



Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

Newsletter

Autumn Term

4th September 2026

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Community and Responsibility

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all our families for the new academic year, and an especially warm welcome to our new families who are joining our school community for the first time. It has been wonderful to see our children return this week with such enthusiasm, excitement and readiness to learn. There has been a wonderfully happy start to the term, and it has been lovely to hear the chatter and laughter of the children around school once again.

Our teachers have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming their classes back, and there has already been lots of learning taking place. We are establishing routines, getting to know our new classes and settling back into the rhythm of school life. The first few weeks of the school year are incredibly important for children. After the long summer break, children need time to rebuild relationships, reconnect with their friends, establish routines, begin their learning and enjoy socialising together again. These early weeks lay the foundations for a successful year, both academically and socially, which is why being in school every day really does matter.

A Warm Welcome from Our Church Community

A huge thank you to Rev'd Lynn, Sarah Kaufman and our wonderful church community, who kindly provided welcome-back cakes and coffee yesterday morning. This was such a thoughtful gesture and a lovely way to start the new school year. Everyone is very welcome to join us — and yes, this includes well-behaved dogs! We are hoping to move this to a Friday once a month so that as many of you as possible can come along for a chat and a coffee after drop-off. Dates will be shared with you shortly. We hope this will become a lovely opportunity for families to get to know one another and strengthen the sense of community that makes our school so special.

Reading at Home

This year, we are having a particularly big push on the importance of reading. Reading regularly with your child has such a significant impact on their vocabulary, comprehension, confidence and overall learning. Please make sure that you read with your child **at least three times each week** and remember to log this on **Learning with Parents**. It is especially important that this continues up until the end of Year 6, as reading aloud is a different skill to reading in your head. It allows to discuss the plot, pick up on unfamiliar and new vocabulary as their book become more challenging and ensuring that they understand what they are reading. Please log this on Learning with Parents (which is very quick and easy). This enables teachers to celebrate your child's efforts and award Dojo points for home reading. Even a short reading session makes a difference, so please make reading part of your regular family routine.

Welcoming New Staff

We are delighted to welcome some new members of staff to our school team this term. We are particularly pleased to welcome Miss Ashton, who is our Kingfisher Class Teacher from Monday to Thursday and Miss French, who will be teaching Kingfisher Class on Fridays and already knows the children well. Kingfisher Class has been a hive of activity and learning this week as we begin our new continuous provision for the children. It has been wonderful to see them exploring, learning and settling into their new routines.



Our Reception and Nursery children have also made a fantastic start. They have been superstars with their new routines and have settled wonderfully. This afternoon, they have enjoyed some special Buddy time with their older Buddies, which has been a lovely opportunity for them to build relationships across the school.

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your efforts in getting children ready for the new school year, including new uniforms and all of the little things that help children arrive feeling prepared and confident. They are looking very smart!

A Reminder About Hair Accessories

We are still seeing some large hair accessories being worn in school. Although they may look lovely, these are not part of our school uniform and can unfortunately be unsafe, distracting or uncomfortable for children during the school day. Please therefore keep hair accessories simple and in line with our uniform expectations. Simple hair ties and small, practical accessories are ideal. Thank you for your support with this.

The Importance of Attendance

Finally, I would like to speak about attendance, as unfortunately our attendance this week has been very low, with a significant number of families still away on holiday. As I have mentioned above, these first few weeks are some of the most important of the school year. Missing school at this point can have a negative impact on children in a number of ways. They can miss important teaching and learning, fall behind in core subjects, miss opportunities to establish routines and friendships, and sometimes begin to feel less confident or more disadvantaged in their learning. We understand that holidays and family time are important and that the cost of holidays outside of term time can be significantly higher. However, schools cannot authorise term-time holidays unless there are exceptional or mitigating circumstances.

The school year consists of just **39 weeks out of a possible 52**, and even those 39 weeks are not full working weeks. There is therefore plenty of opportunity for families to take holidays and enjoy time together during the school breaks and on a weekend.

The government has placed clear legal requirements on schools and families in relation to attendance this year, due to the significant increases in absences from school nationally. We also have a legal duty to know where children are during the school day and why they are absent and our Admin staff will be in contact with you if an absence is not reported. Where attendance falls below the expected level, this may result in involvement from the local authority Attendance Officer and, where appropriate, penalty notices applied. Families may receive fines where there are **10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence (equivalent to five school days)**.

We want to work with our families, not against you. If your child is experiencing difficulties that are affecting their attendance, please speak to us. We will always try to understand the circumstances and identify ways in which we can support you. Where persistent absence becomes a concern and falls below 90%, we may invite you into school to discuss your child's attendance and how we can help.

We also recognise that since the pandemic, working from home has made it easier for families to keep children at home when they are slightly unwell. However, please remember that we can administer Calpol where appropriate and, if we feel that your child is not well enough to remain in school, we will contact you.

Of course, there are times when children are genuinely too unwell to attend school, and we absolutely understand this. Our request is simply that children attend school whenever they are well enough to do so.

Every day really does count. Being in school regularly gives children the best opportunity to learn, make progress, develop confidence, enjoy friendships and feel a strong sense of belonging.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We are looking forward to a wonderful autumn term filled with learning, laughter, friendships and new experiences. It has been a joy to welcome everyone back, and we are excited about the year ahead!

Have a lovely weekend,

Sarah Cook
Headteacher

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance this week **92.8%**

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. **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. Orders placed after this time may not be accepted.**

MENU w/c 7th September 2026

Day	Menu
Monday	Chicken Curry Red Plant based sausages and gravy (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo Blue
Tuesday	Plant Based Meatballs with Tomato Sauce (Ve) Red Mac n Cheese(v) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue
Wednesday	Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy Red Quorn Fillet with Stuffing & Gravy (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Beans & Cheese (v) Blue
Thursday	Chicken Pie & Gravy(v) Red Mild Bean Chilli (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) Blue
Friday	Battered Fish Red Margherita Pizza (v) Green Jacket Potato with Beans & Cheese (v) Blue

Thursday 10th September	Meet the Teacher (Woodpecker)
Monday 14th September	Meet the Teacher (Nightingale)
Tuesday 15th September	Meet the Teacher (Skylark)
Thursday 17th September	Meet the Teacher (Kingfisher)
Monday 21st September	Individual Photos
Wednesday 7th October	Flu Vaccinations
Mon 26th – Fri 30th October	Half Term
Monday 9th October	Bags 2 School
	Bikeability week
Thursday 26th November	Decorating Day
Friday 27th November	Occasional Day
Friday 4th December	FPSA Christmas Fair
Friday 18th December	Term ends at 1.30 pm

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

- Meet the Teacher timings have been sent out on Class Dojo this week. We would welcome you to attend, even if your child's teacher has not changed as there will be new information to share with you. If you are unable to attend, the teachers will put the information onto Class Dojo after the meeting. We look forward to seeing you then.



Parenting Support

Family Toolkit



Free

Session Details

Thursday 17th Sept - 15th Oct
09:15 - 11:00
Doors open at 9am
Avanti Brook Primary School, CM23 2UW

For families with children 2 to 5 years old. 5 week workshops to support school transitions, learn new ideas and strategies for children's emotions and behaviour. Supporting you to get the best out of family life. **Booking is required!**

MORE INFORMATION: hertsfamilycentres.org CALL US ON 0300 123 7572

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Here for communities
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CONFIDENCE



PURPOSE



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 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

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

FPSA COMMITTEE MEETING – 29TH APRIL, 7.30PM AT THE BREWERY TAP

BAG2SCHOOL – 3RD JUNE 2026

FURENUX PELHAM SUMMER FETE – SATURDAY 6TH JUNE, 1-5PM IN THE SCHOOL FIELD.

SCHOOL DISCO – MONDAY 20TH JULY 5.30-7PM

RECENT FUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

PICTURE NEWS SUBSCRIPTION

36 MONTH FFT READING SUBSCRIPTION

FUNDING TOWARDS THE SWIMMING COACHES

CONTACT US

YOU CAN CONTACT US ON:

FPSA@FURNEUXP.HERTS.SCH.UK

OR VIA YOUR CLASS REP

PAYROLL GIVING

A tax effective way of making regular donations straight from your pay. Allowing the tax you would have paid on your contribution to be donated to the Furneux Pelham School Association.

YOUR DONATION	COST TO YOU	
	standard rate tax payer	higher rate tax payer
£5	£4	£5
£10	£8	£10
£20	£16	£20

Charity Number - 1056440

We would be grateful for donations of Adult or Children's books.

CLASS REPS

WOODPECKER – RACHAEL ROBINSON

KINGFISHER – SARAH KAUFMAN

NIGHTINGALE – HEIDI SMITH¹

ROBIN – SARAH KAUFMAN

SKYLARK – HEIDI SMITH



NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL 7.30PM @ THE BREWERY TAP