



Roots to grow,  
Wings to soar

# Newsletter

Autumn Term

18<sup>th</sup> September 2026

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

### Value: Community and Responsibility

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm afraid this week's newsletter is a little less detailed than usual, as you are aware that I have been absent from school this week. My mum required emergency, life-saving surgery in the US and I have been with her and my family during what has been a very difficult and worrying time for us. I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who has sent such kind messages, thoughts and good wishes this week. They have meant so much to me and my family and I am incredibly grateful for the support and kindness shown.

Although I have been a distance away, I have been checking in regularly with school and doing as much as I can from afar to keep up to date with everything. It has been lovely to hear all that has been going on in school this week.

I would like to give my thanks to all the staff in school who have juggled an incredibly busy week to ensure that everything has continued to run smoothly in my absence, although I am not surprised it has with a great team! I would especially like to thank Ms Todd and Mrs Newman for their tremendous help and support throughout the week having added to their already busy days. I am very hopeful that I will be back in school on Monday and I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone again and getting back to school life.

Thank you again for your kindness, understanding and support.

Have a lovely weekend,

Sarah Cook  
Headteacher

**Woodpecker Class:** The children have continued to settle well into school life and have been developing a good understanding of our daily routines and expectations. This week, we started phonics. The children have been introduced to new sounds and have taken part in a range of fun activities to help them recognise, remember and practise them. We have also been developing our personal, social and emotional skills by practising sharing, turn-taking and cooperation. The children worked together to complete puzzles, taking turns, sharing resources and helping one another. This provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their communication and teamwork skills.

**Kingfisher Class:** Another great week of learning in Kingfisher Class! The children have been creating posters in English on what makes a good friend, including the use of captions and speech bubbles. Once complete, these will be up on display next week along with the fact files on ourselves that we will be starting on Monday. In maths, year 1s have been securing their understanding of number by counting forwards and backwards. Year 2s have been continuing to partition numbers, moving onto flexible partitioning. In Art, we have been exploring the use of sketching techniques and colour mixing/matching in preparation for our self-portraits. Thank you to anyone who kindly donated toys and resources for our learning, the children have been so excited to enrich their environment!

**Nightingale Class:** this week in English, Nightingale have been developing their descriptive writing skills by creating detailed settings using their five senses. They have explored how sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures can help bring a setting to life for the reader. The class has also been learning about the importance of using adverbs to add extra detail and make their sentences more engaging and interesting. I have been impressed by the imaginative ideas and thoughtful vocabulary the children have used in their writing. In Art, the children have made a fantastic start on their annual self-portraits. They have been learning about facial proportions and discovering how our faces follow mathematical patterns and measurements. Using these skills, the children have carefully observed their own features and begun creating detailed and accurate portraits. We look forward to sharing the finished artwork with you later in the term!

**Skylark Class:** Skylark have continued to enjoy our English writing and Science lessons on 'Space' this week. The children have been really enjoying researching and writing about the planets in our Solar System. In History, we have been finding out about the Battle of Britain. We have been learning about the impact on the Royal Air Force and have been listening to some fascinating oral recounts from former fighter pilots. We have also had a lot of fun starting to learn the different parts for the pop song, 'Happy' in our Music lessons.



Woodpecker

Kingfisher

Nightingale

Skylark

Beth



### ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

#### Woodpecker

**Teddy B** for demonstrating a positive and happy attitude when arriving at school and showing excellent independence by dressing himself after PE.

**Nora** for making a great start in phonics.

#### Nightingale

**Finley** for perseverance with his handwriting and general presentation.

**Hunter** for excellent contribution and enthusiasm in our maths lesson about place value.

#### Kingfisher

**Iris** for working hard and demonstrating fantastic learning behaviour.

**Ivy** for being a fantastic role model in her attitude towards learning.

#### Skylark

**Caitlyn** for settling into Skylark brilliantly.

**Isabella R** for her fantastic attitude towards learning.

### HEADTEACHER AWARD

Will return next week.

### READING AWARDS

Woodpecker

Kai

Kingfisher

Louis and Margaux

Nightingale

Archie

Skylark

Will M

### CREATIVE AWARD

Will return next week.

### WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance this week 93.3%

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 21st September 2026 |                                                                                                                                              |                                                     |                                     |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Day                          | Menu                                                                                                                                         |                                                     |                                     |
| Monday                       | Pork Sausages & Gravy<br><b>Red</b><br>Lentil Bolognese Pasta Shells (Ve) <b>Green</b><br>Jacket Potato with Beans & Cheese (Ve) <b>Blue</b> | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September                   | Meet the Teacher (Nightingale)      |
| Tuesday                      | Beef Lasagne <b>Red</b><br>Plant Based Grill (Ve) <b>Green</b><br>Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) <b>Blue</b>                           | Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September                  | Meet the Teacher (Skylark)          |
| Wednesday                    | Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Gravy <b>Red</b><br>Cheese & Tomato Puff Pastry Tart (v) <b>Green</b><br>Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo <b>Blue</b>  | Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September                   | Individual Photos                   |
| Thursday                     | Quorn Burger (v) <b>Red</b><br>Butternut & Chickpea Biryani (Ve) <b>Green</b><br>Jacket Potato with Beans & Cheese (v) <b>Blue</b>           | Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September                 | Meet the Teacher (Kingfisher)       |
| Friday                       | Fish Fillet Fingers <b>Red</b><br>Margherita Pizza (v) <b>Green</b><br>Jacket Potato with Beans (Ve) <b>Blue</b>                             | Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October                   | Flu Vaccinations                    |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October                   | Harvest Festival 2pm - all welcome  |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October                   | Skylark class trip – IWM Duxford    |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> October | Half Term                           |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November                     | Reception Open Morning 9.30 – 11 am |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November                     | Bags 2 School                       |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November                     | Bikeability week                    |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November                  | Decorating Day (KS1 am, KS2 pm)     |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November                    | Occasional Day                      |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December                     | FPSA Christmas Fair                 |
|                              |                                                                                                                                              | Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December                    | Term ends at 1.30 pm                |

## NOTICES AND INFORMATION

- Thank you to all parents that have very kindly donated tissues. Please feel free to send in at any time during the term as all donations very gratefully received.
- Individual photos are taking place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**Hertfordshire Family Centre Service**

**Parenting Support**

**Family Toolkit**



Free

**Session Details**  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept - 15<sup>th</sup> 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

**YMCA** here for young people  
here for communities  
here for you

Co-sponsored by  
Hertfordshire  
County Council

Hertfordshire

**Apply for school on time**



**Applying for a school place for September 2027**

Secondary/Upper/Studio/University Technical College  
Application deadline: Saturday 31 October 2026

Primary (Reception)/Junior/Middle  
Application deadline: Friday 15 January 2027

Apply online at  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

Hertfordshire

**RP. PERFORMANCE and coaching**

**FURNEUX PELHAM NEW DANCE & THEATRE CLUB**  
WEDNESDAYS 3:15-4:20PM

Build confidence, learn Dance Skills and Grow through a Supportive and Positive Class, lead and designed by Founder Rimini!

- Dance and Musical Theatre Training
- Builds Confidence, Friendships and Creativity
- Shows and Performance Opportunities

**Furneux Pelham C of E School**  
DANCE AND MUSICAL THEATRE CLUB  
3:15-4:20



**BOOK YOUR FREE TASTER SPACE TODAY!**

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[rperformance.uk](http://rperformance.uk)



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**OCTOBER HALF TERM**  
**FURNEUX PELHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
SG9 0LH  
9AM-3PM  
£25 PER DAY OR £45 FOR X2 DAYS

**TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER FOOTBALL CAMP**  
**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER MULTI SPORTS**  
Please bring a packed lunch, plenty of water and shin pads if participating in football camp.



**CLIFF DEVONSHIRE TENNIS**  
COACHING THROUGH SPORT

**DISCOVER TENNIS**

New to tennis?  
Start here.

**6-WEEK INTRODUCTORY COURSE**

**FOR CHILDREN BORN IN 2018**

**MONDAYS 4.00 - 5.00PM**

**STANDON & PUCKERIDGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

**COURSE £35**

**BOOK YOUR PLACE**



**NEW PLAYERS RACKET + BALLS £4.99\***

\*When registering for LTA Advantage. Highbridge applies. Racket pictured for illustration purposes only; racket supplied may vary.

**CONFIDENCE** **PURPOSE**

