

UPDATE FOR PARENTS

Friday 13th
February
2026

- Thought for the week
- Art work of the week
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Thought for the week...



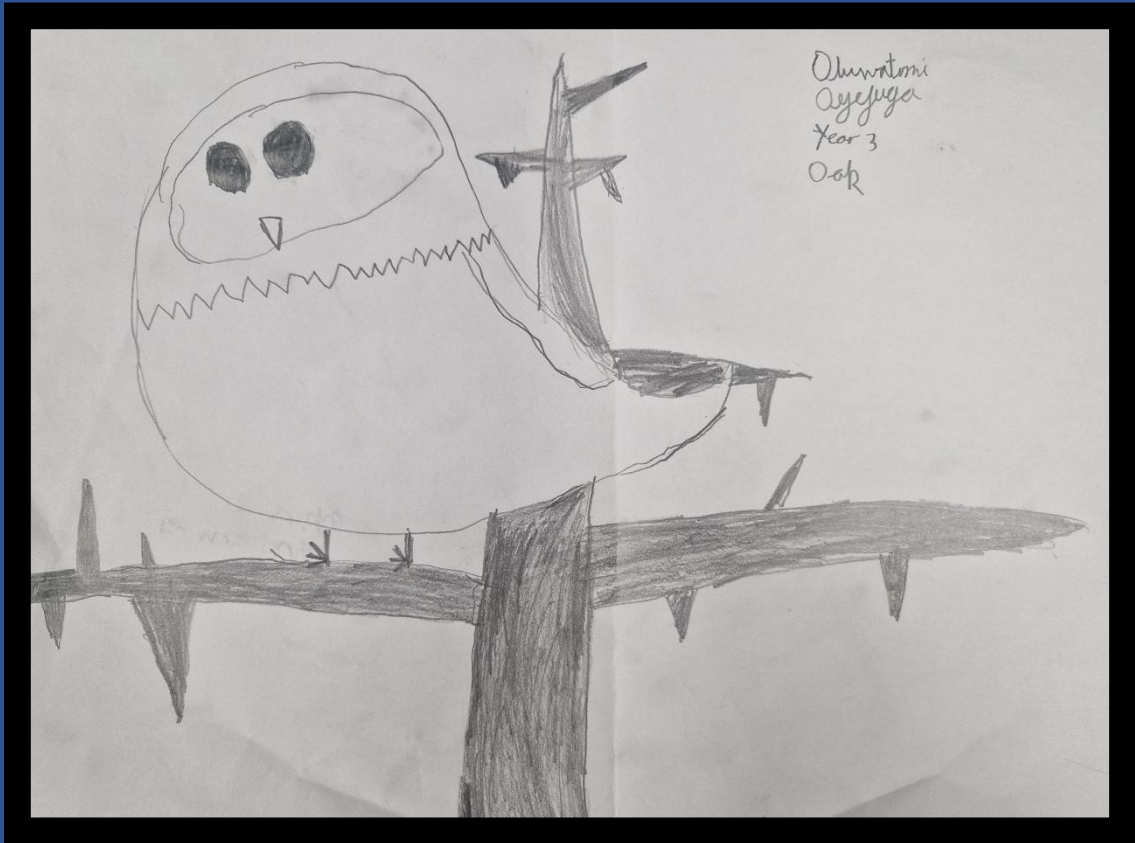
As the holy month of Ramadan begins, we wish our Muslim friends a time of deep reflection, spiritual growth, and answered prayers.

To all parents,

Thank you for all your help and support throughout this half term – I hope you will have a happy and restful half-term holiday.



Art of the week



Oluwatomi, year 3 Oak

Art of the week



Nathaniel, year 5 Beech

Art of the week



Above: Aleaha, year 4 Juniper

Below: Selase, year 4 Juniper



Art of the week



Above: Eva P, year 4 Juniper

Below: Megha, year 6 Poplar



Art of the week



Nya and Nyra (years 3 & 5)

Art of the week



Annabel, 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 12th 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

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 15th 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

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](#)

Spring term events

Date	Event	Time	Notes
16/02-20/02/2026	Half Term		
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 Y6 - 1pm to 2.30pm	
06/03/2026	Y3 & Y5 - Shakespeare Rewired	Y3 – 10.30am to 12.00pm 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	Inset Day		
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. 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 Juniper and Elm classes for attendance that is over our target percentage.

Attendance and punctuality report Week beginning: 26th January 2026		
<i>Class</i>	<i>Attendance percentage</i>	<i>Number of children late</i>
3 Holly	95%	2
3 Oak	88%	2
4 Juniper	98.33%	4
4 Willow	92.33%	7
5 Beech	94.33%	0
5 Elm	98.33%	7
6 Poplar	92%	6
6 Rowan	96.67%	1



Our target is 97% attendance each week!

Stars of the week

Friday 13th February



Class	Nominee	Reason
3 Holly	Olivia	<i>For making a fantastic effort in lessons to step out of your comfort zone and get really involved. Your ideas are excellent and we all really enjoy hearing them. Well done!</i>
3 Oak	Nyra	<i>For a great restart in choir. Well done, Nyra. Your professional and unfazed approach to joining mid-way through a learnt song, meant we could all benefit from your beautiful voice and enthusiasm.</i>
4 Willow	Sara	<i>For working really hard in all our assessments and making a conscious effort to find out any ways that she can improve.</i>
4 Juniper	Harlo	<i>For creating a fantastic travel leaflet for her imaginary island.</i>
5 Elm	Zahra	<i>For excellent, consistent effort in maths demonstrating a fantastic work ethic. Her well thought-out answers show her good mathematical thinking and she always finishes her challenge by working efficiently.</i>
5 Beech	Theo	<i>For regularly bringing enthusiasm and thoughtful insight to our class discussions. I am continually impressed by the way Theo proactively seeks feedback and uses it to strengthen and improve his work. Keep up the fantastic attitude!</i>
6 Rowan	Saathvik	<i>For a beautifully written field guide about a mythical creature, emulating the style of 'Arthur Spiderwick' and using precise and effective vocabulary.</i>
6 Poplar	Isaaq	<i>For a brilliantly written mythical creature description for Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide. Isaaq edited and proofread his writing with such accuracy that no additional changes or corrections were made by his teacher (Miss Reynolds). Well done, Isaaq!</i>