



## Information update for Parents

- *Thought for the week*
- *Athletics competition*
- *Road safety - copy of email*
- *Stars of the week*

*Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

Thought for the week...



*The name 'February' comes from the Latin word 'februum,' which means purification.*

# Year 6 Athletics competition



On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 27 children from Year 6 competed in the Watford and Hertsmere Sports Partnership Indoor Athletics competition.

There were a variety of track and field events. Both teams performed exceptionally well, with the girls' team finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and the boys' team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – advancing to the partnership final.



# Year 4 Athletics



Many congratulations to the Year 4 Athletics team, who came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Athletics competition!





# Road safety

Following the three recent road traffic incidents, we want to do as much as possible to keep the children safe. I have been in communication with Mark Watkin, our local councillor, who has taken our concerns seriously. Thank you to all the parents who have emailed Mark to voice their concerns about road safety on Langley Road.

Below is the response that we have received from Mark which outlines the necessary considerations and gives us an idea of timescale.

*Good morning to you all,*

*Thank you for taking the trouble to write to me. I am writing the same response to each of you as I have received a significant number of emails expressing concern over the recent accidents and the safety of Langley Road particularly on the stretch beside the Nascot Wood Schools. I share your concerns so let me explain what I have done, why and what I will be doing. This is quite a lengthy response.*

*I am convinced by the safety benefits of reducing urban 30mph roads to 20mph wherever possible. In this area of Nascot, working with Hertfordshire Highways, I have funded using my £90,000 p.a. Members Highways Locality Budget, amongst other schemes, the implementation of 20mph zones on Grandfield Avenue including Bellamy Close, and the area north of the Langley Road up to the top of Church Road. The Nascot Wood Road scheme with its traffic calming was funded by County Council. So why not Langley Road? The simple answer is when the average speeds have been measured along this stretch of Langley Road, they exceeded the 24mph mean. This meant that the cost of implementation would exceed what I can afford and so far the County Council has not identified this stretch as a priority. I intend to change that.*

*Hertfordshire Highways has a Speed Management Strategy introduced in 2020 that, among other policies, determines which roads are deemed suitable to become 20mph. It is based on the following principals:*

- *20mph areas should be generally self-enforcing.*
- *20mph areas without additional traffic calming measures will only be considered where the existing mean speeds are 24mph or below.*
- *If the mean speed is more than 24mph but less than 30mph then additional traffic calming measures should be introduced to reduce speeds to the 24mph mean or lower*
- *The 'Bus Infrastructure in Hertfordshire - Design Guide' says that if physical measures in a 20mph area are considered necessary on a bus route then the extent of these features (or length of area) should be kept to a minimum so as not to adversely affect the quality of the ride.*

*I believe that the stretch of Langley Road running from the junction with Hempstead Road up to the corner where Church Road joins Langley road should be designated as 20mph but to achieve this may require traffic calming measures and we together will need to persuade the Highways Authority to give this scheme priority when it already has a programme of schemes waiting for implementation.*

*Before any area can be considered for 20mph, there must have been a current measure of speeds and volumes. I can fund this and have agreed with my Highways Officer that this will be carried out as soon after the start new financial year as practicable.*

*In the unlikely event that mean speeds recorded turn out to be less than 24mph it will make implementation much easier as I will be able to fund the scheme, but I think this is very unlikely. More likely is that the mean speed will still be above 24mph and will require traffic calming and so will have to be funded from the Highways' central budget which will complicate matters significantly as it will need to be implemented ahead of other schemes already identified and prioritised.*

*In the meanwhile, reflecting the wide concern of parents and residents, I will raise a petition and seek your support to press the Highway Authority to act. This will take a little time to arrange but expect to see me outside the school seeking parental support.*

*The process will not happen in a hurry. The legal processes involved mean that even if I can fund the scheme or the Highway Authority agree to prioritise this scheme it is very unlikely to be implemented before 2026.*

*Finally a number of you made other suggestions .*

- *Ban heavy traffic including the Harry Potter bus from using Langley Road. There is no evidence that these vehicles are driven dangerously and are any more likely to cause personal injury accidents.*
- *Introduce a light-controlled crossing near Bellamy Close. This has been considered but according to the policies of the Highway Authority it would have to be sited over 30 yards beyond Bellamy Close. At this distance pedestrians can see clearly in both directions whether it is safe to cross or not, so this fact together with the fact that it is unlikely many pedestrians would choose to use it, there is a further crossing not far away and there has been no record on any personal injury accidents at this junction means that the Highway Authority would not invest in it.*

*With my best wishes*

*Mark*

*In the meantime, the guidance in the Highway Code is useful, stating that:*

*Children should be taught the Code and should not be allowed out alone until they can understand and use it properly.*

*The age when they can do this is different for each child. Many children cannot judge how fast vehicles are going or how far away they are.*

*Children learn by example, so parents and carers should always use the Code in full when out with their children.*

*They are responsible for deciding at what age children can use it safely by themselves.*

I have also included the following videos that you can watch with your children, aligning with what we teach them at school and a link to reflective armbands for children.

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/first-journeys/>

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/expect-the-unexpected/>

<https://colan-uk.net/products/childrens-reflective-armbands>

Thank you to everyone who helped or expressed their concern when these road traffic incidents occurred. All three children are recovering well.



## Stars of the week 9th February February 2024



Class	Nominee	Reason
Holly	Zaynab	<i>For your resilience in PE this week. You started the gymnastics lesson a little unconfident about using the equipment and by the end of the lesson you were climbing up the climbing frame sharing your skills with your peers. Well done Zaynab.</i>
Willow	Aidan	<i>For working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum, and for being a helpful and polite member of our class.</i>
	Mariam	<i>For taking responsibility for her learning and striving to achieve her best.</i>
Oak	Zayn	<i>For a fantastically well written setting description based on The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. You really impressed me with your detailed imagery and use of vocabulary.</i>
Juniper	Aizah	<i>For meeting every day with a positive attitude - Your smile is infectious! It is a pleasure to have you in Juniper class.</i>
Elm	Rahi	<i>For always being kind and for making sure your work is detailed and presentable.</i>
Beech	Riana	<i>For showing extra bravery and strength in gymnastics plus being an all rounder across the curriculum.</i>
Rowan	Yasmina	<i>For demonstrating excellent knowledge of multiplying and dividing fractions in Maths this week. Keep up the hard work!</i>
Poplar	Bralen	<i>For his in-depth science knowledge. Bralen's understanding of light is exceptional. He was able to teach Poplar Class all about the different wavelengths in the colour spectrum and how they affect the refraction of light. Well done, Bralen!</i>



## Stars of the week 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023



Class	Nominee	Reason
Holly	Ruby	<i>For excellent participation in gymnastics. You showed real focus and composure in each of the tasks given. Especially when using the equipment. You are able to work with excellence in a group and on your own. Well done.</i>
Willow	Zayn	<i>For responding to verbal feedback when editing your alternative version of chapter 4 The Finger Eater. I thoroughly enjoyed reading your work because it was cohesive and engaging, Well done, Zayn.</i>
Oak	Rachid	<i>For demonstrating fantastic independence and achievement in our lesson on tenths and hundredths</i>
Juniper	Thea	<i>For making an effort to put her hand up and answer questions in our maths lessons. Well done, Thea!</i>
Elm	Kamden	<i>For effort and dedication in Maths, working brilliantly to extend and deepen his learning.</i>
Beech	Anhad	<i>For being more organised in the classroom and continuing to thrive in our maths learning.</i>
Rowan	Kiara	<i>For fantastic, enthusiastic singing and dancing throughout all of our rehearsals and during our concert at the O2, you were a joy to watch.</i>
Poplar	Leon	<i>For his enthusiastic singing and dancing during Wednesday's Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena (we have video footage!). Well done, Leon. You had a fantastic attitude.</i>