

# UPDATE FOR PARENTS

Friday 6th  
February  
2026

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Thought for the week...



*What good is the warmth of summer, without  
the cold of winter to give it sweetness*

*John Steinbeck*

Suggested music: 'Here comes the sun' – *Jacob Collier*

## Year 3 and 4 Parent's coffee morning



Thank you to all the parents who came to our lower key stage coffee morning on Tuesday.

Our chef made cakes and we enjoyed coffee and a chat.

Is this something that you would like us to host more often?  
Please let me know if you have any thoughts...

Many thanks to Mrs Wadhera for the suggestion!

## Year 3 Mud kitchen



Our mud kitchen is up and running! The children really enjoyed assembling it. Many thanks for your generous contributions which have made this excellent resource possible.

Congratulations...



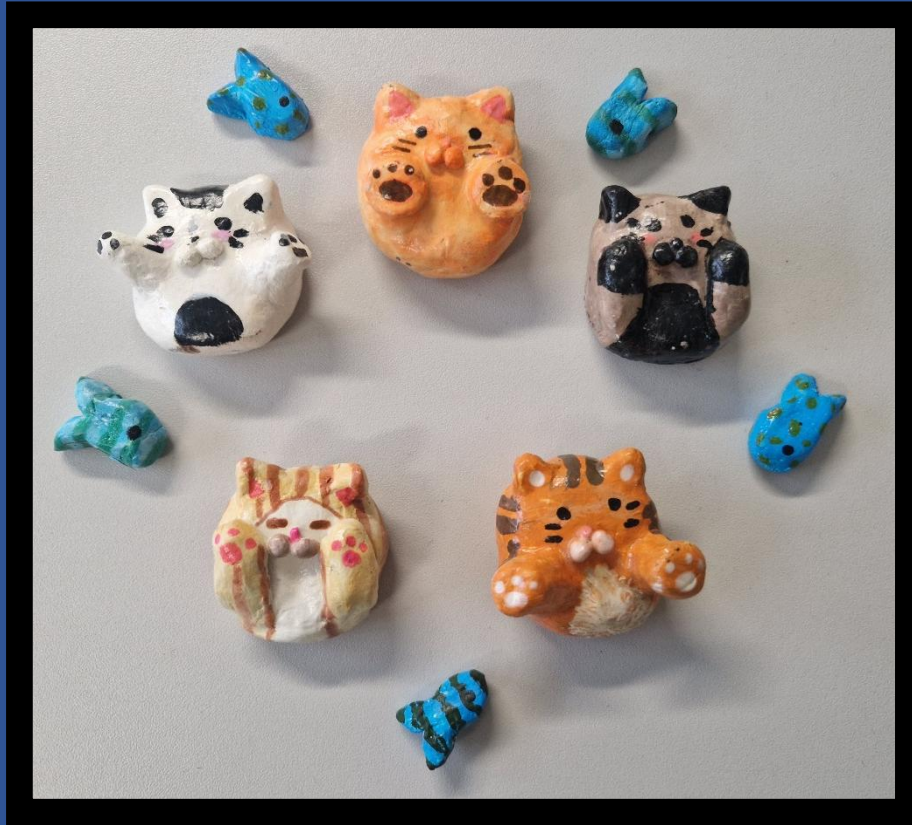
Many congratulations to Ozzie, year 3 Willow, who has been awarded this achievement of excellence award from Abacus Mental Maths.

Art of the week



*Lena and Sakina, Year 4 Juniper*

## Art of the week



*Jasmine, year 5 Elm - a few examples of the box of cats that she has hand made.*

Art of the week



*Selase, year 4 Juniper*

Art of the week



*Ruby, year 5 Beech*

## Opportunity...an email from Love Productions



Dear School Team,

My name is Kate. I'm a Series Producer at Love Productions; the production company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down.

I am contacting you to let you know that we have recently opened applications for the 12<sup>th</sup> series of **Junior Bake off**, a Channel 4 competition series celebrating Britain's young baking talent!

I'm hoping you might help us by spreading the word about this exciting opportunity to your students. Perhaps this email could be forwarded on to your teaching staff, so they can encourage any baking enthusiasts in their classes.

We are looking for young budding bakers between **9-15 years old** and interested bakers can apply online at - [www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk)

I've attached a flyer and would be grateful if you would consider either popping a poster up on your communal notice board, featuring the flyer in a newsletter, or posting on your social media channels. (I've attached a cropped social media version 4x5).

Filming would take place from July 2026, but our **applications close on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.

Please do feel free to contact us on **0207 067 4833**, should you have any questions regarding the above.

Thank you so much for all of your help in advance!

Best wishes,  
The Junior Bake Off Team

enquiries: [applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk](mailto:applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk)

## Spring Art competition information

I am announcing the launch of our annual Art Competition. The theme is anything connected to Spring, which signifies new life, re-birth, awakening of nature etc.

Please submit your artwork to me by Friday 6th March 2026.

Your artwork can be 2D or 3D and you can use any material that you like including pastels, charcoal, pencil, watercolour, oil, acrylic, indian ink etc.

Please make sure that your artwork is clearly labelled with your full name and your year group and class. We will be awarding a prize to each year group. I hope you have fun creating your piece of art – below are some examples of previous submissions.

Best wishes,

Mrs Singh



# Important update on holiday food vouchers from Tony Fitzpatrick, HCC Director of Education

Below is an email sent to Headteachers by HCC's Director of Education, which I have been asked to share with you:

*Since December 2020, the Local Authority has been able to provide supermarket vouchers to families, supported through government funding streams. From October 2021 onwards, this was funded through the Household Support Fund, a national programme from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) designed to help households with the cost of living.*

*The government has now confirmed that the Household Support Fund has come to an end. Unfortunately, this means we will no longer be able to issue vouchers to children who are entitled to benefit-related free school meals for the holiday periods.*

*We understand that this change may be difficult for some families, and we want to reassure you that support is still available. If you feel you may need additional help, we encourage you to visit the Hertfordshire County Council 'Cost of Living Support' pages on the council website, where you can find information about a range of services and assistance options.*

Please remember that we are committed to supporting our families who are experiencing financial hardship and we are always willing to meet with you to discuss your individual circumstances.

Please also refer to the financial support page of our [school website](#)

# Congratulations

Many congratulations to the following children who participated in two different chess tournaments held on Saturday, 31 January 2026.



The children took part in the Stars Barred Chess Tournament – January 2026 and were awarded certificates as listed below:

1. Sky Brotherson, year 3
2. Nyra Sinha, year 3
3. Maria Kallianteri, year 3
4. Boris Maru, year 3
5. Dhwit Maru, year 4

Tayson Thavarobert, year 5 and Reyansh Anand, year 6 were awarded certificates in the Advanced Chess Challengers tournament.

The Chess Challengers club report that: *All the children displayed exceptional skill, strategic thinking, and composure throughout the tournament, competing successfully against a strong cohort of participants.*

Many congratulations to all the participants!



## Spring term events

| Date             | Event  | Time  | Notes  |
|------------------|--|---|--|
| 10/02/2026       | Y5 - Saxon-Viking Day                          | 9am to 3pm                                    | Year 5 Class Teachers will be asking for parent volunteers.                                    |
| 13/02/2026       | Y3 - Egyptian Day                              | 9am to 3pm                                    | Year 3 Class Teachers will be asking for parent volunteers.                                    |
| 13/02/2026       | Last Date of the Half Term                     | 3.20pm  | Usual 3.20pm collection time   |
| 16/02-20/02/2026 | <b>Half Term</b>                               |   |  |
| w/c 23/02/2026   | * NEW EVENT – Y6 – WWII Workshop – in school * |   | Lesson scheduled each day  |
| 05/03/2026       | Y4 & Y6 - Shakespeare Rewired                  | Y4 – 10.30am to 12:00pm<br>Y6 - 1pm to 2.30pm |  |
| 06/03/2026       | Y3 & Y5 - Shakespeare Rewired                  | Y3 – 10.30am to 12.00pm<br>Y5 - 1pm to 2.30pm |  |
| 13/03/2026       | Y6 Rowan - Parliament Trip                     | 8.20am – 1.30pm                               | School gates open at 8am for Rowan class.  |
| 19/03/2026       | *NEW EVENT – Movie Club*                       | 3.30pm – 5.30pm                               | Details will be sent after the half term holidays.   |
| 20/03/2026       | Y5 - St. Albans Cathedral Trip                 | 9am to 3pm                                    |  |
| 23/03/2026       | <b>Inset Day</b>                               |   |  |
| 23/03/2026       | Y6 Poplar - Parliament Trip                    | 8.20am – 4.30pm                               | School gates open at 8am for Poplar class.   |
| 24/03/2026       | Y4- Legoland Trip                              | 8.20am – 5pm                                  | School gates open at 8am for Y4.<br>Year 4 Class Teachers will be asking for parent volunteers |
| 27/03/2026       | Last day of the Term School finishes at 12pm   | 12pm  | Please note school finishing time  |

## Focus on Attendance

This academic year, there is an increased national and Hertfordshire focus on the importance of attendance. All our attendance figures are reported to the Department for Education every week, enabling them to assess how well each school is doing.

I will be including an attendance and punctuality report in each parents update, enabling you to see the picture across the school.

Congratulations to Oak and Elm classes for attendance that is over our target percentage.

| Attendance and punctuality report<br>Week beginning: 26th January 2026 |                              |                                |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Class</i>   | <i>Attendance percentage</i> | <i>Number of children late</i> |
| 3 Holly  | 94.98%                       | 1                              |
| 3 Oak  | 98%                          | 5                              |
| 4 Juniper  | 96%                          | 10                             |
| 4 Willow   | 94%                          | 5                              |
| 5 Beech  | 89.67%                       | 1                              |
| 5 Elm  | 97.33%                       | 8                              |
| 6 Poplar   | 95.33%                       | 4                              |
| 6 Rowan  | 94.67%                       | 4                              |



Our target is 97% attendance each week!

# Stars of the week

Friday 6th February



| Class     | Nominee  | Reason   |
|-----------|----------|--|
| 3 Holly   | Angelina | <i>For giving your absolute best every single day. Your work ethic is fantastic and your behaviour is exemplary. You are a true role model and an absolute pleasure to teach.</i>  |
| 3 Oak     | Shahmeer | <i>For great positivity towards learning in class. Well done, Shahmeer. Your keenness to learn and develop your skills and knowledge means you always make the most out of lessons and motivate others to do so.</i>   |
| 4 Willow  | Ben      | <i>For fantastic progress and focus in his piano lessons.</i>  |
| 4 Juniper | Zaman    | <i>For working hard to practise his spellings and achieve full marks in his spelling test. Well done Zaman, keep up the good work.</i>   |
| 5 Elm     | George   | <i>For excellent effort in his maths work, challenging himself to go further each lesson and meeting his own challenge with dedication. I'm proud of the effort he is putting in and he should be too.</i>   |
| 5 Beech   | Ayaaz    | <i>For outstanding enthusiasm and commitment as a member of the Beech Gymnastic Competition Team. He consistently arrives early on Thursdays, showing dedication, skill and a fantastic attitude during practice. I'm sure it will pay off in the competition!</i>           |
| 6 Rowan   | Aarav    | <i>For beautifully written paragraphs about a mythical creature to be included in Arthur Spiderwick's field guide. You used a range of sentence structures and hyphenated adjectives effectively. I look forward to reading the rest!</i>                                    |
| 6 Poplar  | Sum Sum  | <i>For her excellent work ethic and cheery disposition. Sum Sum always works to the best of her ability with a smile upon her face. This week she has started to write a beautiful 'Kisune' mythical creature description, which shows great promise. Well done, Sum Sum</i> |