

Welcome to the start of the Summer Term. With the weather improving, the start of the term has felt very bright. We have a full curriculum including enrichment activities and trips so there is lots to look forward to. During lunchtimes we currently have all the children together using the field, sandpit, small parts construction, forest school and the playground and the use of all that space is working well. There is a great community ethos with children of different ages playing alongside and supporting each other.



Swimming lessons have started for KS2 and the children are doing really well. They walk to the pool (which to some seems a long way, but is good for them). They have been engaging well with the lessons and many have already shown a growth in confidence.

Parking and zig-zags: From next week we will have some signs on the zig-zags to remind everyone to keep them clear. Please also remember to take care when dropping off and collecting children and to show respect to local residents in respect of where and how you park.



The Mayor of Hertford, Councillor Steven Watson came into assembly today. He gave an award of special recognition for environmental awareness to Elizabeth in Year 3 for the work she has done as a member of our School Council in making plans to develop our school site.



Be Kind



Keep Improving



Never Give Up

We are sharing these representations of our new values with you all so that we can promote them throughout the school community.

SAFE

We move around school in a safe manner. We follow instructions to keep ourselves safe. We keep hands, feet and unkind words 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.



Bridge building activity: Last week the children in years 5 and 6 experienced what it would be like to be part of a team building a bridge. In groups, they were given different roles and had to work within these roles to build a bridge. They had to follow guidance and instructions very carefully to ensure that the construction was carried out safely and correctly. When it was complete they had a bridge opening ceremony and were photographed standing on it. It took up most of the school hall and was a truly impressive piece of engineering.



Whilst this was going on, the other half of the class were in their classroom, designing and constructing bridge models out of Knex. Each team had to create a strong bridge. They were tested to find out how much weight they could hold before they came apart. The teams that built the best bridges showed their understanding of the strength of different structures and worked very well together to complete their design.



Have a lovely weekend.
J Fisher

Type of query	Member of staff to contact
Safeguarding/child protection	Mr Fisher, Mrs Cracknell, 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	Mrs Smail
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 2026

April

Monday 27th	Cricket engagement day
Tuesday 28th	Y1 visit to Hertford Museum

May

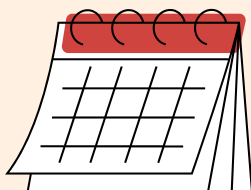
Monday 4 th	May Day Bank Holiday - School closed
Friday 8th	David Attenborough Day (100 th Birthday)
Monday 11th	Egyptian day - Year 3
Monday 11 th - Thursday 14 th	Year 6 - SATS
Thursday 14th	EYFS Stay and Play 8:40 - 9:30
Monday 18th	Class photo's
Monday 18 th - Friday 22nd	Walk to school week
Friday 22nd	Tales Together 8:40 am - Year 1 to Year 6
Friday 22 nd	End of half term finish 3:10 / 3:15 pm
Monday 25 th - Friday 29th	Half term - School closed

June

Friday 12th	Inset day - school closed
Thursday 18th	Y6 Crucial crew at Morgans
Friday 19th	Inline skating day
Friday 26th	Sports day AM - All years

July

Wednesday 8th	EYFS visit to Standalone Farm
Thursday 9th	Transition day
Friday 10th	Fun day - all years
Friday 17th	Tales together 8:40 am
Monday 20th	Year 6 leavers assembly 9am
Monday 20th	Year 6 leavers party 6.30 -8pm
Tuesday 21 st	End of term 1:15 pm finish
Wenesday 22 nd	Inset day - School closed
Thursday 23 rd	Inset day - School closed



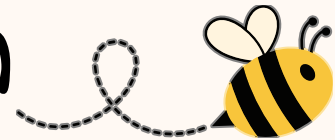


Nursery



Nursery has had a fantastic start to the summer term. We have been thinking about vehicles, what they sound like and whether they travel by land, air or water. We compared vehicles from the past and looked at what was the same or different from vehicles today. We have enjoyed being outside and playing with the new water area. We have also helped to develop the mud area, watch this space! we have been learning to work together to solve problems both inside and outside of the classroom.

Reception



It's been a fun-filled, hands-on start to the sunny summer term in Reception, packed with curiosity, teamwork, and plenty of muddy fingers! We've enjoyed learning about all of the different minibeasts that are living in our garden. We became explorers and went on a minibeast hunt around the school grounds. We were excited to find lots of different minibeasts including caterpillars, ladybirds and slugs. The children have also enjoyed working together to build a bug hotel to create a home for our minibeasts. We've also rolled up our sleeves to plant some new flowers and seeds. We are taking great care to water them and are eagerly watching them grow day by day.

The Nest

What an amazing start to the Summer term the Nest children have had. As part of our Geography lesson ;I wonder, what is life like around the big wide world? We have been exploring some of the things that you see in Kenya While listening to some African music, we have been playing with safari animals and watching safari animals in the wild.

This week, children had a great time creating their own fruit smoothies. They selected the fruits they wanted and watched as the blender whizzed them up.



Year 1

We have had a brilliant start to the summer term! We have started our new topics and I am pleased to say that Year 1 have been working really hard. In English, we have been carrying on with helping Yeti and the Bird. In DT, we have been making levers and sliders and seeing how these operate. In PSHE, we have been exploring what money is and what it is used for. In History, we have been looking at toys through the ages. I am really pleased with how they have all settled back into class.

Year 2

Welcome back to the summer term! It has been lovely to see the children re-energised after the half term break with lots of stories about what exciting things they got up to.

What an exciting and creative term we have ahead of us, making a start in both our DT and Art projects. In art, we are looking at Caribbean inspired artworks to develop ideas to create our own clay tile. In DT we have started to look at the purpose of wheels and axles and how they make a vehicle move. I can not wait to see how they both develop.

Year 3



Year 3 have returned from the Easter break full of energy and ready to learn. They've thrown themselves into their first swimming lessons with great enthusiasm—though the walk back has been met with a little less excitement! In class, the children have shown a brilliant curiosity for our new Egyptians topic, asking thoughtful questions and eagerly exploring what life was like in ancient times. It has been lovely to see so many of them continuing their learning at home. Several children have proudly brought in facts, pictures, and books to share with the class, helping to spark even more interest and discussion. In maths and PSHE, we have also begun exploring money and budgeting, and the children have enjoyed learning how to make sensible choices and understand the value of money. It's been a fantastic start to the term, and we're excited to see where their learning takes them next.

Year 4

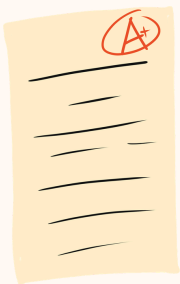
I can't quite believe we've just come to the second week of the summer term! We've been putting the new windows to the test and can now open our top windows which is keeping the classroom cool. The children have been working really hard. Last week, we were able to bring our data logging (Computing) unit to an end as we carried out a traffic survey. The children programmed their microbits to act as data loggers. They then used them to count and record the traffic along Welwyn Road. All the questions they had asked about the traffic were answered. Swimming has got off to a good start and even after the second week I can see the children's water confidence growing. In English, we've started a new text called Riddle of the Runes. It's about a young Viking girl who is attempting to solve a mystery. The children have already produced some good writing based on this story. Over the next couple of weeks, I'm hoping the children will finish their DT project: a buzz-wire game.



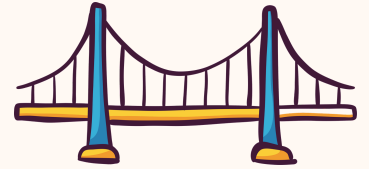
Year 5

Year 5 have come back for the Summer Term with such wonderful, positive energy! It has been a delight to see everyone settling back into their routines with positive attitude. We have already dived straight into our swimming lessons at Hartham Leisure Centre, and the children are doing a fantastic job building their water confidence and enjoying every splash. We also kicked off our first week with an action-packed bridge-building workshop. Working in teams, the children got hands-on with K'Nex to engineer their own impressive structures, carefully testing just how much weight they could hold before the final 'pop!' It was brilliant to see so much creativity, teamwork and resilience in the hall where the children put together a big bridge. We are so proud of how well the children have started this term and are looking forward to all the exciting learning ahead!





YEAR 6



Well here we are in the Summer term already, where did the time go? The children have come back with a lot of enthusiasm and energy which at times has been difficult to channel in the right direction. There is a lot going on for them right now with their time at Hollybush soon to come to an end. I will do my utmost to look after them and make sure that they are prepared for what comes next.

We have already had some fun with an amazing bridge building workshop led by engineers from BAM Nuttal to inspire the children in their own bridge building activity in our DT lessons. Year 6 have a lot on at the moment with the spectre of SATS looming ever nearer. Could parents please ensure that the children are getting enough sleep, a healthy diet and are not spending too much time on their devices. With all our support, I know they are going to do brilliantly.

Mr Mallick



Hollybush in bloom update

Over the Easter holidays the start of Hollybush in Bloom began. Three areas were focused on; the drive, outside the Nest and the main entrance.

Some areas show instant improvements like the main entrance whilst others will display their beauty later on in the season as the temperatures rise. A variety of plants and bulbs have been planted in the beds on the drive and at the main gate entrance, wild flowers outside the nest and the front entrance, which has to be our most significant area developed so far. This is our new Memory Garden, which offers peace and tranquility for our children who have sadly experienced loss, and need a little time out to sit and draw on their beautiful memories. A plaque on the bench reminds us of those loved and lost.

We would like to thank you, the handful of parents, grandparents and family members and friends who have donated plants and seeds but we really do need more support. Our little community warriors are so passionate about developing the grounds and making them eye catching, meaningful and interactive, the least we can do is support them, encourage them and share their enjoyment. In addition, we can't thank Ava (year 5) and her mum Sarah enough for all their help digging, shoveling, planting and watering – it was a mammoth task, but what a result! You should be proud of what you helped us achieve in phase one!

Our next phase will be outside Year one, Reception and the allotment.

Please continue to bring in plants, bulbs, shrubs, (vegetable plants when the weather warms up), as every little bit helps. Also, each class has an area which needs preparing and planting, if you could offer just a few hours to help, this would be much appreciated.



Let's be proud
of our school and
show we care!
Thank you from
the children's community
team and Mrs
Botterman.





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