



# Weekly Newsletter

Autumn Term

Friday 19th December 2025

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

### Value: Compassion

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another busy term and the last Newsletter of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership with the school. I would especially like to thank you for your cooperation during the recent period of high illness levels. At times during these past two weeks, we have had up to 20 pupils a day absent due to sickness and diarrhoea, which has understandably been challenging for both families and the school. Such high levels of absence have not been seen since Covid. By keeping children at home when they are unwell, you have played a crucial role in helping to reduce the spread of illness within our school community. We recognise that this can be difficult for working families, and we are very grateful for your understanding and patience shown during this time. Your support helps us to protect the health and wellbeing of both pupils and staff, and ensures our school remains a safe and caring environment for everyone.

This term has been filled with learning, creativity, and community spirit. I am incredibly proud of our children for the enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness they show every day. From classroom achievements to performances, sporting events, and charitable activities, they have once again represented the school superbly. I would like to thank our dedicated staff, whose commitment and care ensure that every child is supported to do their very best. Not only have the children been affected by the unprecedented number of illnesses currently around, but staff have also too, and they have gone above and beyond when many have been quite unwell themselves, to ensure that the school has continued to be operational.

Christmas is a time of togetherness, generosity and goodwill, and it has been wonderful to see these values reflected across our school community. Our festive events and celebrations have been a highlight of the term and a reminder of the importance of coming together to support one another. Christmas lunch was a great success on Wednesday, with the children enjoying wearing their hats they had decorated and staff showing off their waitressing skills as they served up the lunches!

We came together as a school this week to say goodbye to two of our teachers, Mrs Blakeman and Mrs Perale. There is sadness because we are saying goodbye to those who have been such a significant part of our school for so long (19 years for Mrs Blakeman), but also there is great pride and gratitude to thank them for their dedication, commitment and service to the school and its community. While it is never easy to say goodbye, we are excited for them both as they move on to the next chapter of their lives and take with them the knowledge that their contribution here has been meaningful, valued and deeply appreciated and wish them every happiness in the years ahead. They will be very much missed by staff and children alike.

It was wonderful to see so many families attend our Carol Service on Tuesday. The service was led by the children alongside Revd Lynn and they read and sang beautifully. It was also an opportunity to thank Miranda Trenchard, our outgoing Chair of Governors, who is standing down from the governing body after 16 years of service and dedication to the school. We thank her for all of her guidance and commitment, and we hope that she will continue to come into school and remain very much a part of our school community, albeit in a different capacity.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our Governing Body for their continued support, guidance and commitment to the school. Their dedication, challenge and strategic oversight play a vital role in helping us provide the very best opportunities for our pupils.

I am also extremely grateful to our FPSA for their ongoing hard work and generosity. Through their fundraising, organisation of events and willingness to give their time, they make a real difference to school life and help to enrich the experiences of our children at Furneux Pelham School.

The support of both our governors and PTA is greatly valued, and I would like to thank them for everything they do for our school community

As we look ahead to the new year, we do so with optimism and excitement for the opportunities it will bring. For now, I hope that the holiday break provides your family with time to rest, recharge, and enjoy special moments together.

On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year. We look forward to welcoming pupils back refreshed and illness free in January ready for the term ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Sarah Cook







## WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



Attendance – 81%

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 OVER THE HOLIDAYS



Robin  
Oscar



## Star of the Term

### Woodpecker

**Emile** In recognition of his hard work, positive attitude, and consistent dedication to everything he does.

**Emilia** for making fantastic progress in all areas of her learning, especially in her phonics, reading and writing.

### Nightingale

**Carris** works hard in all subjects and always tries her best. She shows great perseverance, especially in maths and we are very proud of her efforts.

### Kingfisher

**Dougie** has done something very special this term - he has begun to write sentences, which is a real milestone in life.

**Emma** for her thoughtful and reflective approach to everything she does in school.

### Robin

**Beth** for always being enthusiastic and responsible towards her learning and her relationships.

### Skylark

**Noah** for his fantastic behaviour and positive attitude always.

**Owen** for always applying himself in lessons and seeking to achieve his best.

## READING AWARDS

We awarded certificates for home reading for the first time in assembly today for those children who have read three or more times a week. We would like to thank parents and carers for their continued commitment to supporting reading at home. Regular home reading plays a vital role in developing children's confidence, fluency and enjoyment of reading, and we truly value the time you spend sharing books with your child.

To support this, we encourage families to use *Learning with Parents* to record home reading. Having used this as a busy parent myself, it is very quick and easy to use and can be updated with a short comment once a week — simply confirming that your child has read and how many times is all that is needed. There is no expectation for detailed comments.

Using this helps ensure that staff can focus their time on teaching and supporting children's learning, rather than managing paper-based reading records which takes up a significant amount of time. Thank you for working with us to support your child's reading journey.

MENU w/c 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	
Day	Menu
Monday	<b>INSET</b>
Tuesday	<b>INSET</b>
Wednesday	Roast Chicken with Stuffing & Gravy <b>(Red)</b> Plant Based Shepherd's Pie (Ve) <b>(Green)</b> Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) <b>(Blue)</b>
Thursday	Quorn Dipper Taco with Sweet Chilli Sauce (Ve) <b>(Red)</b> Mac n Cheese (v) <b>(Green)</b> Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) <b>(Blue)</b>
Friday	Fish Fillet Fingers <b>(Red)</b> Margherita Pizza (v) <b>(Green)</b> Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (v) <b>(Blue)</b>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>END OF TERM 1.30pm</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	INSET DAY
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAY
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Term starts for pupils</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Nightingale Swimming
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	FPSA disco
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Skylark O2 Young Voices
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Bags2 School Collection
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	FPSA Easter Disco
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET DAY
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Term starts for pupils
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Bags2 School Collection
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Faith Tour
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Leavers Service 2pm Church
Monday 20 <sup>st</sup> July	FPSA Summer Disco
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>END of TERM</b>
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	INSET DAY

## NOTICES AND INFORMATION

- Please note that when term finishes on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 and also a LSA afternoon role. Please contact Mrs Newman in the school office if you would like more information.

**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.

<p><b>Beezee FAMILIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free, fun, family-focused support</li> <li>Learn about healthy eating, get moving more</li> <li>Connect with other families</li> <li>One-to-one support also available!</li> </ul>	<p><b>Beezee YOUTH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13-17 year olds can talk about topics that matter to them</li> <li>Learn about physical, mental and social wellbeing</li> <li>Get free health resources</li> <li>Join in safe space.</li> </ul>	<p><b>henry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free support for families with children aged 0-5 years</li> <li>Explore resources and healthy lifestyle tips</li> <li>Chance to make new friends</li> <li>Free toolkit provided.</li> </ul>
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Start making healthy habits TODAY

[hrt.maximusuk.co.uk](http://hrt.maximusuk.co.uk)  
[022info@maximusuk.co.uk](mailto:022info@maximusuk.co.uk)  
 01707 240 648

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 firefighting - 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](http://www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk)

**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 misinformation and misinformation are and highlight the dangers of both
- Highlight the benefits of real-life connectors 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 21<sup>st</sup> 2026  
From 6 PM to 7 PM  
At The Bishop's Stortford High School  
Highbury Rd, Hitchin SG4 3JG

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER VIA EVENTBRITE**

small steps Hertfordshire

**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, SPACE and ADD Vance

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

**DSP13 Parent Coffee Morning 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

DSP13 Delivering Special Provision Locally