

School Notices

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Reading at Hartsbourne

We often receive questions around the teaching and assessment of reading and phonics at Hartsbourne and so we wanted to pull together the answers to the most frequently asked questions for you.

We are incredibly fortunate that our children tend to join us with a real love of books and reading thanks to their experiences at home and our aim is to build on this excellent foundation.

Which reading scheme do you use?

We introduced 'Essential Letters and Sounds' (ELS) as our reading scheme in 2022, and the reading scheme books that your children bring home have been selected to compliment this.

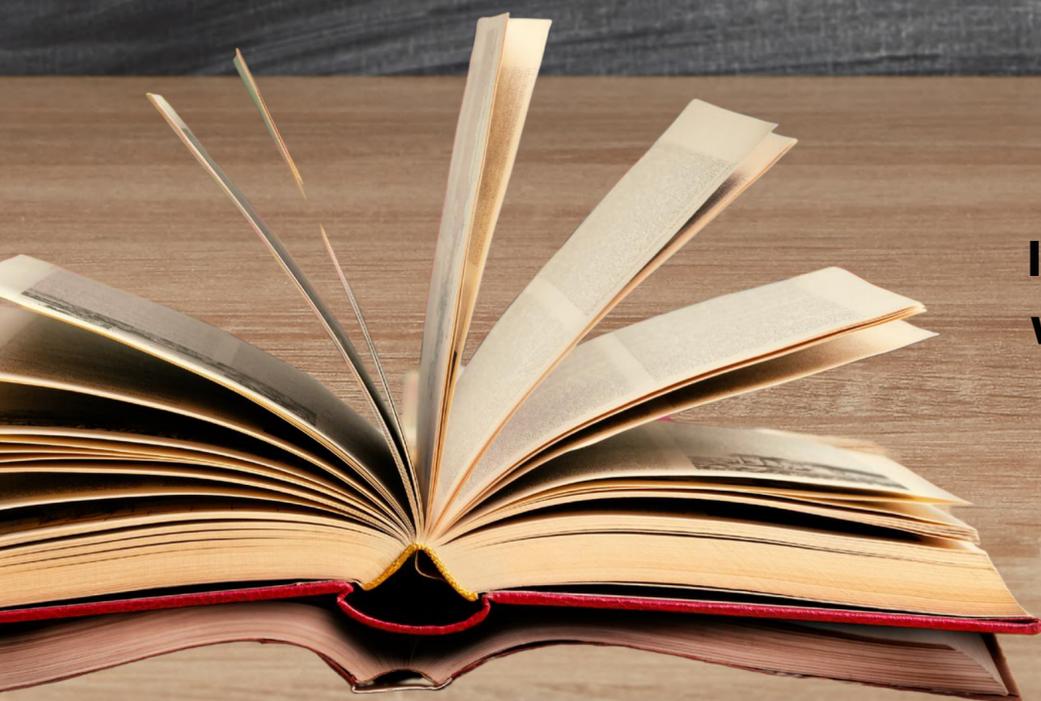
What is 'benchmarking'?

'Benchmarking' is one of ways we assess how children are progressing. This is when children read an unseen text, and we note the number of errors children make, calculating whether a book band is too hard, too easy, or 'instructional'. Children are also asked a series of comprehension questions to ensure they understand this text.

I think my child is ready to move up, can I ask for them to be 'benchmarked'?

Each child will be benchmarked a minimum of once a term and a maximum of three times per term; there will also always be at least four weeks between one assessment and the next, giving children an adequate amount of time to make progress. The class teacher will decide how many times a child needs to be benchmarked and when this takes place. The assessments themselves will be carried out by the class teacher or teaching assistant.. We also have daily opportunities to assess and monitor children's reading progress within their other lessons, alongside the benchmarking process.

While the reading books children bring home are a part of how we teach children to read, they are only part of the bigger reading journey. The English (Literacy in Reception), Phonics and Guided Reading lessons that are taught daily in school all provide opportunities for children to learn how to read. Along with any reading you do at home, such as reading books together at bed time, this all contributes to children's knowledge and understanding



If you would like to read more about how we teach English at Hartsbourne, you can find it [here](#) on the school website



FRIENDS OF HARTSBOURNE PRESENTS

SCHOOL

DISCO

15TH FEBRUARY

KS1 3:30 - 4:45

KS2 5:00 - 6:15

£5/CHILD

SIBLINGS UNDER 3 FREE



Dress to party!

**Please contact your class rep to book and pay
for your child's ticket!**



Multi Trust Dance Company Show - Friday 1st March 2024 Years 3 and 5



A quick reminder of the key information:

The show will start at **2pm and finish at roughly 2:45/3pm**. Tickets to watch your child perform are available via Ticketsource:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/busheymeads/t-dvxgngz>

Please note the following:

- The children will be taken to Bushey Meads School via school minibus at 11:00am for rehearsal on Friday 1st March and will remain on site until the completion of the show.
- They will need to be collected from **Bushey Meads, not Hartsbourne**, and will be available for collection from **3:00pm**. School staff from Years 3 and 5 will chaperone and remain with the children until they have been collected, so **if you need to collect siblings from Hartsbourne first, we can wait with the children at Bushey Meads until you arrive**.
- If you need your children to be collected by a different parent, please ensure that the children are made aware of this plan ahead of time. We aren't able to send children with other parents if neither they or we are aware of this arrangement.
- Children will need to wear a **plain black top, black leggings/joggers and black trainers/plimsolls**, or as close to this as possible.
- Children will also need to bring a **packed lunch in a named, re-usable bag as they will be eating at Bushey Meads**.



Spring Term Parent Teacher Consultations



If you haven't yet done so, please remember to book your child's Parents' Evening appointment

Bookings will close on Friday 16th February at 12pm.

Bookings are made via Arbor and full instructions can be found [here](#)





Class Specific Messages



Year 3 - St. Matthew's Church

On the **14th February**, Year 3 will be visiting St Matthew's Church as part of their R.E. topic 'Prayer, Worship and Reflection'. They will only be out in the afternoon and so will have their usual lunches, and they will be travelling there and back via the school minibus.

Year 5 - Bushey Synagogue

On the **11th March**, Year 5 will be visiting Bushey Synagogue to explore the different features of a synagogue and what is found there as part of their R.E. lessons on Judaism. They will only be out in the morning and so will have their usual lunches. As they will be walking we would welcome a couple of parent volunteers to support with this trip. If you would like to join year 5 then please click [here](#) and complete the form. As always names will be drawn out of the hat roughly two weeks before the trip, with priority given to parents who have not yet worked with the class in the current school year.

Year 6 - PGL Meeting and Information Form

After half-term, on **28th February**, there will be an information meeting regarding PGL for Year 6 parents at school in the main hall at 5.30pm. Mr Willimott will add the packing list to the google classroom. Please could you all also complete this [Information Form](#) for your child.

Year 6 - Easter Holiday Booster Sessions

Mr Willimott will hold three morning Easter booster sessions to help the children prepare for SATs. The sessions will begin at 9.00am and finish at 12.00pm with regular breaks in between.

Session dates: 9th, 10th and 11th April

Please complete this form to book your child onto any or all of the sessions.

[Booster Booking Form](#)

Friday 9th February 2024 – Sapphire: working collaboratively, listening to others and accepting challenges or changes to our ideas.



Year 1 – Well done to everyone in Year One for their great team work and excellent listening skills during our workshop at the RAF Museum.

Year 2 – Nathan works collaboratively with different children and always listens to their ideas and Matti has been challenging himself in Maths.

Year 3 – Prahan has demonstrated great collaborative working skills in maths this week, and Maliha always listens to other people in her group.

Year 4 – Levi works brilliantly in a group, always listening to others ideas and Sophia C is consistently a kind and patient learning partner.

Year 5 – Ollie is always willing to accept new challenges in maths and Shiri works extremely well with a range of different learning partners.

Year 6 – Emilija works collaboratively with a range of partners showing excellent listening skills and Noah has accepted the challenge of working with an injury throughout his lessons.

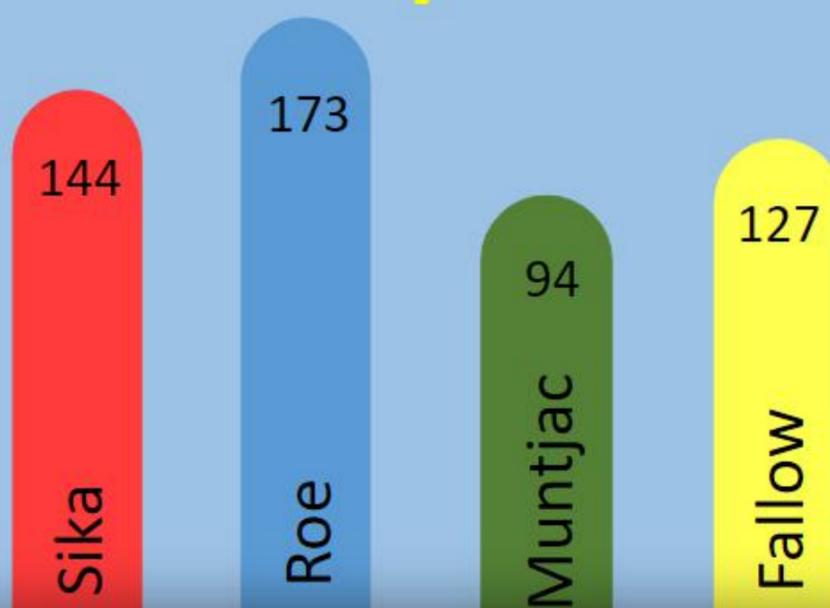
This week Clive the Carrot is awarded to...



Year 5



Housepoints – Friday 9th February 2024



Roe wins!

Improving walking and cycling in Hertsmere



Help Hertfordshire County Council improve walking and cycling routes to schools

Hertsmere Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council are starting a joint project to make it easier, safer and more enjoyable to walk, wheel and cycle in Hertsmere so that more people can choose to make their everyday journeys in an active and sustainable way.

The project will identify important local routes for people walking, using a wheelchair or riding a bike to go to work, go to school or carry out other everyday trips. When we have identified these important routes, we will use the latest guidance to suggest ways to improve them and make them safer.

Having a walking and cycling plan for Hertsmere will also help us to find improvements that will reduce carbon emissions, lower air pollution levels, and support the local economy.

We would like to hear from local parents and pupils to find out where you would like to walk and cycle and how we can make it easier. Sign up to register your interest in being involved by going to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/HertsmereLCWIP