



# NEWSLETTER

15TH NOVEMBER 2024

## WELCOME

Welcome back after the half-term break! We hope you had a peaceful and restful week. There is a lot to look forward to in this upcoming term so please keep an eye on the dates for the diary.

Admissions for Reception 2025 are now open. The information on how to apply can be found on Page 3 of this newsletter. If you are interested in viewing the school before applying, we have several tour dates on our website which you can book onto by clicking the link:

## SCHOOL TOURS

The last term concluded wonderfully with our Harvest Festival at St Michael's and All Angel's Church, which was a fantastic event that united our school community. Harvest is a time to celebrate the amazing wealth of plants and food which the world contains. The children worked so hard learning songs and presentations, which they performed beautifully.

As you will be aware, much needed rewiring work is currently underway around the school. We appreciate the children's resilience as they have adapted well to the changes, which we've tried to keep to a minimum.

Although the month has been mild so far, the cold weather is not far away. As the weather gets colder, please ensure your children come to school dressed appropriately for the season with warm clothing, including gloves, scarves, and hats. Should you need any help with this, please see Mrs Furey who will be more than happy to help you.

Jo Ball  
Headteacher

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Since September, Ms McNamara and I have been working tirelessly to improve the standards of reading across the school. We have been doing a lot of behind the scenes work toward improving the curriculum, but have also been doing a lot of visible work toward improving how we Read for Pleasure.

Learning to read is an important thing your child will learn at Primary School; Reading for Pleasure is integral to improve that love and enjoyment. We have been working hard to improve the standards of our book corners, adding more reading spaces around school and giving the library a bit of a makeover, to make it more enticing and inviting. We are working hard as a school community to raise the standards of reading in all ways and so far have been met with really positive results! The children are really enjoying the opportunity to read more. We want to continue this good work into their homes too and would encourage you to not only listen to your child read, but also read to them! Take them to the library if you are able, borrow books from each other and share the love of reading with everyone you can.

Today we had an opportunity to review how we are doing on this journey. Children across the school shared some positive feedback about reading. The children have enjoyed the dedicated time in the day for reading for pleasure and love reading at home; they enjoy the independence of reading at alone but also enjoy reading with their parents. It's lovely to hear children feedback about how they enjoy reading at home – keep up the good work!

Children in Reception are loving their weekly library visits! They are so excited for their library day on Wednesday and like thinking about the book they are going to choose before they arrive. Some children even built their own library using Lego and loved discussing stories they enjoy. The changes to the library have supported children to find books more easily. We hope the love they now have for the library will only continue to grow.

We have celebrated a few literary events so far this term – National Poetry Day as well as the very first Michael Rosen Day! The children really enjoyed joining in with the events and live lessons – it really brought literature to life! Thank you to all our school community for supporting us – there is still more to do but the reading seeds have now been sown. Let reading grow!

Mrs Goss and Ms McNamara

## CELEBRATING ATTENDANCE

A big 'Thank You' to all the parents who are working with us to improve our attendance. We are pleased to announce that we have a school average of 95.9% so far this year... so close to our 96% target!!

Just to remind you that if your child's attendance is sitting below 90%, they will be monitored by the Attendance Improvement Officer from the Loal Authority until things improve. But we are here to help... pop into the office to speak to our Attendance Manager if there are any issues affecting your child's attendance that we may be able to help with.

We continue to celebrate excellent attendance in our celebration assemblies on Friday mornings. We have an ongoing termly attendance leaderboard:

### Registration Form

Year 3 Yew	98.5%
Year 4 Palm	98.0%
Year 2 Hazel	98.0%
Year 6 Walnut	97.6%
Year 5 Birch	97.2%
Year 4 Pine	96.5%
Year 3 Oak	96.4%
Year 5 Beech	96.1%
Year 2 Holly	96.0%
Year 6 Willow	95.5%
Year 1 Elm	94.9%
Reception Plum	93.3%
Year 1 Elder	93.2%
Reception Pear	91.2%

Many congratulations to Team Yew who are leading the way with 98.5% this term- Outstanding!

Several classes can catch them at this point though and there is fierce competition to win the end of term prize for the best attendance! Good attendance really does matter.

Wendy Gunning  
School Administrator/Attendance Manager

## PEDESTRIAN SKILLS

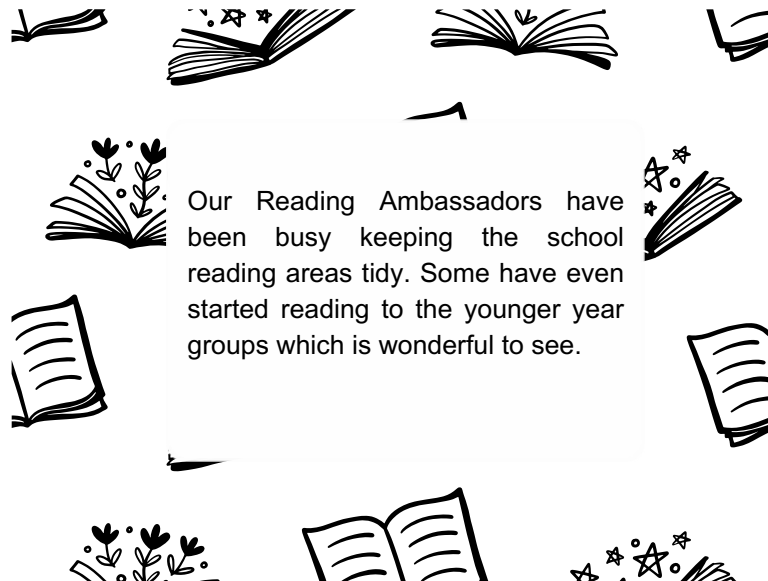
Year 4 took part in a Pedestrian Skills session last week. This session was run by the Hertfordshire County Active and Safer Travel Team.

The children learnt about the road environment, understanding the importance of being seen as well as being able to see and practise road crossing techniques in a number of live scenarios while under the supervision of staff from Hertfordshire County Council and school.

Pedestrian Skills is one of the building blocks to help children become independent travellers.



## READING CORNER



Our Reading Ambassadors have been busy keeping the school reading areas tidy. Some have even started reading to the younger year groups which is wonderful to see.

## ODD SOCKS DAY

As part of our commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all our students, we are excited to announce our participation in Anti-Bullying Week, which took place from Tuesday 12th to Friday 15th November. This year's theme was 'Choose Respect.' We have been teaching the children about embracing diversity with the message: "Everyone is different, but everyone belongs."

To support this learning we held an Odd Socks Day on Tuesday 12th November. We encouraged all children (and staff!) to wear brightly-coloured or mismatched socks as a fun way to embrace our differences and promote acceptance.



Thank you for your continued partnership in making our school a safe and welcoming place for all. Should you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Anti-Bullying Week initiatives, please do not hesitate to email [nicolafurey@lhaines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nicolafurey@lhaines.herts.sch.uk)

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There is a limited number of spaces at our popular after school clubs run by Mr C from Challenge Sport. Please ensure that you have booked and paid for your child's place on Arbor beforehand. Without booking, we cannot guarantee that your child will be able to attend. If your child's name does not appear on the register, you will be contacted to collect them.

If you are having difficulty in making a booking or wish to check that your child is booked in, please contact the office on 01923 233 146.

## ECO SUMMIT

A small group of Key Stage 2 students, who are members of our Eco Council, attended the Inclusive Multi-Academy Trust Eco-Summit on the morning of Thursday 14th November at Watford Salvation Army Hall. This event was led by the Sustainability Leads from Cherry Tree, Beechfield and Laurance Haines School and hosted by Mark Scoulding, Chair of Governors from Cherry Tree.

The children had the opportunity to meet the other passionate environmentalists from across the Trust and share ideas for an action plan for the future. Our theme for the morning was Water Conservation and the children all came back full of ideas about how we can pledge to conserve water.

## YEAR SIX BOOSTER CLASSES

A reminder for parents of children in Year 6 to return your reply slips for the booster classes which will be starting next week and taking place either before or after school. Your individual letter will tell you which day and time your child is invited attend. These booster classes are invaluable additional learning time in preparation for SATs.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN

Parent/Carers of children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021.

Just a reminder, if you wish your child to have a Reception place in September 2025, you need to be applying directly to Hertfordshire County Council.

'Under 11s 2025 leaflets' were posted week commencing 21st October 2024 directly to all families of nursery age children in Hertfordshire who should apply for a reception place for September 2025. The leaflet informed parents/carers about how to make an application, provide key dates and give further information about the process.

Please find a copy of the leaflet attached, and the link to admissions below. This leaflet explains how to apply for a reception place for children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021.

Admissions information is available at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

Closing date for applying for a place is 15 January 2025.

# YEAR 6 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

As you will be aware, we have Trust sporting events running throughout the year alongside the other schools in our Trust - Cherry Tree and Beechfield.

It was Year 6's turn this month - held at Cherry Tree School and we are delighted to inform you that Laurance Haines were the well deserved winners! We are so proud of our Year 6's for their sportsmanship!



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 25th November - 3:30PM - Y6 Isle of Wight Parents Meeting

Friday 29th November - Y3 Trip to Science Museum

Monday 2nd December - 3:30PM Y5 Phasels Wood Parents Meeting

Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Dinner Day

Monday 16th December AM & PM - Reception Nativity

Friday 20th December - 1:30PM End of term - Early finish

Monday 6th January - INSET Day - No school

Tuesday 7th January - Back to School

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

We had another fantastic Harvest Festival at St Michaels & All Angels Church before half term. The children worked so hard on learning their songs and presentations and I am sure you will agree, they sounded fantastic. Well done to all of our children! We would also like to thank Mrs Makinson for all of her hard work in organising this event. It is a favourite every year!

## ARBOR CHECKS

As it is the start of a new half term, now is a great opportunity to check on Arbor and make sure that we have your up-to-date contact details, address and medical information - including dietary requirements and GP surgeries.

Please contact the school office if you need assistance.

## FLU VACCINE MOP UP SESSION

We would like to inform you that on Thursday 14th November, children with parental consent were given the flu immunisation as part of the school's vaccination programme. Due to the high uptake of the vaccine, we were unfortunately unable to immunise all consented students yesterday. If your child received the flu immunisation yesterday, you will have already received a notification by email confirming this.

The Immunisation Team will be returning to the school on 11th December 2024 to complete the programme for any children who have not yet received their flu vaccine. If you would prefer for your child to be immunised before this date, please contact your GP practice to arrange an appointment.



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**INCLUSIVE | MAT**