Newsletter 4 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents
October has arrived which means autumn is on its way! We have our Harvest Festival in a couple of weeks' time which is an 'in school' event and we support the Watford Food Bank; please see below for more information.

We are so pleased that the road closure has lifted but have now been notified of a different one! Resurfacing works are taking place on Parkside Drive and Richmond Drive between Monday 5th October and Tuesday 6th October. Please allow extra time for your journey if you are coming by car.

Another reminder to use the 'unofficial' one way system as this does support the flow of traffic.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARD
Our target is to be at **96%** attendance throughout the year.

This week	**96.7%**
Week beg 21st September	**96.3%**
Best week to date	Week beginning 21st September ~ **97.2%**

ATTENDANCE
Week beginning 28th September :

CLASS	RED <95%	AMBER 95%	GREEN 96+%
HERON			**100%**
FOX		**95.3%**	
BADGER			**97.9%**
ROBIN			**98%**
KINGFISHER			**99%**
HEDGEHOG			**97.3%**
WOODPECKER			**100%**
RABBIT	**94.6%**		
OWL	**94.8%**		
SQUIRREL	**92.3%**		

Well done to **Heron Class and Woodpecker Class** who had the highest attendance this week.

HOURS OF LEARNING LOST
As well as monitoring attendance, we also monitor lateness. If your child arrives 5 minutes late each day, over the course of the week they will have missed 25 minutes of learning time. Over a period of 4 weeks that is 100 minutes and over a term that is 325 minutes (almost 5 ½ hours). Punctuality is important in all walks of life and we encourage the children to be good time keepers.

This week: 28th September	**544 = 9 hours and 4 minutes**
Last week: 21st September	**352 = 5 hours and 52 minutes**

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ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

We like to celebrate the achievements and awards of our children outside of school too! If your child has earned an award in an event, please send in a copy of the certificate and we can mention them in our weekly newsletters.

This week we celebrated the success of:

Pupil	Class	Achievement
Anaaya	*Owl*	*Vitality Westminster Mile*
Anaya	*Kingfisher*	*Swim England ~ Learn to swim stage 2*
Mili	*Fox*	*Royal Academy of Dance ~ High merit for ballet exam*

40 THINGS BINGO!

This half term's challenge is to achieve **ALL 4 CORNERS.**

Well done to the following:

Pupil	Class
Tobias	*Kingfisher*
Maiya	*Kingfisher*
Tara	*Badger*
Isa	*Badger*
Noah	*Hedgehog*
Elsie	*Hedgehog*
Hannah	*Hedgehog*

Pupil	Class
Aryana	*Hedgehog*
Sia	*Hedgehog*
Imran	*Hedgehog*
Nora	*Hedgehog*

HARVEST FESTIVAL – Wednesday 14th October 2026

The children will be participating in a Harvest Festival assembly on the morning of Wednesday 14th October 2026.

If you are able to donate the following items for our Harvest Festival, they can be brought into school on the morning of Wednesday 14th October 2026.

The Watford Foodbank is currently low on:

Tinned Potatoes/Instant Mash	Tinned Soup	Long Life Milk
Tinned Fruit	Tinned Custard/Rice Pudding	Tuna
Tinned Meat	Long Life Fruit Juice	Pasta Sauce

They currently do not need cereal, pasta, rice or baked beans.

Please bring your donations to your child's class on the morning of Wednesday 14th October 2026.

JEANS FOR GENES

Thank you to everyone who joined in with our Jeans for Genes day. Our donations totalled a fantastic £144.60, all of which has been donated directly to the charity.

GOVERNOR BOARD MEETING UPDATE

The Full Governing Board met on Monday 28th September. During the meeting we covered the following:

- Board members; Jen Faulkner began her role as our new Chair and Lucy Tierney as our Vice Chair. Information about Governors can be found on our website: Governor Information
- Financial monitoring
- Compliance and training; ensuring all governors have read and understood the latest safeguarding document and stay up to date with their training requirements
- Updates; the governors received reports on safeguarding, the Head Teacher's Report, including a curriculum update

- Policy ratification: We ratified several policies for 2026/27, including child protection, safeguarding, anaphylaxis, attendance, on-line safety, behaviour, anti-bullying, and nursery admissions.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION
You will have received information as to how to nominate to become a Parent Governor; please take time to have a read through and consider the role. Our current Governors will be on the playground next week at pick up and drop off to answer any questions you may have.

PARENT REPS
Thank you to all the parents that have volunteered to be a class parent rep this year; if you feel you would like to support your class and lend a hand please contact the school office as many hands make light work. We especially need parent reps for Squirrel class.
Please be reminded that parent reps are NOT responsible to raise concerns or complaints; this must be done by the individual parents.

CSA AGM ~ Wednesday 7th October at 8pm
A reminder that this is taking place on Wednesday in our school Oak Room (to the right-hand side of our main building). Please come along and support the great work and fundraising activities so they can continue to help our school.

REMINDERS

AUTHOR VISIT ~ Tuesday 13th October
We are delighted to let you know that professional storyteller **Liz Fost** will be visiting our school on **Tuesday 13th October** to read *The Most Magnificent Moose* by *Rachel Bright*. During the visit, children will have the opportunity to listen to an engaging live reading, enjoy the story together and take part in the experience of sharing a book with a storyteller.
If your child would like a **signed copy** of the book, parents can pre-order using the link below**.** Please note that **orders must be placed before 11am on Monday 12th October**, as late orders cannot be guaranteed. This is a lovely opportunity for children to keep a special memento of the day.
We are looking forward to giving the children a memorable storytelling experience: Chiltern Bookshop Order Form

PARENT PIT STOPS
A reminder to sign up for our up and coming reading and writing workshops:

Monday 12th October	9am	Year 1 Reading and Writing Workshop	A session on how we teach reading and writing in school followed up with a 'hands on session' working alongside your child	• Year 1 parents only	Year 1 sign up
Thursday 15th October	9am	Year 2 Reading and Writing Workshop	A session on how we teach reading and writing in school followed up with a 'hands on session' working alongside your child	• Year 2 parents only	Year 2 sign up
Friday 16th October	9am	Phonics	A session on how we teach phonics in school followed up with a 'hands on session' working alongside your child	• Reception parents only	Reception sign up

SCHOOL SIDE GATE ~ important information
We regularly review our safeguarding procedures and as a result we have made the decision to lock our side gate (the one by Kingfisher class / nursery garden) at 3:30pm to continue to safeguard pupils and staff who remain on site later in to the evening, as well as to safeguard pupils and staff who are at wrap care at the junior school.

Please ensure that you have left the school site by 3:30pm so staff can secure the site in a timely manner. If you collect siblings from the Junior school, please ensure you exit via their gates after 3:30pm.

If your child attends one of our after school extra curricular clubs, please wait by the side gate and the staff member from the club will unlock the gate and dismiss the children from there. Collection from Challenge Sport wraparound care remains unchanged at the junior school. Many thanks for your support.

THIS WEEK'S FLYERS/LINKS:

1. Textiles Club – Half term holiday camp
2. Mad Science – Half term holiday camp

Have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

Charlotte Cooper
Headteacher

Autumn 26

Date	Event	Where?	Time?	Parents invited?
OCTOBER				
October	Black History Month			
Wed 7th	Y1 Harvest Workshop at St Luke's			
Mon 12th	Yr 1 Reading & Writing Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Wed 14th	Harvest Assembly			
Thu 15th	Yr 2 Reading & Writing Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Fri 16th	Rec Reading & Writing Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Wk Beg 19th	Creative Focus Week Recycling Week			
Fri 23rd	Focus week open afternoon	Classrooms	2:45pm	Yes
Half term				

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NOVEMBER				
Fri 6th	Yr 1 Maths Mastery Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Mon 9th	Yr 2 Maths Mastery Workshop	Hall	9am	Yes
Mon 9th	Rec Maths Mastery Workshop	Hall	2pm	Yes
Week beg 9th	Nursery Rhyme Week			
Wed 11th	Remembrance Day			
Wed 11th	EYFS & KS1 parent consultation	Virtual	Appointment	Yes
Thu 12th	EYFS & KS1 parent consultation	Virtual	Appointment	Yes
Fri 13th	Christmas Jumper Collection			
Fri 13th	Children in Need			
Week beg 16th	Road Safety Week Maths Week			
Tue 17th	ESafety Day			
Fri 20th	Learning Together Morning	Classrooms	9am	Yes
Wk beg 23rd	Wellbeing Week Parliament Week			
Thu 26th	Outdoor Learning Day			
Fri 27th	School Closed Occasional Day			
DECEMBER				
1st / 2nd / 3rd	Christmas Jumper shop (TBC)			
Fri 4th	Deco Day			
Tue 8th	Whole School Panto ~ TBC			
Fri 11th	Christmas jumper and dinner day			
Wk beg 14th	Christmas Parties			
Mon 14th	Y1 Nativity at St Luke's	St Luke's	9:30am	Yes
Wed 16th	Reception Nativity at St Luke's	St Luke's	9:30am	Yes
Wed 16th	Y2 Nativity at St Luke's	St Luke's	10:45am	Yes
Thu 17th	Nursery Nativity	Hall	9am	Yes
Thu 17th	End of Term for Nursery	Usual timings		
Fri 18th	End of Term for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2		1pm	

PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE THE DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR **2026/27**

AUTUMN 2026	
Mon 26 Oct – Fri 30 Oct	Half term
Friday 27 November	Occasional Day ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 17 December	Autumn term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Friday 18 December	Autumn term ends 1pm

SPRING 2027	
Monday 4 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Tuesday 5 January	Spring term starts
Mon 15 Feb – Fri 19 Feb	Half term
Wednesday 24 March	Spring term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Thursday 25 March	Spring term ends 1pm

SUMMER 2027	
Monday 12 April	Summer term starts
Mon 31 May – 4 June	Half term
Friday 25th June	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Tuesday 20 July	Summer term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Wednesday 21 July	End of summer term 1pm
Thursday 22 July	INSET ~ School closed to pupils

PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE THE DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR **2027/28**

AUTUMN 2027	
Wednesday 1 September	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 2 September	Autumn term starts
Mon 25 Oct – Fri 29 Oct	Half term
Friday 3 December	Occasional Day ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 16 December	Autumn term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Friday 17 December	Autumn term ends 1pm

SPRING 2028	
Tuesday 4 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Wednesday 5 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 6 January	Spring term starts
Mon 14 Feb – Fri 18 Feb	Half term
Thursday 30 March	Spring term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Friday 31 March	Spring term ends 1pm

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SUMMER 2028	
Tuesday 18 April	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Wednesday 19 April	Summer term starts
Mon 29 May – 2 June	Half term
Thursday 20 July	Summer term ends for Nursery ~ normal hours
Friday 21 July	End of summer term 1pm
Monday 24 July	INSET ~ School closed to pupils