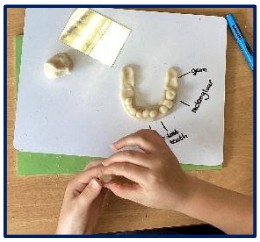
In the coming weeks, we are looking forward to exploring friction and magnetism, carrying out experiments and investigations to help us understand these fascinating scientific concepts. We can't wait to share more of our discoveries with you soon!

Mr Armes and Miss Standing

Owl Class – Year 4



Last half term, Owls Class explored the fascinating topic of digestion and diets. We began our learning with one of our messier science activities - creating a model of the human digestive system using cereal, juice and tights. This it helped us understand what happens to food as it travels through the body.

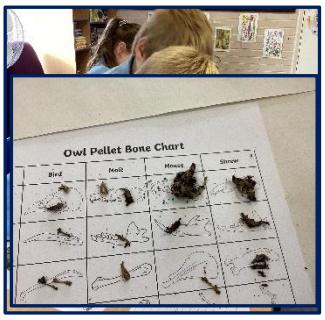


We then became dental detectives! Using mirrors, we carefully examined our own teeth and recreated them from dough, noticing the different shapes and sizes. We discovered that each type of tooth has a special job and that scientists can often work out an animal's diet by studying its teeth. In addition to this we considered how to take care of our teeth. As scientists, we carried out an investigation to find out whether toothbrush hardness affects cleaning effectiveness. We concluded that our investigation was not entirely helpful and discussed ways to improve its reliability, such as using a more realistic 3D model of teeth.

We developed our understanding of food chains and predator-prey relationships through an exciting game involving lynx and snowshoe hares. This helped us understand how changes in one population can affect another.

In another memorable lesson, we examined photographs and replica animal faeces, using clues such as colour, shape and undigested remains to identify what the diet of the animal may have been (carnivore, herbivore, or omnivore) and make predictions for what animal the faeces came from. Later, we dissected real owl pellets. By carefully sorting and identifying the bones we found inside, we gathered evidence that owls are predators and learned more about what they eat in the wild.





This half term, our new topic is forces and magnets. In our first lesson, we explored whether actions are pushes, pulls or twists and investigated different ways of moving objects using contact forces. We also learned how scientists represent the direction of forces using arrows in diagrams. We are looking forward to carrying out more practical investigations and discovering how forces and magnets affect the world around us.

Miss Sawyer, Miss Wentworth & Mrs Kozub

Brief from the Office:

Fireworks
All tickets are sold for tonight.

Christmas
Nativity – Please complete Ping form for tickets
Christmas Dinner – please complete Ping form, even if your child is having a packed lunch.
Many thanks

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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Diary Dates for the Autumn Term 2026

Any changes are in red font

November		
09/11/2026	Monday	Year 3 & 4 history trip to Celtic Harmony (TBC)
09/11/2026	Monday	9:30am Open Morning for prospective Nursery parents
11/11/2026	Wednesday	11am Remembrance Service led by Y1 at Hormead Memorial
12/11/2026	Thursday	1:15pm Parent Coffee afternoon with 'Families in mind workshop'
12/11/2026	Thursday	2:45pm Y3 Celebration of Learning (parents and family)
16/11/2026	Monday	Odd Socks Day - Anti Bullying week
17/11/2026	Tuesday	9:30am Open Morning for prospective Reception 2027
19/11/2026	Thursday	2:45pm Y4 Celebration of Learning (parents and family)
20/11/2026	Friday	Newsletter 05
20/11/2026	Friday	PTA Christmas Shopping Event
24/11/2026	Tuesday	10:30 - EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal (Whole School)
26/11/2026	Thursday	10:30am & 2pm – EYFS Nativity Play
30/11/2026	Monday	Christmas Story Writing competition
December		
01/12/2026	Tuesday	9:30am Open Morning for prospective Reception 2027
03/12/2026	Thursday	Calendar & Craft Day + PTA Christmas Gift Wrap - details to follow
04/12/2026	Friday	Newsletter 06
07/12/2026	Monday	Mrs Finch returns from maternity leave
07/12/2026	Monday	9am - Whole School Panto -Robin Hood (Village Hall)
08/12/2026	Tuesday	2:30pm - Y1&2 Festive Festival (parents and family)
08/12/2026	Tuesday	5:00pm - Y1&2 Festive Festival (everyone welcome - mince pies and mulled wine!)
11/12/2026	Friday	Parent help assembling the Hampers please
14/12/2026	Monday	Children deliver Calendars to community
16/12/2026	Wednesday	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch Visit from Father Christmas
17/12/2026	Thursday	10am – CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Led by Year 4's at St Nicholas Church (everyone welcome)
17/12/2026	Thursday	School Ends 1pm Newsletter 07
18/12/2026	**Friday**	**Occasional Day - School Closed**
21/12/2026	**Christmas Holidays begin**	
January		
04/01/2027	**Monday**	**INSET DAY – school closed for staff training**
05/01/2027	**Tuesday**	**Children back to school – Start of Spring Term**

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