

## This Week's News

**13th March 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers

Science Week has been very successful. The children have really embraced the theme of 'Curiosity, what's your question?', and they have been discovering, exploring and experimenting all week. The School Council have successfully run the Science Gadget Shop and everyone enjoyed participating in the Sublime Science Workshops today. We thank one of our Governors, Will Frankin, for coming in and joining in with the fun today.

Last week, as part of our World Book Week Activities, I am please to tell you we were awarded £289.26 in commission to purchase new books from the sales of the Book Fair. Thank you to everyone who came and purchased books. I would also like to thank the families of Lottie, William, Hugo, Isla and Daisy who kindly purchased a book for their child's class from the Wish List. Your generosity is very much appreciated and I am sure the children in those classes will love the new books.

This week, Cherry Class have been overcome with excitement over the newts and frogs, both in the EYFS garden, and in the pond. On Wednesday, they were given the opportunity to visit the pond and see the frogspawn, frogs and lots of other creatures for themselves. They have also been super scientists this week, exploring plants and growth, as well as trying to make dirty water clean!

This week, Maple Class have been busy writing the beginning, middle and end to their journey stories in their Literacy lessons. In Maths, they have been exploring doubling and halving (Year One, using Cuisenaire rods and Year Two, with money). They have planted their seed potatoes and updated their sunflower diaries in Science.

This week in Chestnut Class, they have continued developing their writing by learning how to use dialogue effectively to bring characters to life. In Maths, they have been practising the formal written method for subtraction and building confidence with calculations. Year 4 children also took part in an exciting Speed Stacking competition, showing great teamwork and determination. As part of Science Week, they have enjoyed a range of hands-on activities that helped them explore and investigate the world around us. In Geography, they have continued learning about our European neighbours, focusing on different countries and their borders.

In English this week, Bonsai Class have been setting descriptions in their writing, while in Maths, they have deepened their division skills. As a class, they have thoroughly enjoyed Science Week. The class participated in 'Moon the Movie' live lesson, planted their seeds in the allotment, worked in pairs to complete the STEM plant challenge and worked in small groups to replicate an image with three or four hands on the pencil pegs. Bonsai's highlight of the week was the Science Workshop.

Congratulations to our Science Raffle Winners. Our main prizes were won by Louie and Isabella. Congratulations also to Leo J, Henry, Elsie and Jesse, who won runner up prizes from Gadget Science Shop.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Kind regards

Mrs Walton-Jones  
Headteacher

### Spring Term Dates 2026

- 16th Mar—Assessment Week
- 16th Mar—Nursery 2026 places offered
- 18th Mar—Bonsai Class Residential Parent Meeting 2.45pm
- 19th Mar—Y5/6 Quick-Sticks Hockey
- 20th Mar—Chestnut Class Assembly 9am
- 23rd Mar—VR Animal Workshops for EYFS and KS1
- 24th Mar—Y5/6 Girls Tag Rugby at HRFC at 11.45am
- 25th Mar—Year 4 Commonwealth Festival—all day
- 25th Mar—Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Service—2.30pm
- 26th Mar—End of Spring Term—school closes at 1.30pm
- 27th Mar—INSET Day—School Closed
- 30th Mar—Easter Holidays

### Summer Term Dates 2026

- 13th Apr—All pupils back to school
- 14th Apr—Chestnut Class Science Workshop in school
- 16th Apr—Reception school offers for September 26 released
- 22nd Apr—Earth Day
- 23rd Apr—Last Day to accept Reception places
- 30th Apr—FoFS Fish and Chip Quiz Night
- 4th May—Bank Holiday—School Closed
- 4th May—Final payment for residential due for Y5/6
- 6th May—Cricket Workshops in school—all pupils
- 11th May—SATs Week for Y6 starts

# Photos from this week

## Cherry Class



## Maple Class



## Chestnut Class



## Bonsai Class



## Science Workshop and our Science Week Raffle





## Bright Star Awards - Friday 13th March 2026



<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Frankie</b>	For his enthusiasm in his learning this week when looking at our focus book called 'Octopants'.
<b>Reception</b>	<b>Malaya</b>	For her effort in reading and writing. Malaya has been trying hard to recognise sounds and blend her words.
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Axel</b>	For persevering with his sentence writing and letter formation.
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>George</b>	For contributing so well in class. George has his hand up, ready to join in with class discussions.
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Jasper</b>	For being kind and helpful to others when they needed a friend.
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Isla</b>	For working hard in English. Isla has been using her reading to help her writing, especially when using dialogue.
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Ava</b>	For her perseverance and success in Maths. Keep working hard Ava!
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Louis</b>	For his effort and engagement across all lessons.



## Attendance

Year Group	w/b 9th March
<b>Nursery</b>	97.1%
<b>Reception</b>	97.6%
<b>Year 1</b>	93.3%
<b>Year 2</b>	88.7%
<b>Year 3</b>	100%
<b>Year 4</b>	98.7%
<b>Year 5</b>	98.6%
<b>Year 6</b>	100%
<b>Well done Years 3 &amp; 6!</b>	
<b>Make sure you arrive to school ON TIME</b>	



## TTRS and Numbots

Year Group	Who impressed us this week?
<b>Nursery</b>	-
<b>Reception</b>	Lily and Mason
<b>Year 1</b>	Daisy and Austin
<b>Year 2</b>	-
<b>Year 3</b>	-
<b>Year 4</b>	Henry
<b>Year 5</b>	Darcy
<b>Year 6</b>	-
<b>At least 15 minutes a week please!</b>	

## Can you help St Leonards Church?

Please see the message below from Jo, Vicar of St Leonard's Church.

Dear friends,

We invite you and your families to join in a Hedge Planting morning at St Leonard's churchyard this Saturday. We plan to plant mixed native hedge plants along the fence by the Three Black-birds.

It is part of our drive to make the churchyard more wildlife friendly and a lovely weekend activity for families. Refreshments will be provided.

We start at 10.30am and continue to 1.00pm or until everything is planted.



**easter at church farm**  
28th March – 12th April

Visit Church Farm Ardeley  
*A real working farm!*

**Easter Farm Day Pass**  
Includes:  
Easter Themed Activity Book  
Woodland Play Area  
Easter Bunny Riddle Trail  
Farm Bingo & spot the Easter Bunny  
See the Lambs, Rabbits & Farm animals  
Walk around the farm

**Additional Activities**  
Meet the Easter Bunny  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Lamb Bottle Feeding  
Goat Walking  
Tractor & Trailer Rides  
Fairy Trail

Book online [www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk](http://www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk)

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY  
A Free Range Experience

PSP Spring Event

**Saturday 21st March 2026 doors 7pm**

An Entertaining Acoustic Evening with

**DORIS BRENDEL & LEE DUNHAM**

with support by I, CLAUDIA

at The Parish Room, St Paul's Church  
The Common, Chipperfield WD4 9BS



Advance Tickets £15.00 + fees

On the day £17.00 + fees

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/soozevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/soozevents)

Box Office 0333 666 3366

JOIN HERTFORDSHIRE'S LATEST GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM - FREE SPACES



# GIRLS FOOTBALL CLUB

U7/U8/U9

Fun. Football. Friendship. Skills, teamwork, and smiles all around.

TRAINING FRIDAY EVENINGS  
WELWYN HATFIELD

JOIN NOW



theonyxunited.com



EVERYONE THEATRES



*"Brand New Show"*  
An Outstanding Tribute to the Music of Eric Clapton

Friday 3rd April

7.30pm

The Eric Morecambe Centre

www.the-emc.co.uk / Box Office: 01582 767525  
Rothamstead Park, Harpenden, AL5 2FR



# LAMBING

WEEKEND

9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May



MEET LAMBS TRACTOR RIDES INFLATABLES  
BLUEY & BINGO INTERACTIVE TOY BOX PERFORMANCES  
PONIES & GROOMING FOOD & CRAFT STALLS  
ENTERTAINMENT LIVE MUSIC

**MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS SOON**

Book your tickets

AT OAKLAMS COLLEGE  
ST ALMANS CAMPLS



## HERTS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION Junior County Trials



HBA are looking for school nominations for the Herts Junior County team trials. Players are sought for Boys and Girls U11 (Yr 4,5,&6) and Girls U13 (Yr 7&8), U15\* (Yr 9&10) and U17 (Yr 11&12). Players should have experience playing at school or club level.

**Trial Date!**



All Ages except Boys U15:  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

\*Boys U15 trial 19<sup>th</sup> April



Wodson Park Sports & Leisure Centre  
Wadesmill Road, Ware, SG12 0UQ



Player nominations - Player Name, Age and Parent contact email - should be sent to [hertsbasketballsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hertsbasketballsecretary@gmail.com)

Players must PERMANENTLY live in Hertfordshire.

ALL PLAYERS MUST REGISTER VIA CONSENT FORM PRIOR TO ATTENDING.  
NO WALK-INS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS 5.4.26 - NO NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS.



# Markyate Foodbank

## Volunteers Needed

We're looking for volunteers to join a rota for our new Foodbank opening at St John's Church in Markyate in 2026.

The session will be fortnightly, on  
Wednesday Mornings  
11am - 1:30pm

Please contact [info@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk) for more information.

 [@StAlbansDistrictFB](https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansDistrictFB)

 [@st\\_a\\_and\\_dist\\_foodbank](https://www.instagram.com/st_a_and_dist_foodbank)

[www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)