Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

Newsletter

Autumn Term 26th November 2026

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Courage & Generosity

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful day we have had welcoming so many parents and carers into school for our Christmas Decorating Day. It was lovely to see our school community coming together, with parents and carers welcomed into school throughout the day to enjoy festive craft activities alongside their children, enjoying the activities and bringing some festive cheer to our classrooms. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us and help make the day so special for our children and we hope you enjoyed the day as much as we have. I would also like to thank parents for their financial contributions, which enable us to continue providing these enriching experiences for the children. My thanks also go to my staff, who have spent a considerable amount of additional time in planning, preparing and organising today. Their hard work and commitment are very much appreciated.

I was delighted to see so many parents and carers attending last week's KS2 Sharing Assembly. It was wonderful to see the hall so full, and the children involved spoke so eloquently and confidently. Speaking in front of such a large audience can be a very daunting experience, and I was incredibly proud of the way the children approached this opportunity with such confidence and maturity as they shared their learning from this term with you.

A polite reminder to all families to please park considerately around the school, particularly along Whitebarns Lane. We ask that you remain mindful of our neighbours and residents, ensuring that driveways and access routes are kept clear. We would also encourage families to make use of our morning drop-off system wherever possible. This is a safe and efficient way to drop your children off, whilst reducing the need to park and helping to ease congestion around the school. Thank you for your support and cooperation with this.

It has certainly been a chilly week, with the weather taking a decidedly wintry turn. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a warm coat, hat, gloves and any other appropriate winter clothing so that they can continue to enjoy their time outdoors, as we will be outside as much as possible. Please also ensure that all items are clearly named to help prevent them from getting lost and enable us to reunite any misplaced belongings with their owners.

As school is closed tomorrow and it has been decorating day today, there will be no celebration awards this week. Our usual awards celebrations will resume next Friday. However, we will be celebrating birthdays on Monday to ensure that those children do not miss out on their special moment.

Finally, I hope you all enjoy our occasional day tomorrow and have a lovely, restful long weekend with your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday.

Sarah Cook
Headteacher

Woodpecker Class

This week we had a very exciting visit from PCSO Leon. He came in to talk to the children about his role and explain what he does as part of his job. The children were very interested to learn about how he helps to keep our community safe and were able to share their knowledge of the emergency number we call when we need help. The children had the opportunity to explore some of the equipment and were very excited to go outside and have a look at the police truck. In our phonics activity this week, the children enjoyed rubbing off a pen to reveal a word, reading it and then drawing a picture to match. The children absolutely loved this activity. It was a fantastic way to support their phonics skills, early reading, letter formation and writing, as well as encouraging creativity and drawing skills.









Kingfisher Class

Kingfishers have had a very busy week, particularly in writing, where we have been exploring traditional tales, using instruments and props to perform them. We have started to look into writing the Three Billy Goats Gruff, but our own versions! We've started by creating our own trolls.





Nightingale Class

Nightingale have been thoroughly enjoying our new English topic exploring the fascinating world of fables. We have all been particularly captivated by the entertaining and beautifully illustrated stories created by Rachel Bright and Jim Field. Their memorable characters, humour and valuable life lessons have inspired some fantastic discussions in class about the morals hidden within each tale. The children have shown great enthusiasm as they have analysed the features of fables, explored character choices and considered the messages that authors want readers to learn. We are looking forward to using these wonderful texts as inspiration for our own creative writing, where the children will have the opportunity to craft fables of their own, complete with memorable characters and important lessons for their readers.

Skylark Class

Skylark had the opportunity to finish their Bikeability course this week. The children who took part had a great time and have learnt how to check that their bikes are ready for a journey and how to cycle safely on the roads. Skills covered included maintaining a suitable riding position, identifying and responding to hazards, negotiating road junctions and complying with signs and road markings. The instructors commented on how well they had behaved and engaged with the activities throughout, and that they had all made super progress. The children have also been working hard in class this week and have finished their independent writing based on 'Wisp - A Story of Hope'. They spent some time peer editing before publishing their final versions. In Science, the children started to plan an investigation into the effects of air resistance. We found out more about the different considerations needed to make it a fair test and planned what we would measure (the dependent variable), keep the same (the controlled variables) and change (the independent variable). The children will be putting their plans into action next week.

Decorating Day





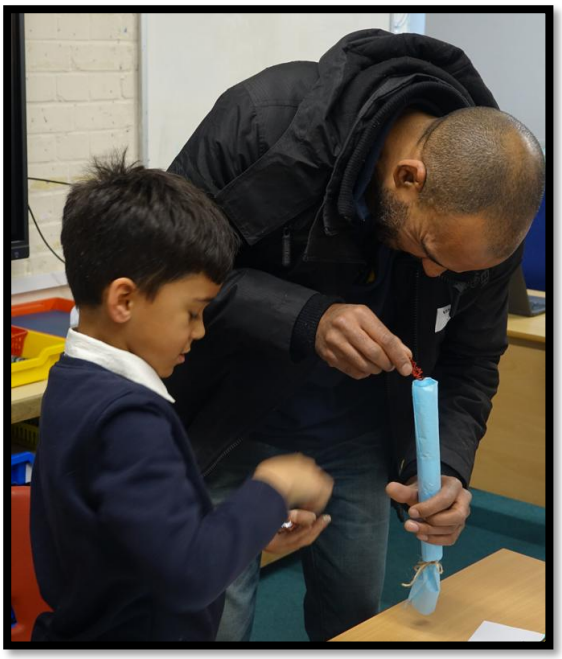

























Nouns
Adjectives
Verbs
Adverbs







WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance this week – 94.36%

Whole School Target Set – 96%

Please contact the school **every day** of any absence. This can be done by calling **01279 777344** and leaving a message. **If you are going to be late and will need to order a school lunch, you can either make your own selection on Arbor before 8.15 am or ring the school office before 9.15 am. Orders placed after this time may not be accepted.**

MENU w/c 16th November 2026	
Day	Menu
Monday	Chicken & Sweetcorn Meatballs Red Sunshine Eggs with Baked Beans (v) Green Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (v) Blue
Tuesday	Chicken Curry Red Cheese Pinwheel (v) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue
Wednesday	Roast Beef Red Roast Quorn with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy (v) Green Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo Blue
Thursday	Quorn Burger Red Veggie Bolognese (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (v) Blue
Friday	Battered Fish Red Margherita Pizza (v) Green Jacket Potato with Salmon Mayo Blue

Thursday 26th November	Decorating Day (KS1 am, KS2 pm)
	FPSA Disco 5.30pm
Friday 27th November	Occasional Day
Tuesday 1st December	Reception Class trip to Audley End
Friday 4th December	FPSA Christmas Fair 3.30 – 5pm
Tuesday 8th December	Skylark – St Michael's Carol Service
Wednesday 9th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal 9.30 am
	Christingle 2pm @ St Mary's
Thursday 10th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity performance 2pm
Monday 14th December	Panto @ South Mill Arts
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	Christmas service 2pm @ St. Mary's
Friday 18th December	Term ends at 1.30 pm
Monday 4th January 2027	INSET day
Tuesday 5th January	School opens for pupils

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

Events at St Mary's Church

Nativity Trail - St Mary's Furneux Pelham- 1st-24th December
Looking for an activity to do with the children? From 1st-24th December there will be a Nativity Trail in church. Can you find Mary and Joseph and other Nativity characters? There are some short activities to do and maybe some treasure to find! There are also downloadable activities to do at home (where it is hopefully warmer!).
Church is open every day in daylight hours but there is no heating so dress warm!

Cafe Church Christingle - Sunday 20th December 9.30am at St Mary's Furneux Pelham.
Come and join us as we make Christingles together at our informal family service. We will be singing carols and Refreshments provided.
Please bring your own orange!!
We'd love to welcome you!
For further information please contact Rev'd Lynn: 07721 637682 or revlynnhayler@outlook.com

Carol Service - Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve) at 6pm at St Mary's Furneux Pelham
Our traditional Carol Service with choir and the nativity crib.
An opportunity to gather as community as we celebrate together, the coming of Jesus on this special night.



