



Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

Newsletter

Autumn Term

9th October 2026

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Community and Responsibility

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy week in school, and I have been delighted to see so many wonderful things happening across our school community. Unfortunately, we are currently averaging **10% of pupils absent from school each day** and many of these absences are not illness related. This is a significant concern, as regular attendance is essential for your child's learning, progress and overall educational development. Please ensure that your child attends school every day unless they are genuinely unwell or there is another unavoidable reason for absence. We strongly urge parents and carers to avoid booking holidays during term time, as the impact of missed learning on your child's education can be substantial.

Reporting Absences

Parents and carers are required to contact the school office **on every day that their child is absent**, providing a reason for the absence. We have a legal duty to monitor attendance, maintain accurate records and ensure that absences are appropriately reported and recorded. Your support and cooperation are vital in helping us improve attendance and ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed. Thank you for your support in making school attendance a priority.

Schol Council – Making a Difference

This week, our School Council had the opportunity to present their fundraising idea to the whole school. They are hoping to raise enough money, as a school, to make a monthly donation to World Vision for a whole year, with the aim of sponsoring a child and helping to provide them with a healthier and safer life. Once we have started the sponsorship programme, we will be able to receive regular updates and messages, helping our children to learn about the changes taking place in the life of the child we sponsor and within their wider community.

The children have also been thinking about what they would like to learn as part of this project, with the idea being that they develop a new skill along the way. I am really looking forward to seeing how they get on and hearing all about the ideas they come up with. A huge thank you to Ms Todd for supporting the School Council with this fantastic initiative.

Thank You, Miss Day and Mrs Day

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a very heartfelt thank you to Miss Day and Mrs Day for everything they have done for Tea Timers over the years. They have been wonderful in nurturing our children and have provided them with so many fantastic opportunities, including encouraging them to enter art competitions and celebrating their creativity and talents. We are incredibly grateful for all of their hard work, care and dedication.

Thankfully, this isn't a complete goodbye! Miss Day will remain in Woodpecker Class, so we will continue to see her every day. Mrs Day is caring for her family, but we are hoping that we will still see her on school trips and helping from time to time too. Tea Timers will now be run each day by Miss Mace and Miss Hedges and I know they will continue to provide the children with lots of care.

Fantastic Writing and Maths

I have seen some fantastic writing across the school this week, and I have been so delighted to see the progression and growing confidence already, so early in the school year. It is wonderful to see children becoming increasingly confident in sharing their ideas, choosing vocabulary and developing their writing skills. Please do continue to encourage your children to talk about their writing and celebrate their efforts at home.

I was also lucky enough to teach Year 6 maths this week and was hugely impressed with how confident they were at long division. Long division is never an easy strategy to master. It takes time, careful thinking and lots of practice, particularly when it involves listing multiples and keeping track of the many different operations required. However, our Year 6 children were flying. They showed fantastic resilience and determination, and it was a pleasure to see them applying their knowledge so confidently.

Eco-Council Competition

Finally, please have a look at the competition information below, which is being run by our Eco-Council.

The children are being invited to design a banner asking drivers to slow down near our school. This is a really important message for our whole community, and we are looking forward to seeing the children's creative ideas and designs.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been lovely to see such a positive start to the school year, and I am looking forward to another busy and exciting week ahead.

Have a lovely weekend,

Sarah Cook
Headteacher



Date for the Diary – Parents' Coffee Morning at St. Mary's

St. Mary's are delighted to be planning our first Parents' Coffee Morning on **Friday 16th October**, from **8.45am–10.30am**. All parents, carers and grandparents are very welcome and even well-behaved dogs! It will be a lovely opportunity to come together, have a chat and get to know other members of our school community. We would love to see as many of you as possible, so please do pop in for a coffee and a catch-up.

Every blessing, Rev'd Lynn.

Woodpecker Class

This week, we have been learning all about Harvest! The children have enjoyed finding out where our food comes from, talking about different fruits and vegetables, and exploring the idea of farmers harvesting crops. It has been wonderful to see the children use what they have learnt and apply it within their play. We have also seen lots of wonderful writing opportunities taking place. In the mornings, the children have been completing Busy Fingers activities which help them to develop their fine motor skills, hand strength and coordination. The children have been enjoying activities such as turning jumpers the correct way and finding the correct key to unlock a lock. These activities may seem simple, but they provide valuable opportunities for children to practise using their fingers and hands with increasing control and precision. Developing these skills supports children with everyday tasks such as dressing themselves, using tools and equipment, and developing the control needed for writing.



Kingfisher Class

Kingfishers have been very active this week, using mats, benches, hoops, beanbags and tyres to create their very own obstacle course in their outside learning area! We've been getting creative with nature by making 3d natural art and printing leaves! We made a start on addition and subtraction this week, by both year groups exploring 'fact families'. In writing, we have been looking at describing characters by creating 'lost' posters for poor Peter Puffin's friend Paul! We have finalised applying all of their fantastic art skills into their portraits this week, ready to go up in the hall alongside the other classes- don't they all look great?



Thursday 8th October
LO: To describe characters



LOST!
Paul is a little penguin.
He has byotast feathers
with a shiny orange beak and
He has orange webbed feet
but He is not a penguin or
a toucan.



Nightingale Class

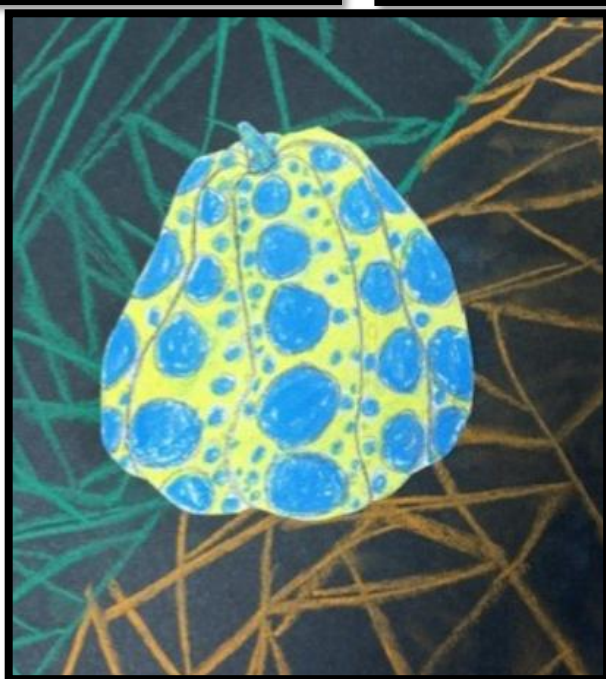
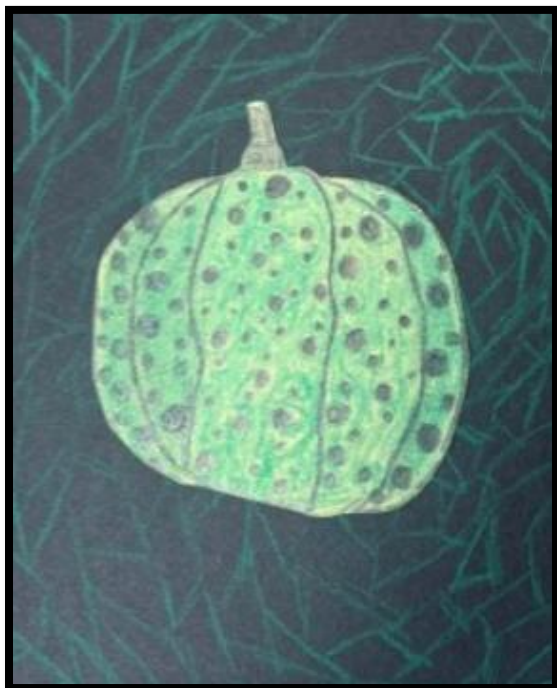
Nightingale have been working incredibly hard on their own stories inspired by *Mini Rabbit Not Lost* this week. I have been so impressed by the imaginative ideas, creative characters and exciting adventures the children have come up with. There have been some lovely pieces of writing, and it has been wonderful to see them putting so much effort into bringing their stories to life! Meanwhile, we have been getting our hands dirty in History as we explore the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt. The children have been learning about the process of mummification and the Ancient Egyptians' beliefs about the afterlife – and what better way to investigate this than by mummifying tomatoes! And the key ingredients to preserving them? Salt and bicarbonate of soda. We look forward to reporting back on how they are looking in a few weeks' time.



Skylark Class

We have started a new English topic this week in Skylark and have been enjoying finding out more about the genre of suspense writing. We have read a selection of short, spooky stories and have been reflecting on the authors' use of setting description, figurative language and character, to help to create atmosphere and build tension. In RE, the children wrote some fantastic harvest themed prayers, in preparation for our Harvest Festival next week. In our PSHE lessons this half term, we are finding out about supporting our minds and bodies as we grow. We had an interesting lesson this week, learning more about the traffic light system on food labels and the children were very surprised to find out which foods were high in sugar, that they had previously presumed were healthy for them. Another highlight this week has been our focus on Black History Month. We explored the work of the artist, Yayoi Kusama, finding out more about her difficult journey to fame and exploring a range of her works. We then recreated one of her pumpkin pictures, using pastels and paper to create our own collage drawings.





WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance this week – **89%**

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 ether 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.**



Woodpecker

Kingfisher

Nightingale

Skylark

Joshua

Sam



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

Woodpecker

Ruby for having a positive attitude towards learning and following the classroom rules and expectations.

Bella for engaging and imaginative role play in the home corner.

Nightingale

Reinhardt for his exceptionally neat handwriting and the efforts he makes to always present his work well.

Lily for the hard work she has been putting in to learn her spellings.

Kingfisher

Emilia for starting to show confidence in all her learning this week.

Bertie for great focus on his learning this week, particularly in maths and art.

Skylark

George C for his super, expressive reading.

Wilfred for his fantastic story writing.

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Albie - he is only in Nursery yet spends such a long time in the writing area, mark making and having a go at writing. He is becoming secure in forming the letter, a.

Emile for being such a caring member of the class who goes out of his way to help everyone. He always makes the right choices and retains everything that he learns.

Year 6 for their amazing progress with long division.

Lucas for superb progress in his English writing.

READING AWARDS

Woodpecker

Max

Kingfisher

Iris

Nightingale

Ruby

Skylark

Oscar

CREATIVE AWARD

Hanna for her superb skills in art.

MENU w/c 14th October 2026		Thursday 15 th October	Harvest Festival 2pm - all welcome
Day	Menu	Friday 16 th October	Parent's Coffee morning 8.45 – 10 am St Mary's Church
Monday	Pork Sausages & Gravy Red Lentil Bolognese Pasta Shells (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Beans & Cheese (Ve) Blue	Monday 19 th October	Parent Consultations 1.30 – 6pm
Tuesday	Beef Lasagne Red Plant Based Grill (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue	Thursday 22 nd October	Skylark class trip – IWM Duxford
Wednesday	Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Gravy Red Cheese & Tomato Puff Pastry Tart (v) Green Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo Blue	Mon 26 th – Fri 30 th October	Half Term
Thursday	Quorn Burger (v) Red Butternut & Chickpea Biryani (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Beans & Cheese (v) Blue	Saturday 31 st October	Secondary admissions deadline
Friday	Fish Fillet Fingers Red Margherita Pizza (v) Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) Blue	Friday 6 th November	Reception Open Morning 9.30 – 11 am
		Monday 9 th November	Bags 2 School
		Monday 9 th November	Bikeability week
		Thursday 26 th November	Decorating Day (KS1 am, KS2 pm) FPSA Disco 5.30pm
		Friday 27 th November	Occasional Day
		Tuesday 1 st December	Reception Class trip to Audley End
		Friday 4 th December	FPSA Christmas Fair
		Monday 14 th December	Panto @ South Mill Arts
		Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Lunch
		Friday 18 th December	Term ends at 1.30 pm

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

- FPSA Event – Paint and Sip taking place on Friday 13th November at 7.30 pm.**

Could you help shape the future of our school?

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing Board and are looking for a parent or carer to join a supportive and pro-active governing body.

As a Parent Governor, you will play an important role in helping to shape the strategic direction of our school, supporting the Headteacher and leadership team, and ensuring that every child receives the best possible education. It is a rewarding opportunity to develop new skills, gain insight into how schools operate, and make a real contribution to the school community.

If you would like to find out more about the role or receive a nomination form, please contact the school office.



MATT OGILVIE COACHING
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@mattogilviefootballcoaching

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

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



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!

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- Builds Confidence, Friendships and Creativity
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📍 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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rimini@rperformance.uk
rperformance.uk



**Essex Fire Museum
Halloween Open Day**
2026



25th and 27th of October
10:30AM To 4:00PM
Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

Book Now
Free Entry



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

PLAY LEARN MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER!

GUITAR WORKSHOP
FOR KEY STAGE 2 GUITAR PLAYERS

A fun and inspiring workshop for young guitarists to develop their skills, play together and be part of a bigger musical community!

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

MUSIC BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

PLAY TOGETHER BUILD YOUR SKILLS BE INSPIRED

**SATURDAY
24TH OCTOBER 2026
10.00am – 1.00pm**

Bishops Stortford Music Centre
Based in Birchwood High School
Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford
CM23 5BD

Open to guitar players in Key Stage 2 who have been playing for at least one term.

SMALL STEPS BIG MUSIC!

FIND OUT MORE
bstortfordmusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk
01992 556752

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with Hertfordshire Music Service



fab science

PROFESSOR FAB'S
POTIONS CLASS

£38 per child
Sibling discount available

Half term camp
Wednesday 28th October
at Thorn Grove Primary School

Professor Fab and her gaggle of wizarding scientists will help you make colour-changing potions, fizzy explosions, pourable clouds...and even invent your own potion!

Camps run 10am to 3pm and are open to all children aged 5-11 years.
For more information visit the Fab Science website.

BOOK NOW AT: [FABSCIENCE.CLASSFORKIDS.IO](https://fabscience.classforkids.io)

fabscience.co.uk campcoordinator@fabscience.co.uk 01279 295669

