

It's great to have the Year 6s back from PGL. It was obviously a full week, with great experiences and great memories. When the children came back to school the week they have gradually Sarah and Elliot for giving up so much job of supporting the children.



on Monday they looked exhausted and over recovered. A huge thanks to Mr Mallick, of their own time and doing such a great

This week the teachers have had a number of different visitors from Hearts for Learning. They are members of the advisory team that help schools with training. Anne Goroloini, our School Effectiveness Advisor, is focusing on how we work as a team to further develop our curriculum. A lot of work has taken place over the last two terms to update the curriculum and ensure we focus on the key parts of learning that we need children to remember as they progress through the school. To do this for all children is a huge team effort and the advice is timely and useful.

Another advisor has been working with staff on the daily assessment strategies that enable teachers to be aware of which children are taking on the key learning throughout the lesson, we are all keen to make continuous improvements to our work so that all children achieve as well as they can.

Next week we are having our School Council Elections. It will be a learning experience for many and hopefully a positive one as they discover more about democracy through being involved. If some of the children are disappointed with the outcome, please help them to remember that we all value their efforts in taking part and help them as they develop their own resilience.

Thank you for taking part in the childrens mental health day by sending your child in wearing yellow and sending in donations. By taking part we are showing young people they're not alone with their mental health. As it says on the Young MNinds Webpage, Right now, the world can be a tough place for children and young people to grow up in – and they're feeling the pressure. You're helping us raise vital funds to show them things can get better."

Thank you also for the donations that have come in for harvest. These will be gratefully received by The Hertford Pantry



SAFE

We move around school in a safe manner. We follow instructions to keep ourselves safe. We keep hands, feet and uniform tidy to ourselves. We use equipment safely. We stay safe online. We talk to an adult if we feel unsafe.

READY

We wear correct uniform. We arrive at school on time. We have our equipment ready. We show that we are listening and ready to learn.

RESPECT

We listen when others speak and we respect the property of our friends and the school. We have an understanding of others' cultures and beliefs. We respect that everyone has a right to learn.

Type of query	Member of staff to contact
Safeguarding/child protection	Mr Fisher, Mrs Cracknell, Miss Borgeat, Mrs Poole and Mrs Richardson
Any issues relating to your child or another child in the class	Email admin to arrange a meeting, sometimes a phase leader may join this meeting
If you do not feel the issue has been resolved or you may need more advice.	<p>Step 1 Phase Leader</p> <p>EYFS-Miss White Year 1 - 3- Mrs Christman Yea 4 - 6 -Mr Chandler</p> <p>Step 2 Deputy Headteacher Mrs Hannah Cracknell</p> <p>Step 3 Headteacher- Mr Fisher</p>
Inclusion/ Special Educational Needs	Miss Borgeat
Looked After and Previously Looked After Children	Mrs Cracknell
Payments/Finance	Miss Byrne Mrs Tilbury
Admissions	Miss Byrne
Complaints	Please refer to school complaints policy on the <u>website</u> .

Upcoming Events

2025
2026

October

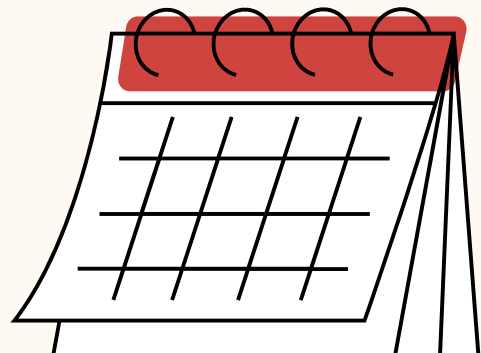
Monday 13th	Y2 School trip - Mountfitchet Castle
Wednesday 15th	Whole school African drumming and dance workshop
Thursday 16th	Nursery, Reception & The Nest - Stay and Play
Thursday 16th	Y4 visit to The Verulamium Museum
Wednesday 22nd	Year 6 Cross Country
Wednesday 22nd	Y5 trip to the Science Museum
Friday 24 th	Tales together
Monday 27 th - Friday 31 st	Half Term

November

Thursday 6th	Open forum with SLT
Tuesday 11th	Year 1 Phonics Stay and Learn
Thursday 13th	Year 6 School trip to Hertford Museum
Friday 14th	EYFS and The Nest Nursery Rhyme Performance
Tuesday 18th	Cinema trip Year 4 / 5 and 6
Wednesday 19th	Cinema trip Reception
Wednesday 19th	Movie morning Nursery and the Nest
Friday 21 st	Inset Day - School closed
Thursday 27th	Cinema trip Year 1 / 2 and 3

December

Thursday 11th	Y6 Carol singing at Carleton Court 7:15pm
Monday 15th	Rock Steady Concert
Friday 19th	Tales together



Christmas Dates



Wednesday 3rd December - Years 1 / 2 and 3 Christmas play. 2pm



Thursday 4th December - Years 1 / 2 and 3 Christmas play. 9am



Friday 5th December - Whole School Pantomime



Monday 8th December - Year 4 / 5 and 6 Carols 2pm



Tuesday 9th December - EYFS and The Nest Sing and Sign 9am



Wednesday 10th - Year 4 / 5 and 6 Carols 9am



Thursday 11th December - Christingle Time to be confirmed

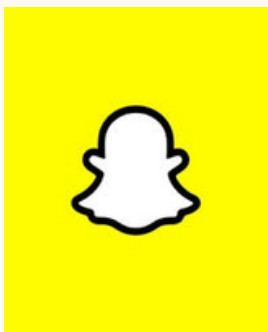


Friday 12th December - Whole School Christmas Dinner

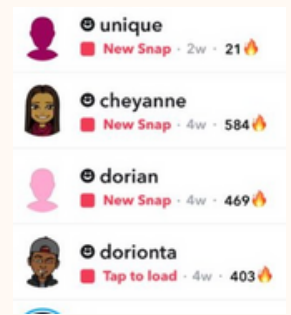


More information will follow
after half term





Online Safety



Snapchat was created in 2011. It still remains a very popular mobile messaging and social media platform with over 900 million active users! It is now accessible from a web browser meaning that children can access it from a tablet or laptop making it harder to monitor. Snapchat is probably best known for sending disappearing photos and videos, called "Snaps," to friends. After three consecutive days of using Snapchat a 'streak' begins. The streak continues to build everyday Snapchat is used. If the user fails to send a snap (message) in a 24 hour period the streak ends! This built in feature easily leads to screen addiction.

Snapchat states that young people under the age of 13 years are not able to create an account. However, there is no strict age verification in place when signing up to the app, meaning children can sign up by giving a false date of birth.

Below is some really helpful advice for parents taken from The National College's most recent factsheet on Snapchat.

For more information about Snapchat please click on the following links:

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB**
Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS**
Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.
- BLOCK AND REPORT**
If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.
- USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

[Internet Matters](#)

[Snapchat Family Safety Hub](#)

NO OUT SIDERS

There are No Outsiders at Hollybush.
Everyone is welcome in our school.
No one is the same, but everyone is equal.

In our assemblies in the last two weeks we have covered:

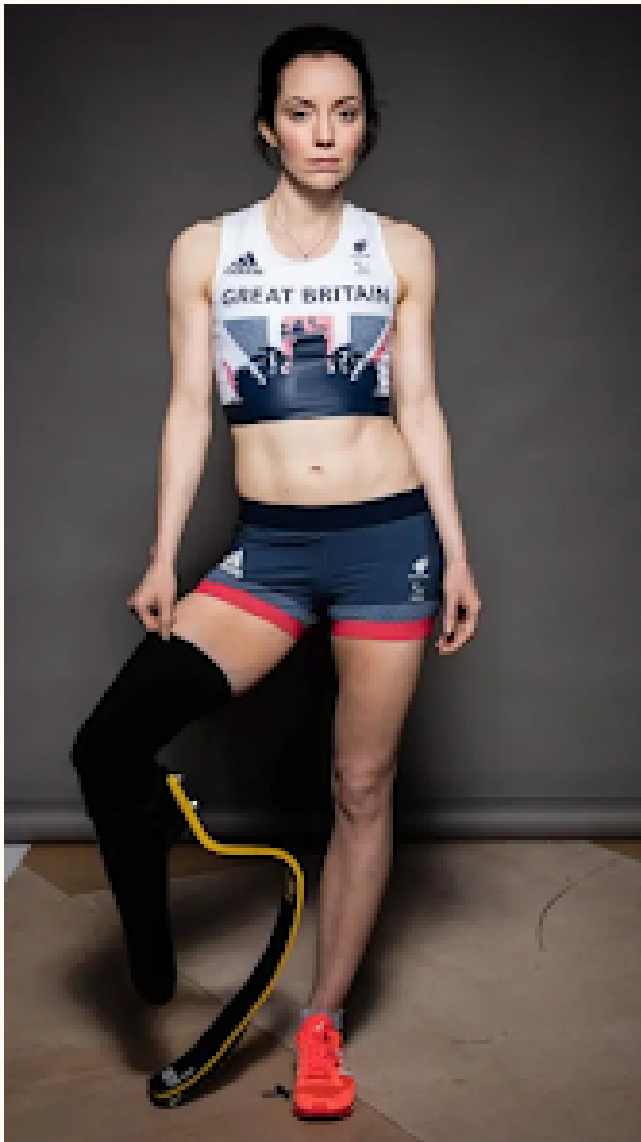


Julian is 6 years old and lives in America, He has lots of things in common with the other children in his class; he particularly loves Super Mario and taekwondo. All the children in his class also have differences and one of the things that makes Julian different is that he has achondroplasia which is a common form of dwarfism. This means he has a different height to most of the other children in his school.

One of the challenges for Julian was lunch time. Julian was struggling to transport his lunch on a tray from the cafeteria to the benches.

The school had an idea; they used an upside down milk crate and a trolley and made Julian a cart to wheel his lunch to his seat.

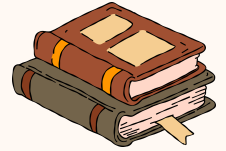
The children had some amazing responses about why this is No Outsiders.



The picture shows Stef Reid who is a world champion Paralympic long jumper and sprinter for Canada and Great Britain. She is a multiple medal winner and also has a MBE.

We learnt about the fact that Stef campaigns for bladed mannequins in sports wear shops.

staff book review



This week Miss Taylor has been reading
A Boggle at BeWILDerwood
by Tom Blofeld

If you love forests full of secrets, strange creatures, and exciting adventures, *A Boggle at BeWILDerwood* is the perfect book to dive into! Written by Tom Blofeld, this story takes you deep into a wild and wonderful woodland where nothing is quite what it seems.

You'll meet Swampy the Boggle, a shy but brave creature who lives in the tangled trees of BeWILDerwood. When Swampy discovers he's not like the other Boggles, he sets off on a journey to find out who he really is. Along the way, he meets quirky characters like the Twiggles, the Thornyclod Spider, and the wise old Scary Fairy. Each one is more intriguing than the last!

The forest setting is magical—full of twisty paths, hidden homes, and mysterious surprises. It's the kind of place you'll wish you could explore yourself. And the best part? The story shows that being different is something to celebrate.

Why You Should Read It:

- It's fun and full of imagination
- The characters are weird and wonderful
- It makes you want to read more stories
- its set in a forest—my favourite place!

So grab a blanket, curl up somewhere cozy, and let BeWILDerwood whisk you away into a world of adventure.

Reading has never been so wild!



Reception

This week we have begun thinking about the big idea, 'How do the seasons change?'. We went on a Autumn hunt around the school grounds. We were very excited to find lots of different Autumn treasures including acorns, conkers, pine cones and leaves of all different shapes, sizes and colours! We have been sharing lots of different Autumn stories together - our favourite so far has been The Leaf Thief by Alice Hemming.



We have made a fantastic start to our reading journey as we have been busy learning our first set of sounds in Read Write Inc. The children have been very enthusiastic each morning to find out what our new sound will be. This week we have begun using the sounds we know to form simple words - we are trying really hard and are doing a great job!

In Maths we have been focusing on numbers to 3. We have been practising our subitising skills so we can recognise these quantities without counting. We have been exploring how different numbers are made and have been learning some important stem sentences to help us:

“1 and another 1 is 2”
“1 and 1 and 1 makes 3”

Year 2



The children have been working really well to adapt to the slightly different timetable now that they are in year 2. In English we have just started to explore our new text, imagining what creatures could be over the mysterious wall so that we can try to describe them to create a warning poster. In maths, we have been developing our understanding of the number system and how numbers are made of tens and ones and using this to estimate on blank number lines. However, the big excitement is around our DT and History lessons learning about castles, where the idea of Motte and Bailey castles came from, how they were built for defence and the similarities and differences with homes today. the children were shocked to find that the toilet was a hole high up in the wall looking out over the sea in one castle picture we looked at.

Year 4

Since last writing Year 4 have been moving on with their learning at a pace. Every morning, we have a chance to 'Recap and Recall' some of our previous learning. Here is one of the questions from Thursday's '4 from Before'. Can you do work out the missing digit?

In our basketball PE lessons, we've been learning how to dribble, pass and shoot. Today, we had some great games in which lots of these skills game together. The children were reminded using the acronym **BEEF**, when shooting to **B**alance, bend their **E**lbow, use their **E**yes to focus on the hoop and **F**ollow through with their arm.

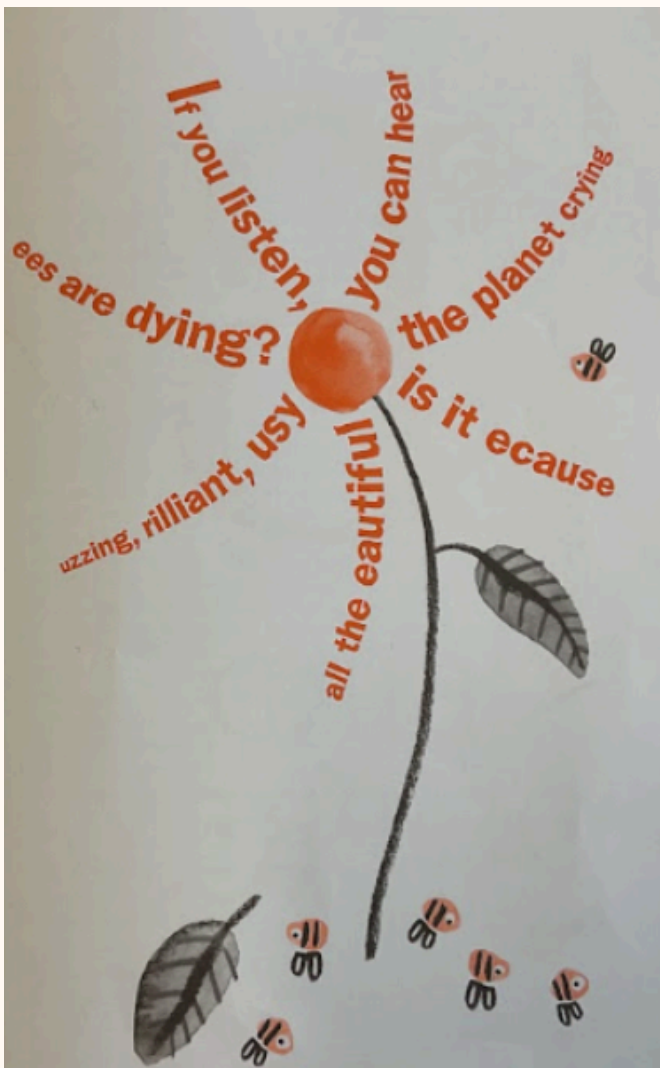
Last Week

2. The sum of the digits of this 4-digit number is 20.

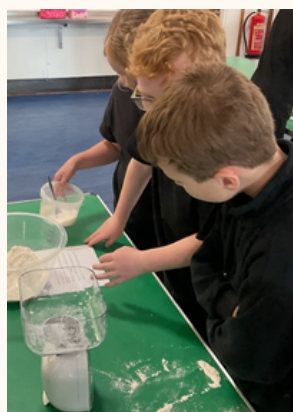
What is the missing number?

735□

In our daily reading comprehension lessons we've been reading and analysing animal shape poems. We all really enjoy today's poem. Well done to Maisie for spotting where the 'Bs' had gone!



Here are a few pics from recent learning - enjoy ...





YEAR

6!



Ok, so we have done so much in year 6 so far that I can't believe its still only the first half term. From making invertebrates from playdough and developing our basketball skills to creating paper sculptures and enjoying our new White Rose maths workbooks. But let's be honest, its all really been about PGL! The kids, Sarah, Elliot and I had such a blast at PGL, Liddington. We lhave earned so much about ourselves and each other through getting outdoors and out of our comfort zones. The children embraced the experience and have made so many memories that it was simply a privelege to be along for the ride. I feel that we have come back as a real year 6 family and will use this to keep ourselves motivated and inspired as we navigate the rest of this important year. Don't forget to check out Instagram to see more pictures of this amazing adventure.

