



Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

WEEKLY Newsletter

Autumn Term

26th September 2025

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Generosity

Dear Parents,

One of the greatest things about being a headteacher in a small school is knowing all the children so well. There are many days that make me smile and today was one of them. I get so much enjoyment from being outside at lunchtimes and talking to the children and seeing them enjoy their playtimes. I have seen our current school value of Generosity in actions, as one of our Year 3 children today took time from their own play to sit on the friendship bench alongside a Year 1 child to check that they were alright and spend some time with them. Another one of our younger children noticed and suggested that we give him 100 Dojo points for being so kind! I'm not sure we can stretch to quite that many in one go but how lovely that their kindness and generosity was noticed by others. I also get great joy from teaching as much as I can and this year, that is in Skylark Class a day and a half each week. There are always great discussions to be had with the older children and quite different to being told they love me and that I look like a princess from Woodpecker Class!

We are still working on our listening skills across the school as we return to the Autumn Term. We are focusing on being 'ready to learn' which includes waiting for and listening to instructions from teachers. The quicker children are ready, the more learning time there is, be that working as a class or getting on independently. The Autumn Term is vital to embed new routines and expectations so that the rest of the school year can focus on the learning. Handwriting is also a priority across the school, with good habits using the correct pencil grip starting early on, to building up stamina for writing as the children move up the school. Teachers are prioritising this in class, to improve neatness and fluency for joining, which is an age-related expectation by the end of KS2. If your child's teacher sends home additional handwriting sheets to practise on, please do support us by asking them to do this with you. We live in a world which is very technology heavy, but basic handwriting skills are still so incredibly important and hybrid approaches using both are still vital skills.

Outdoor learning opportunities are an important part of our curriculum offer for pupils, and although we no longer have a Forest School leader as such, teachers are planning outdoor learning for their classes which will be delivered in a variety of ways on our school grounds, in The Burrow or on walks around the local area. Woodpecker Class currently have a weekly outdoor session with Mrs Kennard in The Burrow and outdoor learning afternoons are also being planned for across the rest of the school. We will keep you posted on this as we implement them.

Mrs Spicer's Art Club is in full swing with the children enjoying making clay hedgehogs last week and beautiful pictures using acrylics, blending techniques and stones to create a moonlight picture this week. The concentration and skill shown by the children was fantastic and it has been lovely to see the keen uptake in the number of children participating.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,
Mrs Cook



Woodpecker Class This week, we have been busy developing our fine motor skills through some fun and engaging “funky finger” activities! The children enjoyed threading and using tweezers to pick up pasta to feed the tennis balls as this helps strengthen their hand muscles and coordination. The children also took a lovely trip down to the burrow with Mrs Kennard, where they explored the sights and sounds of Autumn. They had a wonderful time discussing the changes in nature and creating their very own Autumn potion using natural materials found around them.

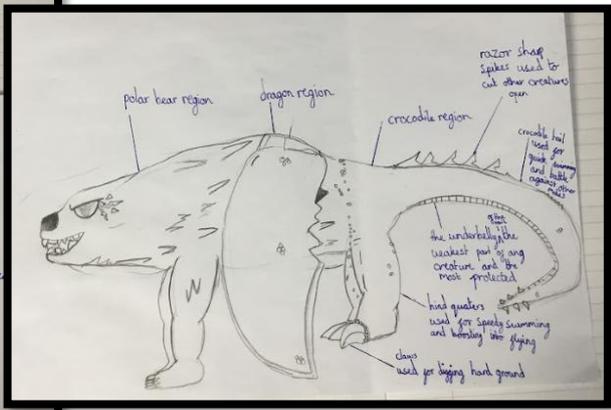
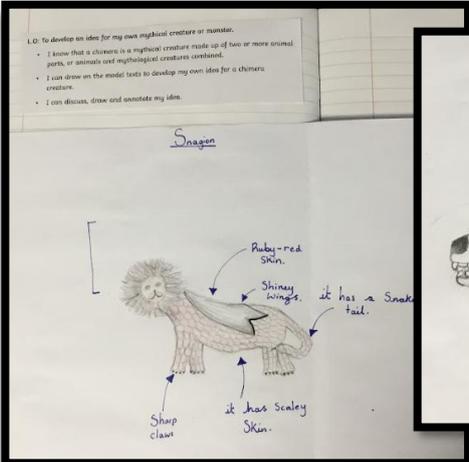
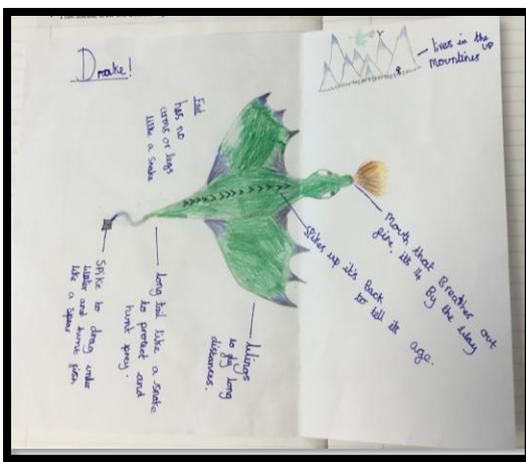


Kingfisher Class - In writing the children have been composing their own simple stories using the same plot structure as *Luna Loves Dance*. They have all created a character who loves to do an activity such as bake or swim or climb, but something goes wrong, and they lose their confidence. Just like in the original story however, it all ends well. In science the children are learning all about materials and have been working on identifying and sorting materials.

Nightingale Class have worked extremely hard in their writing sessions this week, proofreading their story writing with their learning partner to make corrections and improvements. They then had the task of publishing their writing to make books about *Mini Rabbit: Not Lost*, which we hope other children will enjoy reading. In RE, we have thought about the importance of water and words associated with it. We went out onto the playground and wrote some of these words in chalk for us all to think about. We discussed the meaning of these words and then a few children decided which word they felt wasn't as important and washed them away. Luckily the sun was out and no one got splashed!



Robin Class the children have focused on writing with expanded noun phrases to make their sentences more detailed and exciting. In Maths, we have worked on understanding and using Roman numerals like the Tudors and during Music, the children added the glockenspiel to their singing, which created a wonderful sound. For PE, they practised their hockey skills concentrating on accurate passing and communication. We got creative in Art experimenting with different types of charcoal and erasers to produce drawings inspired by cavemen. They enjoyed getting messy and the final results were well worth the effort!



Skylark Class have continued finding out about Sikhism in RE and had the opportunity to explore a few real Sikh artefacts this week, as part of a lesson on how and where Sikhs worship. In English, we have been continuing to explore the features of non-chronological reports and have started preparing for our own independent writes. The children had fun creating their own chimera creatures and writing about their unusual appearances and different features.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Nightingale
Finch

Skylark
Oliver



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

Woodpecker

Daphne for working hard on her ball control skills in PE.

Emily for being a fantastic role model to her peers.

Nightingale

Kit for showing generosity and being kind to others in school.

Kingfisher

Rosie for trying hard to apply her knowledge to reading and writing.

Aubrey for showing a positive attitude and being keen to learn.

Robin

Lila for her hard work, thoughtful nature and perseverance when faced with challenges.

Skylark

Noah for his great scientific knowledge and contributions in class.

Albert for great progress with focus and being ready to learn.

READING AWARDS

Woodpecker

Felicity

Nightingale

Kingfisher

Joshua

Robin

Ada

Skylark

Eddie

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance –98.56%

Whole School Target Set – 96%

Please contact school every day of any absence. This can be done by calling **01279 777344** and leaving a message on the absence line.

If you are going to be late, please also advise the school office to ensure a meal is ordered in time.

MENU w/c 29 th Sept 2025		DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES	
Day	Menu		
Monday	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) (Red) Creamy Quorn & Sweetcorn Pasta Bake (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (Blue)	Friday 10 th October	Woodpecker and Kingfisher Sharing Assembly 2.45pm
		Friday 17 th October	Harvest Festival 2pm Church
		Tuesday 21 st October	Parent Consultations
		Friday 24 th October	Nightingale, Robin & Skylark Sharing Assembly 2.35 pm
		Mon 27 th -Fri 31 st October	Half Term
Tuesday	Mild Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry (V) (Red) Beef Lasagne (Green) Jacket Potato with Cheese (Blue)	Tuesday 11 th November	Bags2 School collection
		Friday 14 th November	Children in Need Day
		Monday 24 th November	EYFS Audley End Trip
		Thursday 27 th November	Whole School Decorating Day
		Friday 28 th November	Occasional Day
		Tuesday 2 nd December	Whole School Panto - Aladdin
		Friday 5 th December	FPSA Christmas Fayre
Wednesday	Roast Beef (Red) Macaroni Cheese (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Beans (Blue)	Thursday 18 th December	FPSA Christmas Disco
		Friday 19 th December	End of Term
		Monday 5 th January 2026	INSET DAY
		Tuesday 6 th January 2026	INSET DAY
		Wednesday 7 th January	Term starts for pupils
Thursday	Beef Burger in a Bun (Red) Penne Arrabbiata Bake (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Tuna (Blue)	Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th Feb	Half Term
		Wednesday 4 th March	Bags2 School Collection
		Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
		Thursday 26 th March	FPSA Easter Disco
		Friday 27 th March	End of Term
		Monday 13 th April	INSET DAY
		Tuesday 14 th April	Term starts for pupils
		Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
		Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th May	Half Term
		Wednesday 3 rd June	Bags2 School Collection
Friday	Quorn Hotdog (V) (Red) Salmon & Sweet Potato Fishcake with Spaghetti (Green) Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (Blue)	Tuesday 21 st July	Leavers Service 2pm Church
		Monday 20 st July	FPSA Summer Disco
		Wednesday 22 nd July	END of TERM
		Thursday 23 rd July	INSET DAY

NOTICES AND INFORMATION



Apply for school on time

Applying for a school place for September 2026

Secondary/Upper/Studio/University Technical College Application deadline: Friday 31 October 2025

Primary (Reception)/Junior/Middle Application deadline: Thursday 15 January 2026

Apply online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Hertfordshire

A large advertisement for school admissions. The top half has a green background with the text 'Apply for school on time'. Below this is a photograph of a classroom with students at desks and a teacher at the front. A green box in the bottom right contains application details. At the bottom, there is a link to the admissions website and the Hertfordshire logo.