



School Notices

Welcome to this week's School Notices. As a school we try to support the busy lives of our families by consolidating communication to one weekly newsletter, and these are posted to the school website each Friday as an easy point of reference.

In addition to this don't forget about our FAQ page on the school website. Our aim is to provide the answers to your questions when you think of them, as opposed to you being restricted by school hours, so please let us know if you there's anything you would find helpful so we can add it in 😊.

<https://hartsbourne.org.uk/parent-hub/>

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A Note from Mr Harper

Welcome back!

I can hardly believe that it's only been four days since the start of the second half of this increasingly cold and damp Autumn term! It's fair to say that the children returned in excellent spirits and have dived straight back into their lessons with gusto! Whilst it's always a significant gear change going from holidays to term time (what on earth is that alarm sound I can hear at 06:00?!), it's always heart-warming to see how happy the children are to see us (to some extent) and each other (to a much larger extent!) Their smiles and enthusiastic stories about all the wonderful things you all get up to during the half-term holiday are infectious, and certainly help to blow away the cobwebs from bleary-eyed staff members!

That atmosphere on the first day back after a break always reminds me of one of the first conversations I ever had with our previous headteacher, Mrs Harte. Having worked in a few schools in areas of high deprivation, she was awash with ideas about how to make school a place that children were excited to come to, rather than somewhere they wanted to avoid. Of course some of her ideas came to fruition, but I did also have to explain to her that, on the whole, Hartsbourne children love coming to school! I know that there are days when they might have trouble getting over the threshold of the classroom door, and others when the threshold of the *bedroom* door might prove a challenge (!), but I've always been very proud of how enthusiastic our children are for all things Hartsbourne.

On the subject of feeling proud, I've spent a lot of time with Year 4 this week, firstly taking them for their swimming lesson on Tuesday and then shuttling them to their Moat Mount residential trip on Thursday. Given that it was the group's first swimming lesson with school, I might have expected some trepidation, but under the expert guidance of Mrs Mushtaq they filed in, changed quickly, sat patiently waiting for their session to start and then hopped straight into the pool to complete their initial assessment without a hint of anxiety. Being away from home for a night will always cause anxiety amongst children of all ages, but I couldn't fail to notice how happy, eager and excited the children were to clamber aboard the minibus, buckle themselves in (buried beneath suitcases and sleeping bags!) and emerge the other side, bright-eyed and smiley as they followed Miss Picton-Block into the Moat Mount centre. They had a wonderful time, expertly supported by Miss Picton-Block, Miss Allen and Mrs Somaiya, and I felt very proud of how willingly they threw themselves into an anxious situation. Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Harper 😊



Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Assembly
Tuesday 11 th November	No Candice Conway Musical Theatre
Tuesday 11 th November	No Journalism Club
Tuesday 11 th November	Early Parents' Evening (3.45 - 6.30)
Thursday 13 th November	No Forces' Club
Thursday 13 th November	Late Parents' Evening (5.00 - 7.45)
Friday 14 th November	School Council - Delivering Harvest Donations
Tuesday 18 th November	Second Flu Vaccination Visit
Wednesday 19 th November	BMS Computing Leaders - Sphero Workshop with Year 3
Wednesday 19 th November	Nursery - Andrew's Fruit and Vegetable Market
Tuesday 25 th November	Year 3 - Bushey Library Visit
Thursday 27 th November	Father Burton - Advent Assemblies
Friday 28th November	Occasional Day - School Closed
Monday 1 st December	Year 1 - Local Area Walk
Tuesday 2 nd December	Year 6 - Health and Wellbeing Questionnaire

Flu Vaccinations

18th November

Please find attached the E-consent letter for your child's Flu vaccination for this coming winter. Please note that you can consent for either the **Flu nasal spray, OR the non-gelatine IM Flu vaccine**. Please make sure you complete the form online as soon as you can. The portal will close 48 hours ahead of the Flu session.

Vaccination UK East Anglia Immunisation (schoolvaccination.uk)

Flu can be very unpleasant for children and can sometimes cause serious problems, such as pneumonia. Children can catch and spread flu easily. Vaccinating them also helps protect others who are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from flu, such as babies and older people.

The School Immunisation team will be coming into the school to deliver the vaccine. Please be aware that children can NOT receive this vaccination with their GP unless they are clinically vulnerable.

Kind Regards,

Hannah Chalkley - Immunisation Programme Manager

3 Portmill House | Portmill Lane | Hitchin | Herts | SG5 1DJ

Tel: 01462 427008

Mobile: 07837 251791

www.schoolvaccination.uk

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Friday 7th November 2025 – Pearl: maintains focus, stays on task, ignores distractions and has good listening skills with peers and adults.



Year 1 – Safwan consistently stays focused on his tasks and ignores distractions around him and Aelyn listens attentively and shows respect when engaging with both peers and adults.

Year 2 – Ava has been really focused in maths this week and ignored the distractions around her. Rish always listens well when working with peers and adults.

Year 3 – Florence approaches each task with impressive focus, while Ava's supportive nature and careful listening make her a wonderful learning partner.

Year 4 – Well done to everyone in Year 4 for the courage, resilience and enthusiasm they showed throughout their residential trip to Moat Mount this week.

Year 5 – Makenzie always shows respect when listening to both adults and her peers and James has worked hard to ignore distractions around him to focus on his own learning.

Year 6 – Ruby has maintained her focus throughout the week and Jessica always demonstrates excellent listening skills with her peers and adults within the classroom.

This week Clive the Carrot is awarded to...



Year 3!



Housepoints – Friday 7th November 2025

162

Sika

126

Roe

142

Muntjac

142

Fallow

Sika wins!



Class Specific Messages



Year 3 - Bushey Library

On the 25th November Year 3 will be travelling to Bushey Library for a workshop and to learn how to use all of the library facilities. They should wear their usual school uniform and will be back in time for their usual lunchtime arrangements. They will be walking to and from the library and so will need to ensure they have their coats with them.

To cover the cost of this trip we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £3.65 which is payable via Arbor by the 12th November.

We would love to have a few parent volunteers join us on this trip. If you would like to add your name to the list then please complete this form.

<https://forms.gle/Vapd5y3huXNq9EDL7>

Names will be drawn out of the hat, with priority given to parents who have not yet been on a trip in the current school year.

School Council - Harvest Donations to The Red Trust

On Friday 14th November, our newly elected School Council members will be visiting the Phoenix Centre in Bushey to deliver our Harvest donations. The children will be travelling to and from the venue by minibus with Mr Harper. They will be leaving the school at approximately 1:15pm and will arrive back at school at 2:15pm. Due to the timing of the children's departure, they will be having lunch at school as usual. Children should wear their school uniforms.

Nursery - Wellies, Books and Google Classroom

We love exploring the Nature Reserve in Nursery, but the weather is making conditions down there increasingly wet and muddy! Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies to keep their feet clean and dry when we go on our Bear Hunts!

Like all Hartsbourne classes, we also love reading! We now have a library slot every Monday, so your children will be bringing library books home every Monday. These need to be returned by Friday in order for us to issue a new one on Monday to our budding book worms!

We've noticed that a number of you are yet to access Google Classroom as well. To do this, navigate to the Google Classroom homepage here, and sign in using your child's Hartsbourne e-mail address, listed under 'Student Details' on Arbor. The default password is always 'changeme', but let us know if you have any trouble accessing it.