

This Week's News

16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely to see so many of you supporting us and your children by attending the meetings this week that we have run for parents and carers of children in Reception, Year Six, Year Four and Year One. I do hope you have found the information about the Early Years Assessments, SAT's, MTC Check and Phonic Checks helpful. For those of you who could not attend, the PowerPoints have been uploaded to the school's website.

The weather has been variable this week but it has allowed many of our children to take part in the Bike-ability training which has been running across school this week. Our trainers Roz, Carri, Phil and Sam have been delighted at the behaviour, attitude and competence of our children completing our Beginner, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Bike-ability courses. It is so important for our children to learn life skills that will help to keep them safe when using their bikes outside school and it has been a very successful week.

We ended the week welcoming Jamie Knight into school for fantastic Freestyle Football Workshops. These were greatly enjoyed and were fun and inspiring for all children. I am sure you will hear all about the skills they have learnt and you will hopefully see them practising at home. You can see a clip of his amazing skills on our new School Facebook Page.

This week in Cherry Class, the children have been geographers. They have been exploring volcanoes; finding out why they erupt, how they are made and where they are. During a literacy lesson, the children noticed an illustration of a volcano in the background of a page in 'The Snail and the Whale'. They were very interested, so they have been exploring volcanoes across the curriculum. Nursery have been exploring the text of 'The Pied Piper' in their morning phonics session this week, even going outside and acting out the story with their own instruments.

Maple Class have been learning how explorers like Ibn Battuta had to use stars to navigate their way hundreds of years ago. They really enjoyed listening to some of his observations about his adventures and discoveries. In Maths, they have been taking a closer look at 2D and 3D shapes, spotting edges, vertices and angles. They braved the weather outside and went on a stick hunt to find inspiration for their English narrative writing lesson before coming into the warm to role play their ideas. The class were also feeling proud with their 'success tokens' in PSHE, learning how pride in their achievements can feel.

Chestnut Class have had a busy and productive week across the curriculum. In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of fractions, working confidently to recognise and explore them in different ways. During English, they have been busy planning their own stories, thinking carefully about characters, settings and exciting plot ideas. In Science, they have enjoyed carrying out an experiment, making predictions and observing results like real scientists. Meanwhile, in History, the children have been finding out how and why the Romans invaded Britain, showing great curiosity and asking thoughtful questions about life in the past.

Bonsai have had another week full of extracurricular activities. 16 pupils left the site to complete Bike-ability courses and the whole class thoroughly enjoyed Jamie Knight's amazing Freestyle Football Workshop. In Maths, the children have been strengthening their arithmetic skills, whilst in English they have been developing their biography writing skills. In RE, the children began to explore Jewish worship, while in PSHE the children explored different job salaries, ranking jobs by importance and then again by salaries which sparked some thought-provoking conversations.

Our Young Voices choir performed to the whole school during singing assembly on Thursday, as they begin their final countdown—6 sleeps until Young Voices 2026!

Have a peaceful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday.

Kind regards

Mrs Walton-Jones
Headteacher

Spring Term Dates 2026

- 22nd Jan—Young Voices at the O2
- 22nd Jan—Y1 Sports Event in Hemel—12.30—2.45pm
- 23rd Jan—Parent Council Meeting at 9am
- 23rd Jan—KS2 (Y3-6) Cross Country at Beechwood
- 30th Jan—Maple Class Assembly
- 2nd Feb—SATs Club starts for Y6 pupils
- 2nd Feb—National Storytelling Week Starts
- 3rd Feb—Author Paula Harrison into school
- 4th Feb—Parents Evening, 3.30—5.30pm (no teacher clubs)
- 5th Feb—Y2 Sports Athletics—Astley Cooper—9.30—11.30
- 6th Feb—NSPCC Numbers Day—Dress as a number
- 9th Feb—Parents Evening, 4.30—7.30pm (no teacher clubs)
- 9th Feb—Children's Mental Health Week
- 9th Feb—Chinese Dragon Workshops for all pupils
- 10th Feb —Safer Internet Day
- 13th Feb—Sponsored Pancake Flip at school AM (all pupils)
- 13th Feb—Half Term starts. 3.15pm end as usual
- 16th-20th Feb—HALF TERM
- 23rd Feb—School starts back after Half Term break
- 23rd Feb—Y3/4 Rapid Cricket at Roundwood at 3.30pm
- 26th Feb—Book Fair Arrives / Book vouchers home
- 2nd Mar—Secondary School Allocation Day
- 5th Mar—World Book Day
- 6th Mar—Dress up for World Book Day
- 6th Mar—West End Live—Theatre workshops for all pupils

Photo's from this week

Cherry Class



Maple Class



Chestnut Class



Bonsai Class



Freestyle Football Workshop





Bright Star Awards - Friday 16th January 2026



Nursery	Isaac	For settling into his new class so well and being a kind and considerate member of the class already.
Reception	Delilah	For her wonderful independent sentence writing about her model village.
Year 1	Aubrey	For producing some wonderful writing about a magical stick in his English lesson.
Year 2	Darcy	For creating a colourful, Mondrian-inspired composition in Art.
Year 3	Finley	For showing really good effort in his learning. You have tried really hard in your art this week, using your shading skills to show the effect of shadows on buildings.
Year 4	Joey	For always being a good role model to others. You are always keen to help others in the classroom, you listen to adults when asked and you show respect for property around you.
Year 5	Rupert	For his enthusiasm towards learning.
Year 6	Sidni	For her resilience in arithmetic lessons.



Attendance

Year Group	w/b 6th January
Nursery	100%
Reception	97.4%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	94.1%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	94.4%
Year 6	95.4%
Well Done	
Please make sure you arrive to school on time	



TTRS and Numbots

Year Group	Who impressed us by completing more than 15 minutes ?
Nursery	-
Reception	Amelia
Year 1	Axel, Aubrey
Year 2	Austin, Cordelia
Year 3	Leo T
Year 4	-
Year 5	-
Year 6	-
At least 15 minutes a week please!	



FoFS Christmas Tree Collection—Thank you!

A MASSIVE thank you to Carlos and Iain from Majestic Trees who kindly worked so hard collecting Christmas trees last weekend. All the trees collected have been chipped and recycled and we are delighted that they have raised over £600, which will be used to benefit all the children in school.



FREE PARENTAL WORKSHOP

Free Mental Health First Aid Training for Parents/Carers is taking place on the 23rd January 2026, 09:30-16:00pm at Spring Mead Primary School. We really do recommend these sessions. They can enable you to support your child's wellbeing now and in the future. Equip yourself with new skills for FREE!

To register please contact: schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training **FREE**

1 day Champion course designed specifically for school professionals working with 10-19 year olds.

You will learn:

- An understanding of common mental health issues and how they can affect young people
- How to spot the signs of mental health in young people, and what to do in a range of support
- Knowledge and confidence to recognise and respond to mental health issues
- Skills to support someone with mental health issues

Date & Time	Location	Target Audience	Parking
Friday 23 Jan 2026 9:30am-4pm	Mables Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP5 8JG	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 23 Jan 2026 9:30am-4pm	Hertfordshire County Council, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 2PQ	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 23 Jan 2026 9:30am-4pm	Peatree Spring Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP5 8JG	Parents/Carers	Parking available on site near the river
Friday 9 Feb 2026 9:30am-4pm	Springmead Primary School, Welwyn Garden City, SG13 7JH	School Professionals	Parking available on site near the river
Friday 17 Feb 2026 9:30am-4pm	The Oak, Peatree Spring School, St Albans, AL1 4LW	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 19 Feb 2026 9:30am-4pm	Mables Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP5 8JG	School Professionals	Parking available on site

2 day First Aider course suitable for everyone who teaches, works with or cares for 10-19 year olds.

You will learn:

- An in-depth understanding of young people's mental health and factors that affect wellbeing
- Practical skills to spot the signs and signs of mental health issues
- Confidence to recognise and support a young person in distress
- Enhanced interpersonal skills such as active listening and questioning
- Knowledge to help a young person receive their health by guiding them to further support
- Skills to engage with parents, carers and external agencies
- How to support a young person with a long term mental health illness to thrive
- Skills to look after your own wellbeing

Date & Time	Location	Target Audience	Parking
Thursday 18 & Friday 19 Feb 2026 9:30am-4pm	Peatree Spring Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP5 8JG	School Professionals	Parking available on site near the river
Thursday 18 & Friday 19 Feb 2026 9:30am-4pm	Mables Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP5 8JG	School Professionals	Parking available on site

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Easy Fundraising

PLEASE do sign up as our school will get money for free!

A huge thank you to everyone who has signed up. It makes a BIG difference. Please sign up if you haven't already. Your shopping raises **free donations for us—at no extra cost to you.**

You don't have to be a parent at the school to sign up—friends and family members can do it too.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?caused=353383&utm_term=Q3254



Make an enquiry.
today!

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES NEWSLETTER

JUNIOR Squash

Get on court at Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre with our Junior Squash sessions!

Sundays

09:30 – 10.15 7-14 yrs

This course teaches young people how to play squash, including the techniques, tactics and rules of the game

Taught by a fully qualified coach in a fun and friendly environment. If you have your own equipment, please bring it along but all equipment needed is provided.



Tuesdays

17:30 – 18:15 7-14yrs

JUNIOR Athletics – Jarman Park

Junior Athletics

Tuesdays 16.30-17.30 7-14yrs

Track and field disciplines such as running, hurdles, high jump, long jump, javelin, shot put and discus taught by UK Athletics coaches. Learn the correct technique while enjoying yourself in a safe and fun environment.

JUNIOR Badminton

Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre
Thursdays

16:30 – 17:30 & 17:30-18:30 7 – 15yrs

This is a Junior Badminton Programme to allow Children to learn the game of badminton, undertake drills and games to develop fundamental skills, which are progressive and enjoyable for all beginners

Led by qualified Badminton England coaches, you will soon be feeling confident enough to show off your new skills on court.



Junior Basketball

Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre
Mondays Starting 12th January
Coached by Hemel Storm

16:00 – 17:00 7 – 11yrs 17:00 – 18:00 11yrs+



Adults Classes

Back to Netball – Monday 9:30-10:30

Back to Netball is for women of all ages and experience – whether you haven't played since your school days, want to improve your fitness in a relaxed and enjoyable environment, or are just looking for a great place to meet new friends and stay active.

Adult BB - Tuesday & Thursday 7:00-8:00, 8:00 – 9:00

A turn up and play basketball session that's perfect for players of all ages and abilities.

Beginners Pickleball - Tuesday & Thursday 13:00 – 14:00

A pay and play pickleball session for beginners.

Adult Badminton -Thursdays 18:30-19:30

Adult Badminton Programme to allow adults to learn the game of badminton, undertake drills and games to develop fundamental skills, which are progressive and enjoyable for all levels of ability led by qualified Badminton England coaches.

Adult Social Squash – Thursday 19:00-20:30

A turn up and play squash session in a safe, fun environment. All equipment is provided but if you have your own racket, goggles etc. please bring it with you.

Senior Badminton - Friday 10:00 – 12:00

Pay and play badminton session specifically for our more senior customers in a safe, fun and friendly environment.

There is no instructor so just come along and play with and against some like-minded people.

U5'S

Starting Tuesdays in the March! Active Play for U5's at Berkhamsted 13:00 – 14:00

Active play gives you and your child time to play and learn from each other; Active Play encourages you and your child to try a variety of themed activities each week. The session is not supervised, and parents are required to take part and supervise their child.

For more information on any of our activities, please

