

This Week's News

30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a quieter week in school this week after a very busy week last week. On Friday last week, some of our KS2 children took part in a cross country event. Miss Russell and Mrs Hodgkins were really impressed with the effort of all the children. Well done to everyone who took part. The children enjoyed helping us celebrate a significant birthday for Miss Stringer this week and she enjoyed a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday' at the end of assembly on Tuesday. Today, it was lovely to see our Maple Class families at their Class Assembly. I hope you enjoyed hearing about all the lovely work the children have been involved in so far this term. They told us lots about explorers, art and DT and also recited a wonderful and very funny poem. They all did so well!

This week, Cherry Class have been exploring patterns and comparing values in Maths. Nursery have been creating simple sequences and patterns by clapping, moving and finding objects. Such as clap, tap, clap, tap. Reception have been making two towers and comparing the height of them as well as beginning to find the difference by counting back. They have also been playing tricky word bingo this week. The children have been drawing 6 boxes and choosing 6 of the following words (I, is, to, the, no, go, into, of, as, has, his) and then putting them on a spinning wheel to see who can spot the words and get bingo!

Maple Class have been focussing on how to work well with a partner in PSHE—practising the important skill of listening and discussing ideas respectfully. They carried these ideas of collaboration through to their Art lesson, where they all created 3D flowers from last week's colour mixing paintings to add to a huge bouquet on their classroom wall. Maple Class also really enjoyed learning all about Neil Armstrong's space explorations in History, imagining how it must have felt to be the first person ever to walk on the moon and discussing how travel had changed from the time of Christopher Columbus.

Chestnut Class have been planning persuasive speeches in English inspired by the story 'Stella and the Seagull'. The children focused on how they could make our school a better place environmentally, sharing thoughtful and passionate ideas about caring for our surroundings. They have been developing key persuasive skills, including using the second person to address the reader and alliteration for impact. They are all looking forward to the children presenting their speeches to me later this term. In Maths, they continued to build on their understanding of fractions, beginning to add and subtract them. They worked hard to apply their previous knowledge and explain their methods clearly, showing growing confidence and resilience when tackling more challenging problems. In Art, they explored the fascinating architecture of the Sydney Opera House studying its unique shapes and structure before trying to replicate it using collage techniques. They carefully selected, layered, and arranged materials, producing some creative and impressive designs while developing their fine motor skills and attention to detail.

Bonsai Class have settled back into routine after a busy couple of weeks. In English, the children have researched, drafted, edited and published their biographies all about women who changed the world. In Maths the children have explored mixed number fractions converting them into improper fractions and in Art they've celebrated their culture in the backgrounds of their portraits inspired by Frida Kahlo.

The parent consultations slots are now available to book. Please make sure you have signed up for a slot with your child's teacher. Our SENCo, Miss Russell, is also available for appointments. Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday.

Kind regards

Mrs Walton-Jones
Headteacher

Spring Term Dates 2026

- 2nd Feb—SATs Club starts for Y6 pupils
- 2nd Feb—National Storytelling Week Starts
- 3rd Feb—Author Paula Harrison into school
- 3rd Feb—No Pickleball Club
- 4th Feb—Parents Evening, 3.30—5.30pm (no teacher clubs)
- 5th Feb—KS1 Sports Athletics—Longdean—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
- 9th Mar—British Science Week
- 12th Mar—Y4 Speed Stacking AM
- 13th Mar—Sublime Science Workshops for all
- 16th Mar—Assessment Week
- 16th Mar—Nursery 2026 places offered
- 18th Mar—Bonsai Class residential parent meeting 2.45pm
- 19th Mar—Y5/6 Quicksticks Hockey
- 20th Mar—Chestnut Class Assembly 9am



Photo's from this week

Cherry Class



Maple Class



Chestnut Class



Bonsai Class





Bright Star Awards - Friday 30th January 2026



Nursery	Poppy	Poppy for her pattern making in maths lessons and during independent learning. Super work Poppy!
Reception	Robin	For his consistent respectful behaviour and his engagement with all learning. Well Done Robin!
Year 1	Oscar	For stretching himself to use exciting vocabulary in his writing about emotions in Literacy.
Year 2	Lenny	For listening really well and following steps to add two numbers together using Base 10 in Maths.
Year 3	Rosie	For trying hard in sports. Rosie has shown she is keen to try her best even when the sport may be new or tricky This was especially noticed in Netball Club.
Year 4	Evie	For working hard in English. Evie has had some excellent ideas for our persuasive speeches unit and they class are looking forward to being persuaded by it next week.
Year 5	Ben	For his focus and effort researching Anne Frank when he was writing her biography.
Year 6	Marion	For impressing classroom staff with her effort in Art and Maths.



Attendance

Year Group	w/b 26th January
Nursery	94.3%
Reception	94.1%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	95.6%
Year 3	99.1%
Year 4	94.8%
Year 5	91.2%
Year 6	93.8%
Well Done Year 1!	
Make sure you arrive to school ON TIME	



TTRS and Numbots

Year Group	Who impressed us this week?
Nursery	-
Reception	Jessica and Roman
Year 1	Aubrey, Frankie and Tami
Year 2	Austin
Year 3	Leo
Year 4	Henry
Year 5	-
Year 6	-
At least 15 minutes a week please!	

Parents/Carers Newsletter and support from DSPL8

Please find attached the DSPL8 Parents/Carers Newsletter. It is full of support, advice and courses for a range of things such as SEND, Autism, Speech and Language support, furniture re-cycling workshops and courses for parents so please take a look.

Their website is in the process of being updated, so please click on the link below to view the newsletter.

https://www.canva.com/design/DAG_mT26xnQ/Mvu0SSL3P2Mq8Un80cF0IQ/view?utm_content=DAG_mT26xnQ&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utm_id=h3d8b3f4939

The collage features four distinct promotional posters:

- Henry Healthy Families:** A poster for a free 8-session programme for parents and carers of children aged 0-5. It includes a 'SIGN UP TODAY!' button and contact information for Beezee Henry.
- Rucksack Early Years Autism Programme for Families:** A poster for a course designed for parents/carers of autistic children. It lists dates for January 2026 sessions and provides a QR code for registration.
- Step2Skills Magazine:** A poster for a one-stop guide to learning, growth, and new opportunities. It lists various learning opportunities and provides the website www.step2skills.org.uk.
- Family Lives: Co-parenting with Care programme:** A poster for an online programme for parents with children with SEN. It lists the programme's goals, themes, and dates for February and March 2026.

Bikeability

Congratulations to the following children who passed their Bikeability courses earlier this term.

Certificates and badges were given out in assembly on Monday.

Beginners Biker - George B, Heidi, Lily B, Oliver, Otto and Rafael

Level 1 - Amalie

Level 2 - Ben, Fletcher, Hugo, Lewis, Lilly F, Sasha, Oscar K, Rupert, Rupert and Theo

Level 3 - Isabella, Lottie, Louis R, Marion and William



£30

Half Term Holiday Clubs



Mon 16th Feb 9-3
Tue 17th Feb 9-3
Flamstead Preschool

Join us for arts, crafts, games and cooking with themes of Pancake Day and Chinese New Year.

Book your place at info@flamsteadpreschool.co.uk

Essex Fire Museum Open Day

2026



17th and 22nd Of February

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



Book Now
Free Entry



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

SEND Local Offer: Speech, Language & Communication

The Hertfordshire Local Offer



Support your child's communication: visit Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer's information on speech, language, and communication needs

Whatever stage you are at in understanding your child's speech, language and communication development, you can find something to help on the Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer website.

- Understand the developmental stages of speech and language
- Discover tools and activities to support your child's communication development at home, provided by speech and language therapists and specialist advisory teachers.
- Access fast support through free advicelines where you can talk to an expert.
- Learn about the range of services available across health and education.

Find support for speech language and communication for children, young people and young adults:

[SEND Local Offer: Speech, language & communication](#)

DSPL8 SEND Information Fayre

DSPL8 SEND Parent & Carers Information Fayre

Thursday 5th March 2026

9.30am - 12.30pm

At the Bennetts End Community Centre
Gatecroft, Bennetts End
Hemel Hempstead
HP3 9LZ

This **FREE** event is for Parents and Carers of Children with SEN or Disabilities; we will have local services/providers information stands, activities for children & refreshments!



Book now on our EventBrite page:

[SEND Information Fayre 2026](#)

Upcycling Workshop with the Furniture Parlour



UPCYCLING WORKSHOP

WITH THE FURNITURE
PARLOUR

WORKSHOP DATES
TUES 24TH FEB
TUES 19TH MAY
TUES 29TH SEPT

WELWYN GARDEN CITY
REUSE SHOP, AL7 1BD

Discover the art of upcycling for a more sustainable home at our fun workshop!

Are you interested in upcycling furniture - either as a potential job skill or to refresh your home? Join us at this taster workshop to learn how to breathe new life into your tired items using Annie Sloan Chalk Paint. At this hands on workshop all materials are provided, whether it's pots, vases, frames or trays. You will discover the eco-friendly benefits of upcycling and learn a new skill.

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL HERTFORDSHIREUSESHP@HERTFORDSHIRE.GOV.UK

THIS IS A FREE WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY CORY AIMED AT JOBSEEKERS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Next Thing Education Presents

LIMITED SPACES
BOOK BY
6TH FEB

FEB HALF TERM 2026

Coding & Robots | Circuitry & Inventions | LEGO Engineering | Minecraft Madness | Tech Fun

Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering

Different activity theme each day, please check our website for your camp activities.

16TH - 20TH FEBRUARY - LIMITED SPACES

What Parents Say

"Absolutely Fantastic!
First time attending &
my son loved it!"

★★★★★

HOW TO BOOK

STEP 1
SCAN THE QR CODE

STEP 2
FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP

STEP 3
BOOK ONLINE
SPACES LIMITED

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS AND TAX FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED

W: WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION
E: INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150

Next Thing Education

TECH CAMP

FEBRUARY CAMPS 2026

Roundwood Primary School, AL5 3AD

£39.99 PER DAY OR £175 FOR 5 DAYS
9 AM - 4PM, AGES 5-11

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE
www.nextthing.education

Childcare Vouchers WE ALSO ACCEPT TAX-FREE CHILDCARE!

SCAN ME

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We are planning to run a tech camp this February half term at **Roundwood Primary School, AL5 3AD** on the **16th – 20th of February 2026 from 9 am to 4 pm each day.**

Next Thing's Tech Camps are all about making learning fun, encouraging skill-building and giving children the opportunity to try something different! From programming challenges, Robot Coding, Photoshop Skills, Minecraft, Take-home Inventions and LEGO programming, we have all the creative boxes ticked! Whether your child is a tech whiz, or new to STEM education, let them come along and make new friends, have a blast, and gain skills that will last a lifetime. The main themes for the week are the following:

Bot Builders and Coders

Meet our Robots and learn visual coding and programming skills that make them come to life! Kickstart your career in STEM as you navigate your robot, create games, and explore new challenges. This is a great activity to help develop problem-solving skills.

Ingenious Inventors

Flex your circuitry skills to make anything from buggies, alarms, and light sensors to an FM Radio!

LEGO Engineering

Step into a world of imagination and invention! Children will dream big, build bold, and bring incredible LEGO creations to life as they tackle exciting engineering challenges.

Minecraft / Expert Engineers

Fantastically fun! They'll construct moving mechanisms using modular electronics, then jump into Minecraft to solve challenges, build imaginative worlds, and apply real-world engineering and problem-solving skills in a digital environment.

Media Madness

Unleash your inner creative genius and create your own music or start and produce your own film! The opportunities are endless on our media day!

Just £39.99 for a whole day of camp or book 5 days for £175 ☐
!!!LIMITED SPACES - Book **before 6th Feb!**

Click Here to Book Now: <https://www.nextthing.education/product/roundwood-primary-school-february-camp/>

If you have any questions, or need support with your booking, please contact us on 01442 873150 or email info@nextthing.education.

Warmest wishes,
Next Thing Education Camps Ltd.