



Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

Newsletter

Spring Term

27th February 2026

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Forgiveness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. We have greatly enjoyed returning to some warmth and sunshine allowing the children to be able to spend more time outdoors, be that at playtimes and for their learning. On Wednesday afternoon, the teachers all had their classes outside at point and it was lovely to be able to enjoy our grounds once again.

I was very lucky to join Skylark Class at the Young Voices concert at the O2 arena in London on Tuesday. Skylark have been rehearsing for their big day for several months now and it was with great excitement that we set off in the morning ready for a long day ahead of rehearsals for an evening performance for the parents. The children were absolutely fantastic, singing and dancing their hearts out alongside over 8,000 other children. Mrs Hagger, Mrs Newman and Ms Todd embraced the dance moves and the highlight of the day was 'Andy' from Urban Strides arriving on the stage for a mash-up of 90's RnB tracks – little did the parents know that they would also have to join in with this too! Many thanks to Ms Todd for organising such a memorable event, but also to our parents for supporting us in being able to attend with many coming along to join us for such a great evening. We were all a little jaded the next day, but it was worth every minute! Please do have a look at the photos under Skylark's section of this week's Newsletter.

One of the highlights of my day is morning drop-off and seeing all the children and families as they come into school. The children returned this week happy and excited to be coming back in, and I always feel a sense of pride at how polite they are saying good morning to the adults but also their delight in seeing each other each morning on their way in. It is fantastic how confidently our Nursery children come in each day, often 'escorted' by their older siblings as they make their way over to Woodpecker Class. Morning where early morning routines across the school are firmly in place. When the children come in each day, their teachers have activities set up and ready to start before registration. The activities depend on the year group but range from fine motor skills activities in the Early Years, to word puzzles and phonics in Kingfisher Class, and across KS2 there will be spelling, maths and reading activities planned for also. These settled morning routines start the day off calmly and ensuring that the children are ready to learn.

Reports

Over half term, the teachers have been writing your child's mid-year report which will inform you of their progress, behaviours for learning and attainment at this point in the school year. There are individual targets for reading, writing and maths based on current assessments and these are useful at this point in the school year so that they can be worked on in their current class setting. If you do have any concerns or wish to speak to your child's teacher about their progress, please do not hesitate to contact them via Class Dojo to arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss this at any point in the school year. In person consultations will be arranged towards the end of the Summer Term.

Outdoor Area

You may have spotted the skip in our car park which was empty before half term which is now a little fuller. Over half term, Mrs Newman, her husband and children very kindly came in to clear the outdoor classroom area between Woodpecker and Kingfisher Classes. Many thanks to Mrs Newman for all of her hard work as this refurbishment is to

enhance outdoor learning for all the classes across the school and with the proceeds from the Christmas Fayre, the FPSA are supporting us in upgrading the environment to be able to do this. It is still a work in progress, and the teachers are deciding what resources will be required, but with continued support of families attending the FPSA events, it enables us to continue to enhance the provision we are able to provide for the children in school. The area has already started to be used, but please do go and have a look and keep an eye out for when the transformation is complete!

New blinds

If you have been in school this week or have noticed from outside when on the playground that new blinds have been fitted across the school during half term. Many thanks to the FPSA for their support in enabling us to help to improve our learning environments and I'm sure you will agree that they look very smart!

World Book Day

A reminder that we are looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day next Thursday 5th March**. At a time when reading for pleasure is at its lowest since 2005, we want to encourage and build on that love and enjoyment of reading or being read to. Children are welcome to come dressed as a book character if they wish, and there will be a range of activities throughout the day in school centred around books and reading for pleasure. Following the wonderful success of our egg box characters last year, this year we would love families to design a **wooden spoon book character**. We cannot wait to see your creative ideas.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Sarah Cook
Headteacher

New Events – save the dates!

We will be launching **Maths Homework Workshops** after school on Mondays, beginning on **Monday 2nd March from 3:30–4:15pm in the school hall**, led by Ms Todd and myself. These sessions are designed to support families with maths strategies and homework approaches with an opportunity for you to ask how we teach maths, as for many of us the way in which we were taught at school is very different to how we teach your children today. Please do come along with your child and their homework book to work together – we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Tuesday 10th March

We would welcome you to come and join us at 3.30pm in the school hall for a **Parents Information Session** with a focus on Teaching and Learning approaches at Furneux Pelham School. The session will reflect on how children learn from EYFS through to Year 6 and will consider the ways in which parents and school can work together to ensure that all children are able to thrive. We will also share with you how the curriculum is delivered and strategies which are in place but also what our school development plan is working on this year to improve outcomes for pupils.

Tuesday 17th March

Our second information session for parents this half term will be on **reading**. As one of the most important areas of learning, this session will look at the importance of early reading, Little Wandle Phonics, how reading is taught across KS2 and the importance of parental involvement alongside school and strategies for home to support your child on their reading journey across the school. This session is a **'must'** for parents of children in all year groups and we would welcome as many of you to attend as possible.

Tuesday 21st April

Writing and all the many elements within the teaching of this subject will be the focus for a Parents Information Session to be held in the school hall at 3.30pm on Tuesday 21st April. The session will explain how writing is taught across the school, highlight the national curriculum requirements across the year groups, look at how it is assessed by teaching staff and talk you through what an English writing unit looks like, and the scheme we use. Alongside reading, writing is a key life skill and we would like to support you in ways in which activities at home can help support your child in writing at school.

Woodpecker Class have been learning about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated around the world. We explored some of the traditions linked to the celebration, including family gatherings, special decorations, dragon dances and fireworks. The children enjoyed learning that each year is represented by a different animal from the Chinese zodiac. As part of our celebrations, we tasted noodles and had a go at using chopsticks. The chopsticks were very tricky to use at first, but the children showed fantastic perseverance and determination.



Kingfisher Class had an enjoyable science lesson outside to newly refreshed outdoor learning area this week as the children went out to 'observe' different chimpanzee behaviours. We have been learning about the amazing Jane Goodall and her extensive fieldwork with chimps. We could have almost been in Tanzania's Gombe Stream National Park! And, following with the animal theme, the children have really enjoyed our latest English text '**Big Blue Whale**' by Nicola Davis. It is an incredibly interesting book which will be so useful when the children start to write their own informative texts. Did you know that a baby blue whale drinks 600 litres of milk a day?



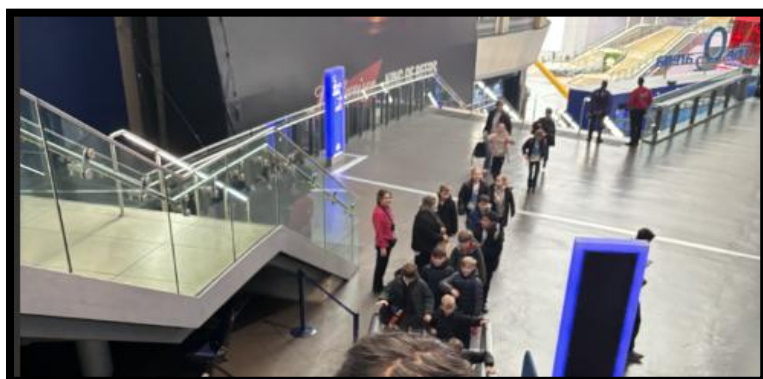
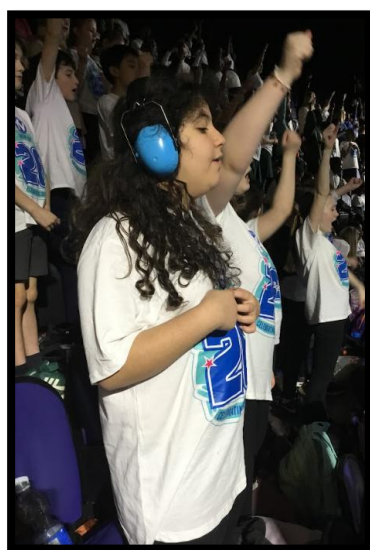
Nightingale Class It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and they have been very enthusiastic about their new topics. In Geography this term they are learning about rainforests, finding out why they are so important to us and where they are in the world. We have also started a new Science topic on 'Electricity and Circuits' and they children were very interested to find out how electricity gets to our homes from power stations. This started a passionate debate about how electrical appliances make such a positive difference to our lives but the concern over the impact on the environment. It was lovely to hear them discussing this so passionately. The children really enjoyed a promise of spring on Wednesday, when the sun was shining and Nightingale were able to enjoy reading the class book with Mr Sanders in our outside learning area.



Robin Class we have had a very creative first week back! In English we started our new narrative unit on the story '*Leon and the Place Between*'. The children have really enjoyed the magical theme; they have worked hard on evaluating the language the author uses and describing how it appeals to the senses. We have also been busy creating bird feeders for our outside area, we used orange skins to hold our homemade bird feed mixture and had lots of fun using our hands and getting very messy. In Geography, we have enjoyed learning about our new topic, Antarctica. We used lines of longitude and latitude to find countries on a world map and have begun to investigate how the seasons change across the hemispheres. The children agreed that after Wednesday's lovely weather that they wished we were located much closer to the Equator!



Skylark Class have had a fantastic start to the new half term. We've been exploring three different books by Charlotte Guillain; *'The Street Beneath My Feet'*, *'The Skies Above My Eyes'* and *'The Sea Below My Toes'*. They are all wonderfully informative and illustrated information texts that are inspiring us to write our own non-chronological reports about the world around us. We've also started a new Geography topic based on the question, 'Where Does Our Energy Come From?' We've been finding out about different sources of renewable and non-renewable energy and have put our mapping skills to the test, mapping out different energy trade routes around the world. The highlight of the week was on Tuesday though, when we visited the O2 arena in London, to take part in the Young Voices Choir. It was such a special, memorable event and it was an absolute joy to see the children performing the songs and dances in the evening concert.





WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance this week

92.75%

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 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. Any orders placed after this time may not be accepted.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Woodpecker
Emily

Kingfisher
Bertie

Skylark
William



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

Woodpecker

Lily for showing such a wonderful interest in writing and for always being excited to mark make and share ideas.

Emily for explaining new vocabulary with such amazing detail and confidence.

Nightingale

Kit for a positive attitude to all lessons and making good progress in maths with conversions and perimeter.

Kingfisher

Dougie for his marvellous sentence writing about blue whales.

Joshua for his excellent attitude to learning.

Robin

Jasper for his kind, considerate and helpful nature with classroom jobs and friendships.

Skylark

Wilfred for a great first week and settling in so well.

Henry for his positive attitude and fantastic teamwork

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Skylark - For the whole class, for their amazing behaviour on Tuesday during our Young Voices Choir trip to the O2.

READING AWARDS

Woodpecker

Esme

Nightingale

Hunter

Kingfisher

Margaux

Robin

Will M

Skylark

Sebastian

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTAR AWARD

Raf for great effort and improvement in his times tables this week.



NOTICE BOARD

WHAT IS THE FPSA?

THE FPSA IS A REGISTERED CHARITY RUN BY A COMMITTEE OF PARENTS AND STAFF WHO ARRANGE SOCIAL EVENTS AND RAISE MONEY TO ENHANCE THE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE OF OUR CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL. OUR SUPPORT CAN BE SEEN THROUGH PURCHASING NEW EQUIPMENT, EDUCATIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, BOOKS & TRAINING.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

TALK TO YOUR CLASS REP AND SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP.

COME ALONG TO THE NEXT FPSA MEETING ON MONDAY 9TH MARCH 7.30PM @ THE BLACK HORSE AND JUST LISTEN TO SEE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER OR CONTRIBUTE YOUR SKILLS IN ANYWAY.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND KNOWLEDGE WITH US.

SUPPORT OUR EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY 9TH MARCH – BAG2SCHOOL

MONDAY 9TH MARCH – FPSA COMMITTEE MEETING, 7.30PM @ THE BLACK HORSE

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH – SCHOOL DISCO 5.30-7PM. TICKETS ARE £5 AND CAN BE PURCHASED ON ARBOR UNTIL 12 NOON ON THE DAY OR CASH AT THE DOOR.

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH – EASTER TRAIL FOR THE CHILDREN AT SCHOOL.

FROZEN FRIDAY ICE LOLLY SALES. WILL START AFTER SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 17TH APRIL AND RUN EACH FRIDAY FOR THE SUMMER TERM. £1 EACH.

FUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE EASTER 2025

LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

PANTOMIME

SET OF ATLASES

PICTURE NEWS SUBSCRIPTION

WELCOME BEARS FOR NEW STARTERS

LEAVERS HOODIES FOR YEAR 6

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID TRAINING FOR STAFF

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CLASS REPS

WOODPECKER – RACHAEL ROBINSON

KINGFISHER – SARAH KAUFMAN

NIGHTINGALE – HEIDI SMITH

ROBIN – SARAH KAUFMAN

SKYLARK – HEIDI SMITH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 9TH MARCH 7.30PM @ THE BLACK HORSE



CONTACT US

YOU CAN CONTACT US ON:

FPSA@FURNEUXP.HERTS.SCH.UK OR VIA YOUR CLASS REP

MENU w/c 2ND March 2026		DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES	
Day	Menu		
Monday	Quorn Hotdog (v) Red Margherita Wrap (v) Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) Blue	Monday 2 nd March	Secondary allocation day
			Maths Homework Club 3.30 – 4.15pm
		Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
		Monday 9 th March	Bags to School Collection
Tuesday	Pork Sausages & Gravy Red Roasted Butternut Squash Curry (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue	Tuesday 10 th March	Parents Information Session 3.30pm Hall: Teaching and Learning
		Thursday 12 th March	Collective Worship St. Mary's Church 1pm – parents welcome to join
		Friday 13 th March	Y6 Health Questionnaires
		Tuesday 17 th March	Parents Information Session 3.30pm Hall: Reading
Wednesday	Roast Beef & Gravy Red Roast Quorn Fillet (Ve) with Stuffing & Gravy Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) Blue	Thursday 26 th March	Easter Service St. Mary's Church
		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
		Tuesday 21 st April	Parents Information Session 3.30pm Hall: Writing
Thursday	Chicken Curry Red Bean & Vegetable Grill (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo Blue	Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
		Monday 11 th May	SATs Week Year 6
		Monday 18 th May	Skylark Activity Week
Friday	Fish Fillet Fingers Red Margherita Pizza (v) Green Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (v) Blue	Tuesday 19 th May	Crucial Crew
		Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th May	Half Term
		Wednesday 3 rd June	Bags2 School Collection
		Wednesday 24 th June	Sports Day
		Wednesday 1 st July	Reserve Sports Day
		Tuesday 7 th July	KS2 Faith Tour
		Monday 20 th July	FPSA Summer Disco
		Tuesday 21 st July	Leavers Service 2pm Church
Wednesday 22 nd July	END of TERM		
Thursday 23 rd July	INSET DAY		

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

- PLEASE NOTE THE BAGS TO SCHOOL DATE HAS CHANGED AND WILL NOW TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH.

FREE BIKE REPAIRS

DROP IN OR BOOK A SLOT AT
WWW.DR-BIKE.CO.UK/BOOK-A-SERVICE-CONTACT/

STEVENAGE - SAT 28 MARCH 10-5

WARE - SAT 25 APRIL 10-5

WGC - SAT 23 MAY 10-5

WARE - SAT 27 JUNE 10-5

STEVENAGE - SAT 25 JULY 10-5

WGC - SAT 8 AUG 10-5



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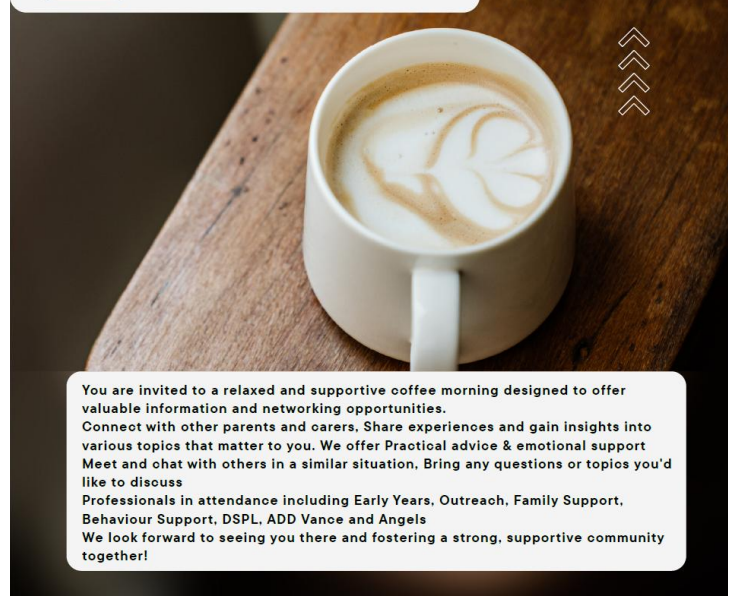

Hertfordshire

DSPL3 Parent Coffee Morning, 18th March,
St Catherines School, Ware, SG12 0AW

DSPL3 Delivering Special
Provision Locally



10.00 - 11.30



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. We offer 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, ADD Vance and Angels
We look forward to seeing you there and fostering a strong, supportive community together!


ASPECTS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO LEARNING AND WELLBEING

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We offer a support service to vulnerable children and their families in your school, helping them through some of life's tough challenges. We aim to remove barriers to education and wellbeing.

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