



Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

WEEKLY Newsletter

Autumn Term

19th September 2025

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Generosity

It has been a pleasure walking around school this week seeing our children so immersed in their learning in a variety of different ways. I had visitors in school on several days who were so impressed as we walked around, commenting on how purposeful and calm school environment is. My thanks go to the teaching staff for ensuring that the start to term with new routines and expectations are well embedded so quickly. We are continuing to upgrade the school learning environment ensuring that the classrooms meet the needs of all our children including celebrating their work on the working walls too. After school clubs and extra-curricular activities are now in full swing, with the children enjoying singing lessons, art club, tri-golf, netball and football clubs after school. Mrs Newman, Ms Todd and I attended the FPSA AGM and first committee meeting of the year last night. It was lovely to see so many new faces willing to join and support the school, with lots of exciting new ideas and suggestions made for the year ahead. Although the FPSA kindly help support many school initiatives and resources through their fundraising, many of the additional activities and events that the children enjoy are supported by the FPSA to enhance and enjoy their time at the school alongside the day-to-day teaching. If you would like the opportunity to support the school in another role, the governors are looking for a **parent governor** to join them. If you would like to apply, please speak to myself for a nomination form. You would be warmly welcomed onto a dedicated and strong team who bring with them a wide range of knowledge and skills from their own backgrounds. If you would like more information or wish to discuss the role further, please contact Gary Smith who is our new Chair of Governors.

Please note some additional dates and a change on the calendar this week which have been highlighted in yellow. This has been to accommodate Harvest Festival and therefore Woodpecker and Kingfisher Sharing Assembly is now a week earlier. Parent Consultations will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday 21st October. Appointment times will be released via Arbor closer to the time.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I inform you that Mrs Monk is retiring in October to spend more time with her family. She has been a dedicated and well-loved member of our school community as a parent and staff for around 30 years and will be greatly missed. I know you will all wish her well as we say a huge thank you from us all for all that she contributed over the years. Her last day will be on Wednesday 8th October.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,
Mrs Cook

Woodpecker Class We've had a fantastic week full of fun, learning, and new experiences. One of the highlights was our cooking activity. We used blackberries and apples that were from the field to make a delicious blackberry and apple crumble. The children talked about the recipe and followed the instructions step-by-step. It was a brilliant opportunity to explore measuring, sequencing, and working together. The children enjoyed the crumble afterwards and all agreed it was very tasty! In PE, we focused on throwing and catching. The children practised these skills through a variety of proud moments!



activities, improving their coordination while keeping active. During circle time, we had a lovely activity where the conversations and children brought in baby photos. We talked about how we've grown and changed and discussed all the new things we can do now that we couldn't do as babies. It sparked lots of thoughtful

Kingfisher Class We have been learning about the Christian creation story in R.E and thinking about what it implies for how we treat the world. The children enjoyed doing some gardening and we talked about how to look after the bulbs and plants that we had planted. In Science, we are observing the seasons throughout the year and in our gardening activity we also discussed what things we plant in Autumn. We also noted that although many plants don't flower in autumn and winter, some do.

Nightingale Class have been investigating bones in science. We have been learning about the names of different bones and even measuring bones. In English, we have continued with our story of Mini Rabbit's adventure. We have had a real focus on grammar to elevate sentences, learning about past progressive verbs and using subordinating conjunctions to extend sentences. In History, the children have been learning about the significance of cacao for the Mayans and even got to taste some hot chocolate.





Robin Class This week in History, we discovered the Ancient Maya folktale, 'The Chocolate Tree', and learned how they made spicy chocolate drinks. In RE, we explored baptisms, while in English we focused on using rhetorical questions and persuasive language in our speeches. During Science, the children investigated the bones in the human body, becoming detectives to measure and compare their lengths. We have also finished painting some excellent self-portraits and began looking at number lines up to 10,000!

Skylark Class this week have been continuing learning about the life cycle of mammals in science. They learnt a lot of new scientific vocabulary to describe the stages and they began work on their double page spreads to present their facts and information on their learning. In French, they have been learning the names for different types of transport and practising asking and answering questions. They are very enthusiastic and willing to learn! In PE, they learnt about holding their badminton rackets correctly, taking it in turns to be the feeder and hitter, returning the shuttlecock back to the feeder from a range of distances and heights. They then enjoyed a team game not dissimilar to cricket in which they practiced throwing, batting and fielding skills.

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance –97.91%
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.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Robin
Beth

Skylark
Henry
Gulliver
Marley James
Bertie



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

Woodpecker

Lily for super sharing and turn taking.
George V for being a very helpful friend.

Nightingale

Finch for always being ready to learn and trying his best in all subjects. He is very helpful to all staff and shows good manners.

Kingfisher

Tilda for showing resilience and rising to new challenges.

Logan for working hard in maths.

Robin

Will M for being a great role model with your positive attitude, behaviour and kindness.

Skylark

Isabella for her enthusiasm and contributions to lessons.

Oliver for his super focus and effort.

READING AWARDS

Woodpecker

Sienna

Nightingale

Rosie

Kingfisher

Emma

Robin

Jasper Kurjak-Clague

Skylark

Alexa

MENU w/c 22nd Sept 2025		DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES	
Day	Menu		
Monday	Chicken Curry (Red) Cheesy Pasta (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Cheese (Blue)	Friday 19 th September	Kingfisher Class Meet the Teacher 3.15-3.30
		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
Tuesday	Cheese & tomato Pizza (V)(Red) Beany Seashell Pasta (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Beans (Blue)	Friday 24 th October	Nightingale, Robin & Skylark Sharing Assembly 2.35 pm
		Mon 27 th -Fri 31 st October	Half Term
		Tuesday 11 th November	Bags2 School collection
		Friday 14 th November	Children in Need Day
Wednesday	Roast Chicken (Red) Cheese & Broccoli Pasta Bake (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Cheese (Blue)	Monday 24 th November	EYFS Audley End Trip
		Thursday 27 th November	Whole School Decorating Day
		Friday 28 th November	Occasional Day
		Friday 5 th December	FPSA Christmas Fayre
Thursday	Pork Sausages (Red) Tomato Bolognaise with Pasta (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Tuna (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
Friday	Battered Fish (Red) Veggie Balls in Tomato Sauce with Spaghetti (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (Blue)	Wednesday 7 th January	Term starts for pupils
		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		
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

- **Play equipment** - Please ensure that children are not on the play equipment after school as there is no staff supervision at the end of the day, so we kindly ask you help support us with this to ensure that all children are safe.
- **Healthy snacks** – please send a healthy snack to school for break such as fruit or veg. We are noticing an increase in sugary foods when we would like to encourage healthy eating.

2025 BARKWAY LITERARY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER | 10AM - 8.30PM

KAY BLAYNEY

Tells and performs *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in costume.

1pm



GILLIAN McCLURE – TANGLEWOOD

Vastly experienced, award-winning, Carnegie Medal shortlisted author and illustrator of numerous picture books. Hosts an inspiring story-telling session for 3-7 year olds, using puppets. Learn how a picture book is created from start to finish.

1.30pm



Dr MATTHEW BOTHWELL – ASTROPHYSICS FOR SUPERVILLAINS 2.30pm

Public Astronomer at Cambridge University's Institute of Astronomy. Based on his two books for 6-10 year old, a fun session exploring myriad questions about the mysteries of space, extra-terrestrial life and cosmic time. Expert facilitator of events at schools, festivals and stargazing evenings. Writer and lecturer at the Royal Institution, New Scientist, the Royal Astronomical Society and the British Astronomical Association.



RACHEL & PAUL LAWSTON – MY NATURE TRAIL

Highly qualified environmental advocates in children's education. Activity-based session for 6-10 year olds, based on their fun-filled, fact-filled, highly illustrated book, inviting curiosity and wonder.

3.30pm



LAURA NOAKES – COSIMA UNFORTUNATE

Young disabled author - shortlisted for the Wicked Young Writer Awards. Presenting her two warm but twisty stories for 8-12 year olds, full of adventure and historical detail. Cosima lives at the Home for Unfortunate Girls where children deemed different are sent.

4.30pm



TICKETS:

SINGLE EVENTS:

Adults £10 | Children £5, accompanying adult/guardian, FREE

DAY TICKET: Adults £40 | Children all afternoon £15

FOR TICKETS SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/barkwaylitfest



FIND US:

Barkway Village Hall, Barkway, Hertfordshire: SG8 8BS

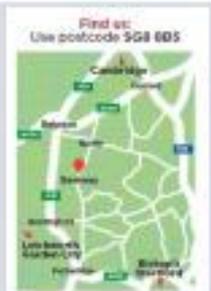
VENUES:

Adult Events: Barkway Village Hall

Children Events: The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Barkway

REFRESHMENTS:

Available throughout the day - **Barkway Social Club**



Event

Sponsored by: **BOW BOOKS** Royston, SG8 9AS

www.bow-books.co.uk

2025 BARKWAY
LITERARY FESTIVAL

www.barkwaylitfest.co.uk



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



- 1. Protect your child**
The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends**
Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid costs**
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu mmunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

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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

DSPL3 SEND COFFEE MORNING

You are invited to a relaxed and supportive coffee morning designed to offer valuable information and networking opportunities.

- Connect with other parents and carers
- Share experiences and gain insights into various topics that matter to you
- Practical advice & emotional support
- Meet and chat with others in a similar situation
- Bring any questions or topics you'd like to discuss
- Professionals in attendance including Early Years, Outreach, Family Support, Behaviour Support, DSPL

We look forward to seeing you there and fostering a strong, supportive community together!



DSPL3 Delivering Special Provision Locally

FREE Healthy Lifestyle support for families in Hertfordshire

Our FREE 12 week in-person and online programmes start on week commencing 22nd September 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
BOREHAMWOOD Aberford Park Community Centre, WD6 1PN 4:30 - 6:30pm	WATFORD Holywell Community Centre Chaffinch Lane, WD18 9QD 5:30 - 7:30pm	STEVENAGE Oval Community Centre SG1 5RD 5:30 - 7:30pm	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Hobletts Manor Junior School HP2 5JS 5:00 - 7:00pm
CHESHUNT Andrews Lane Primary School, EN7 6LB 4:30 - 6:30pm	** NO SESSION **	HATFIELD Birchwood Avenue Primary School, AL10 0PS 5:00 - 7:00pm	** NO SESSION **
ONLINE (ages 5 - 8) 5:30 - 6:30pm (ages 9 - 12) 6:30 - 7:30pm	ONLINE (ages 5 - 8) 5:30 - 6:30pm (ages 9 - 12) 5:30 - 6:30pm (ages 9 - 12) 6:30 - 7:30pm	ONLINE (ages 9 - 12) 5:30 - 6:30pm	** NO SESSION **

ttt.maximusuk.co.uk

Sign up today!

828info@maximusuk.co.uk

01707 246 648

Our programmes are for children above their ideal weight, see our website for more information.

Looking for healthy after-school snack ideas?

We've got you covered!

Our free, Beezee Families healthy Lifestyle programme can help your family make healthy habits.

Tuck into these healthy snacks:

- Two wholegrain crackers and tzatsiki
- Rice cakes or corn cakes
- Two crackers with a spread of low-fat cream cheese and cherry tomatoes
- Plain or Greek yoghurt and fruit
- 150ml homemade fruit smoothie
- Vegetable sticks (carrot/pepper/cucumber) with hummus
- Fruit kebabs

- Wholegrain toast with a thin layer of peanut butter
- Breadsticks
- Ayran (yoghurt-based drink)
- Baked plantain
- Sebze kebab (grilled vegetable skewers)
- Homemade fruit ice lollies
- Handful of homemade popcorn
- Apple slices with peanut butter.

Want more healthy lifestyle support?

Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here or Click the link

ttt.maximusuk.co.uk

*Our courses are designed for families with children aged 5 and up