



Newsletter

Autumn Term

Friday 12th December 2025

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Compassion

Dear Parents,

What a festive week it has been in school! We ended last week with the Christmas Fayre which was exceedingly well organised by the FPSA which brought in lots of families and members of our local community to enjoy raffles, games, arts and crafts activities, a fabulous cheese and hot chocolate stall and a BBQ. Thank you to all those who attended in supporting the school, as this goes a long way to helping us to rejuvenate and freshen up our outdoor learning area in the Spring Term. Finally, a great big thank you to the FPSA for all their hard work and generosity in giving their time to organise such a wonderful event for us to enjoy.

Our younger children in school were magical in their Nativity performance earlier in the week. It was wonderful to watch, and the children shone with confidence, enthusiasm, and festive spirit. Several of them were hugely adaptable by stepping into roles at the very last minute due to absences so well done to them as that is not an easy thing to do. A huge thank you to all parents and families who came along to support them. I have had lots of lovely comments from families saying how much they had enjoyed it. Many thanks for providing costumes and thanks also go to all the staff for their hard work in bringing it together.

On Monday, Skylark Class spent the afternoon at St. Michael's Church in Bishop's Stortford rehearsing with six other local primaries and were delighted to take part in the evening carol service. The children sang beautifully, and it was a fantastic opportunity to come together as a wider community to celebrate the season. Owen and Mollie beautifully sang the first verse of Once in Royal David's City with twelve other children at the start the service. Abigail and Henry (who were bravely the first up of the schools to the pulpit) then delivered their readings confidently to a church that was full of parents who were brimming out the door. Skylark Class performed 'Silent Night' incredibly well and the parents greatly enjoyed the evening. Many thanks to those who attended and helped with picking the children up in the afternoon. Thank you to Ms Todd to organising and rehearsing for the service too.

As many of you will be aware and have already been affected, we are currently seeing exceptionally high levels of absence due to various illnesses circulating. This is affecting both pupils and staff, and we appreciate your understanding, support, and communication during this challenging period. With the end of term approaching, tiredness is setting in for everyone, but the children continue to show great resilience and positivity.

Finally, I am letting you know that Mrs Perale will be leaving Furneux Pelham School and her last day with us will be on Friday 19th December. Although we are sad to see her go, we are also very happy for her as she begins an exciting new chapter. She has been given a wonderful opportunity to work with horses — something she has always been passionate about and truly loves. While the timing has been unexpected, we appreciate your understanding and support as she follows this new path. We are pleased to let you know that Mrs Kirsten Russell will be joining our team and taking over Kingfisher Class from 1st January 2026. She is very much looking forward to getting to know the children and families in our school. Mrs Perale has been a valued member of our team, and her hard work and dedication to the children will be greatly missed. We thank her for everything she has brought to our school and wish her every success in her new role.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs Sarah Cook

Woodpecker Class: The children have been full of excitement as they handed out Christmas cards to their friends. This has been a fantastic opportunity to support name recognition, and it's been lovely to see their confidence grow as they match names to their peers with increasing independence. The children are still enjoying the stocking activity as they loved cutting out pictures from catalogues and decorating their own stockings. Their enthusiasm and focus made this a truly engaging experience, and the results look amazing! Over in the construction area, the children have been incredibly busy designing and building wonderful creations, including an impressive bench! Their teamwork, problem-solving, and imaginative ideas have really shone.



Kingfisher Class: The highlight of our week in Kingfisher class was our two nativity performances. The children did a fantastic job performing in front of an audience, confidently speaking their lines, acting their parts and joining in with the singing and dancing. Everyone very much enjoyed the show and it really helped get us into the Christmas spirit. We are continuing to work on our geography topic and have been conducting field work this week to investigate weather patterns. This week we learnt this about how to read the temperature, understand the wind direction and talk about general weather conditions. In English, the children have enjoyed writing messages to a friend, telling them about a mythical creature that visited their house.



Nightingale Class: This week in Nightingale the children have enjoyed taking part in a 'rock hunt' in the school grounds. They have learned about the three main types of rock -igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic and then went out to see if they could find examples of these. The children have really engaged with our geography topic this term and it was lovely to see them enjoying the outdoors. Following our hunt, where lots of photos were taken on the iPads, the children plotted the location of their rock finds onto a map of the school grounds and helped to devise a suitable key so other people can interpret their maps.

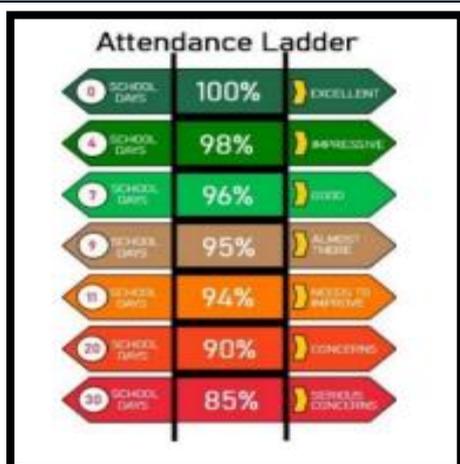


Robin Class: we have been busy across all our subjects. In DT, we designed packaging for our biscuits, using cuboid nets to make our models look realistic and professional. In Science, we investigated different types of animal poo and were very surprised by the blue whale's poo! By observing the faeces, we learned how to predict which animal it came from and what kind of diet it might have. During RE, we explored Humanism and discussed what makes a good life. We then created posters to represent our own ideas of what a "good life" means to us. In Maths, we practised plotting coordinates to create a mystery Christmas picture and throughout the week have worked on building our resilience and embracing the power of "yet". We learnt about how our neurons get stronger each time we try again and learn from our mistakes, just like a muscle getting stronger with exercise.

Skylark Class: Skylark had a fantastic start to the week, taking part in the Bishop's Stortford Primary Schools' Carol Service on Monday. The children had all worked so hard to learn and practise the carols, and they behaved and sang beautifully. It was a lovely service and a great opportunity for them to perform for an audience. Another highlight of the week was an afternoon of outdoor learning on Wednesday. We used our geography and science skills and knowledge to carry out an exploration of the different habitats throughout the school grounds. We found out about the features and purpose of sketch maps and then used our observations to create our own habitat sketch maps of the school environment.



WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



Attendance – 86%

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 before 9.15 am to ensure a meal is ordered in time.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Nightingale

Evie M-J



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

Woodpecker

Geroge C for be being a kind and caring friend.
Henry for being a super star in the production.

Nightingale

Tommy and Angel for making a positive start to their time in Nightingale Class.

Kingfisher

Louis for his respectful behaviour in class and around the school.

Finley for excellent progress in reading.

Robin

William G for his perseverance in writing and kindness to others.

Skylark

Skylark Class for their fantastic teamwork and contributions to our carol service this week.

READING AWARDS

Woodpecker

Ivy

Nightingale

Hunter

Kingfisher

Louis

Robin

Lila

Skylark

Isla

MENU w/c 15th December 2025	
Day	Menu
Monday	Beef Burger (Red) Potato Frittata (v) (Green) Baked Potato with Cheese & Beans (v) (Blue)
Tuesday	Chicken Pie & Gravy (Red) Swedish Style Plant Based Meatballs (v) (Green) Baked Potato with Tuna Mayo (Blue)
Wednesday	CHRISTMAS DINNER Roast Turkey and Stuffing (Red) Quorn Fillet and Stuffing (Green)
Thursday	Quorn Dipper Taco with Sweet Chilli Sauce (Ve) (Red) Mac n Cheese (v) (Green) Baked potato with Baked Beans (Ve) (Blue)
Friday	Fish Fillet Fingers (Red) Margherita Pizza (v) (Green) Baked Potato with Grated Cheese (v) (Blue)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES	
Tuesday 16 th December	Carol Service 2pm St Mary's Church
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 18 th December	FPSA Christmas Disco
Friday 19 th December	END OF TERM 1.30pm
Monday 5 th January 2026	INSET DAY
Tuesday 6 th January	INSET DAY
Wednesday 7 th January	Term starts for pupils
Tuesday 3 rd February	Skylark history workshop
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th February	Half Term
Tuesday 24 th February	Skylark O2 Young Voices
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 7 th July	KS2 Faith Tour
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

- Please note that when term finishes on Friday 19th December, children should be collected at **1.30 pm**.
- We are still looking for a parent to join the Governing Board. If you would like more information, please speak to Mrs Cook or contact the school office.
- We have a vacancy for an After School Club assistant on Fridays from 3pm – 5.30 pm. Please contact Mrs Newman for more information.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FPSA

It doesn't seem like a week since our school Christmas Fair but somehow we are at Friday again. The fair this year was ever more successful with the amount of people attending and raised a staggering £1932.82 profit. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Christmas Fair committee for all their hard work and dedication in making the event so enjoyable. Thank you also to the wider FPSA for all their support in helping where they can with arrangements.

These events would also not be possible without the wider school community. Thank you for all your tombola donations, cakes and mince pies, helping on the day and most importantly coming along and supporting the event. To school staff who help before and on the day and for their beautiful hamper which was filled with fabulous goodies on our hamper raffle. I also mustn't forget the year 5 and 6 children who willingly ran a lot of the craft and game stalls on the day, thank you.

With support from local businesses we are also able to offer beautiful hampers and vouchers on our raffles. We also received stall sponsorship from local businesses and parents across all of our stalls in the run up to the fair which was a great start. A full list of businesses will be published on our Facebook page but we are extremely grateful to them for their continued support.

Essex Fire Museum
Open Days 2025



Sunday 14th Of December
10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

Book Now 

Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk



Meet father christmas
church farm ardeley

Selected dates in December

Festive Farm Entry includes
Christmas Activity Pack • Festive Woodland
Walk the farm & see the farm animals

Meet Father Christmas
Father Christmas in his outside grotto
(includes a quality toy)
Meet the Elves
Write a letter to Father Christmas
Write a wish for the Wish Tree
Bag up reindeer food & carrot to take home to Rudolph

Additional Activities
Santa Paws – bring your beloved pooches to meet
Father Christmas include treat & toy
Harvest your Own Christmas Tree
Festive Tractor & Trailer Ride
Feed the farm animals

Book online www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk

This is an outdoor event so plenty of fresh air. Wrap up warm & wear wellies!

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience

Beane Valley SG14 3QA, 10am - 11.30am

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, DSP/L, SPACE and ADD Vance

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

DSP/L3 Parent Coffee
Morning 21st January
2026



 **DSP/L3** Delivering Special Provision Locally

Beezee by maximus

You don't need a new year to start new habits
Start small, start now!

Sign up to one of our free healthy lifestyle services today to kickstart your health goals for 2026 and beyond.

Beezee FAMILIES

- Free, fun, family-focused support
- Learn about healthy eating
- Get moving more
- Connect with other families
- One-to-one support also available!

Beezee YOUTH

- 13-17 year olds can talk about topics that matter to them
- Learn about physical, mental and social wellbeing
- Get free health resources
- Join a safe space.

henry

- Free support for families with children aged 0-8 years
- Explore parenting and healthy lifestyle tips
- Chance to make new friends
- Free toolkit provided!

Start making healthy habits TODAY

hrt.maximusuk.co.uk
020info@maximusuk.co.uk
 01707 248 648

Click me to find out more

Hertfordshire

The Outdoors Project
OFSTED REGISTERED

XMAS HOLIDAY CLUBS
"Childcare during the holidays they want to go to"
Fresh air. Fresh activities. Fresh attitude.

STUDLANDS RISE FIRST SCHOOL

MON 22 DEC & TUE 30 DEC
CHRISTMAS CAMPFIRE COOKOUT & FIRELIGHTING SKILLS

Gather around the campfire for some winter treats! The kids will be cooking pancakes, brewing hot chocolate and pine needle tea & toasting s'mores over the campfire, while being introduced to bushcraft firelighting - even having a go at creating their own small fires!

TUE 23 DEC & WED 31 DEC
CHRISTMAS NERF GAMES

'Tis the season of giving, so let 'em have it! There's a sneaky imposter dressed as Santa & he's trying to spoil everyone's Christmas! Time to load up & save our stockings. Join us for an energetic day of Nerf dart dodging - playing a range of seasonal team Nerf games (due to the more competitive nature of this day, age 6+ is recommended). PLUS Snowball making and hot chocolate & campfire treats to keep us warm and energised!

MON 29 DEC & MON 5 JAN (INSET DAY)
BUSHCRAFT VS MINECRAFT

Step into the overworld... we've turned Minecraft into a reality! Work in a team & creatively problem-solve to build dens, earn reward pixels for completing challenges, play the Creeper Game & use our Crafting Table to build things from hidden resources! PLUS Hot chocolate & campfire treats to keep us warm and energised!

Book for 1 day or multiple days. Find out more at www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk

HCL
NOURISH • EDUCATE • INSPIRE

CHRISTMAS LUNCH DEC

MAIN MENU

Christmas Turkey & Chipolata Sausage with Sage & Onion Stuffing & Gravy
or
Quorn Fillet (v) & Veggie Sausage (Ve) with Sage & Onion Stuffing & Gravy

SERVED WITH
Roast Potatoes with a Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT
Choice of Christmas Dessert

[f](https://www.facebook.com/hclcatering) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hclcatering) [X](https://www.x.com/hclcatering) [ig](https://www.instagram.com/hclcatering) [@hclcatering](https://www.hcl.co.uk) www.hcl.co.uk

*Menus are subject to change due to supplier stock availability | Christmas Menu Option 1

EXTREMISM THRIVES ON MISUNDERSTANDING
Let's Change That Together

Parents, Carers and Staff Session at The Bishop's Stortford High School

Young People are spending a lot of unsupervised time online which is leading to fertile ground for grooming into extremist ideologies. Seeking to upskill parents, carers and staff who work with young people who might be exposed to harmful online content, Hertfordshire County Council commissioned Small Steps to deliver training sessions aiming to challenge extremist narratives, including Extreme Right-Wing (ERW), Islamist and other religious extremists, mixed ideologies, such as the Incel movement, fascination with extreme violence/mass casualty.

Whilst extremists may have a powerful propaganda machine, the reality of involvement can be devastating and traumatic including people losing friends, rifts develop within families, their education suffering, potential Police interest and risk of prison, depending on what activities people get involved in.

In 1-hour the session will cover:

- What factors assist people to succumb to extremist ideas
- How to support others and where to get help
- Understand the dangers of online platforms used by extremists
- What disinformation and misinformation are and highlight the dangers of both
- Highlight the benefits of real-life connections with people
- Signs of radicalisation, how to have difficult conversations and what to do if approached by an extremist online
- Critical thinking and build real-life resilience to extremism
- Connections between the Extreme Right-Wing and mixed ideologies such as the Incel movement and the manosphere
- Interactive gaming activities that showcase strategies used by extremists on virtual platforms

Content warning: discussion includes references to hate crimes, racism, and violence.

Wednesday, January 21st 2026
From 6 PM to 7 PM
At The Bishop's Stortford High School
Highbury Rd, Hichin, SG4 9BB

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER VIA EVENTBRITE

small steps Hertfordshire