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



Good afternoon!

Some of you were fortunate (?) enough to witness our tennis-themed staff meeting on Wednesday afternoon last week, where teaching staff received some coaching from a member of the Lawn Tennis Association. Not only will this coaching session yield a voucher worth £250 with which we can purchase better quality tennis equipment, it also unintentionally outed the truly competitive members of our team!

This led me to reflect this week on the nature of competitive sport in school. For years, I felt baffled when parents would ask me if we could have a 'competitive Sports Day', because every single Sports Day I've ever been a part of, the children have run, thrown and jumped themselves into the ground, all in the name of winning our Rose Trophy. It became apparent that the parents in question weren't so much asking for a competitive Sports Day as they were asking for an event where individuals were celebrated, as opposed to contributing to a wider team effort. I understand this viewpoint - especially if your children are athletically gifted! - and after all, when we watch the Olympics, it's the individuals we see receiving the medals. However, all of those individuals are part of a wider team, and personally I always find myself more invested in the overall medals haul from Team GB than the individuals within it. Like so many things, it's a matter of opinion.

From a wider perspective, I have always believed that competitive sport can be a power for good in school. Critics may point out that for someone to win, many others have to lose, and question whether too much competitive sport risks continuously reaffirming for some children that they're not very good at something. As someone who wasn't exactly a natural cross-country runner growing up (I know, shocking), I can sympathise with this view and certainly think that the way we manage competitive sport in school is vital. However, I also believe that participation in competitive sport can go a long way to the kind of personal development and character building that we're looking to hone in our children, alongside their academic progress. Learning how to win graciously, how to cope with defeat, how to be brave enough to run a race knowing you might not win, how to control your emotions in a high-octane atmosphere and how to be a communicative and supportive team member...these things, for me, are just as important as reading and maths.

Finally, another appeal to please complete the OFSTED Parent View survey by clicking the link below - our govenors would like as much data as possible ahead of their committee meeting this half-term, so please do complete it if you haven't already. Have a lovely weekend and we will see you all next week!

Mr Harper

Ofsted Parent View

CLICK HERE

Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event
Monday 12th October	Carmel Jane - Individual School Photos
Tuesday 20th October	Year 4 Swimming Finishes - First Group
Wednesday 21st October	Nursery - Pyjamas and Story Day
Friday 23rd October	Harvest Assembly (Year 3 and Year 4)
w/c Monday 26th October	Half Term Holiday
Monday 2nd November	School Closed - INSET
Tuesday 3rd November	First day of Term
Tuesday 3rd November	Year 4 Swimming Starts - Second Group
Monday 9th November	Year 6 - Sports Partnership Athletics Festival
Tuesday 10th November	Parents' Evening (Early) - 3:45 – 6:25pm
Tuesday 10th November	No Choir
Thursday 12th November	Parent's Evening (Late) - 5:00 – 7:40pm
Thursday 12th November	No Forces Club
Friday 13th November	Children in Need
Monday 16th November	Year 6 - Crucial Crew Trip
Tuesday 17th November	Year 6 - NCMP Heights and Weights
Friday 20th November	Flu Vaccinations - Second Visit (Year 5 and 6)

Autumn Term Parent Teacher Consultations

Nursery to Year 6

Autumn Parents' Evening - Appointment Booking

Parent consultation evenings for this term will be face to face appointments on **Tuesday 10th November from 3.45pm – 6.25pm, and Thursday 12th November from 5.00pm - 7.40pm.** This is an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress, in confidence, with the class teacher.

Appointments can be made from 7pm Monday 12th October and will close on Monday 2nd November at 12pm.

Bookings are made via **Arbor** and full instructions can be found here

Absence Reporting Reminder

To help us ensure that all of our children are safe and accounted for each morning, please remember the steps for reporting pupil absences:

- **Primary Contact:** Please report all absences by emailing parents@hartsbourne.org.uk.
- **Planned Appointments:** If your child has a medical or other essential appointment during school hours, please email us in advance so we can update our registers.
- **On-the-Day Illness:** If your child is unwell, please email us by 9:15 am at the latest on the morning of their absence.
- **Daily Updates:** For safeguarding reasons, we ask that you email us on every day your child is absent due to illness so we always know they are safe at home with you.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in keeping our school community safe!

Autumn *Week*

Tuesday 3rd - Friday 6th November

On the first week back after the half-term holiday, we will be having a whole-school themed week called 'Autumn Week'.

During this week, children will have lots of opportunities for outdoor learning, including outdoor assemblies, and be completing a variety of Autumn-themed activities. There will also be opportunies for autumnal art activities during lunchtimes and for those of you (like some of us!) who remember singing 'Come and Praise' songs in primary school, we'll be learning 'Autumn Days' as a whole school!

If you haven't already done so, please make sure your children have either a pair of wellies in school, or at the very least, a pair of old trainers they can change into, as we're confident that autumnal weather will bring with it muddy conditions!

Fundraising, Fun & Charity Events

The following are events planned in over the course of the school year to either raise funds for our school/charities or just for fun!

Friday 23rd October - Harvest Festival
Friday 13th November - Children In Need
Friday 11th December - Christmas Jumper & Dinner Day
Thursday 17th December - Winter Disco
Friday 5th February - NSPCC Number Day
Friday 5th March - World Book Day
Friday 19th March - Comic Relief
Thursday 25th March - Easter Egg Hunt
Friday 28th May - Mufti Day (theme TBC)
Saturday 3rd July - Summer Fayre

The events in blue are traditional 'Friends of Hartsbourne' fundraising events that we would like to continue to run in collaboration with parental volunteers. If you are able and willing to help with any or all of them please let us know via **parents@hartsbourne.org.uk** and we will reach out nearer the time.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Red Trust Bushey Foodbank
Shopping List

Thank you for supporting local families

- [ ] 1. Tinned meat & fish
- [ ] 2. Tinned vegetables
- [ ] 3. Tinned meals
- [ ] 4. Tinned fruit, puddings & custard
- [ ] 5. Baked beans & pulses
- [ ] 6. Pasta, rice & instant noodles
- [ ] 7. Breakfast cereal & porridge
- [ ] 8. Tea, coffee, UHT milk & fruit juice
- [ ] 9. Pasta & cooking sauces
- [ ] 10. Toiletries & household essentials (toilet roll, sanitary products, nappies, toothpaste, washing-up liquid).

Please check Red Trust Bushey's Facebook/Instagram for their latest priority items.

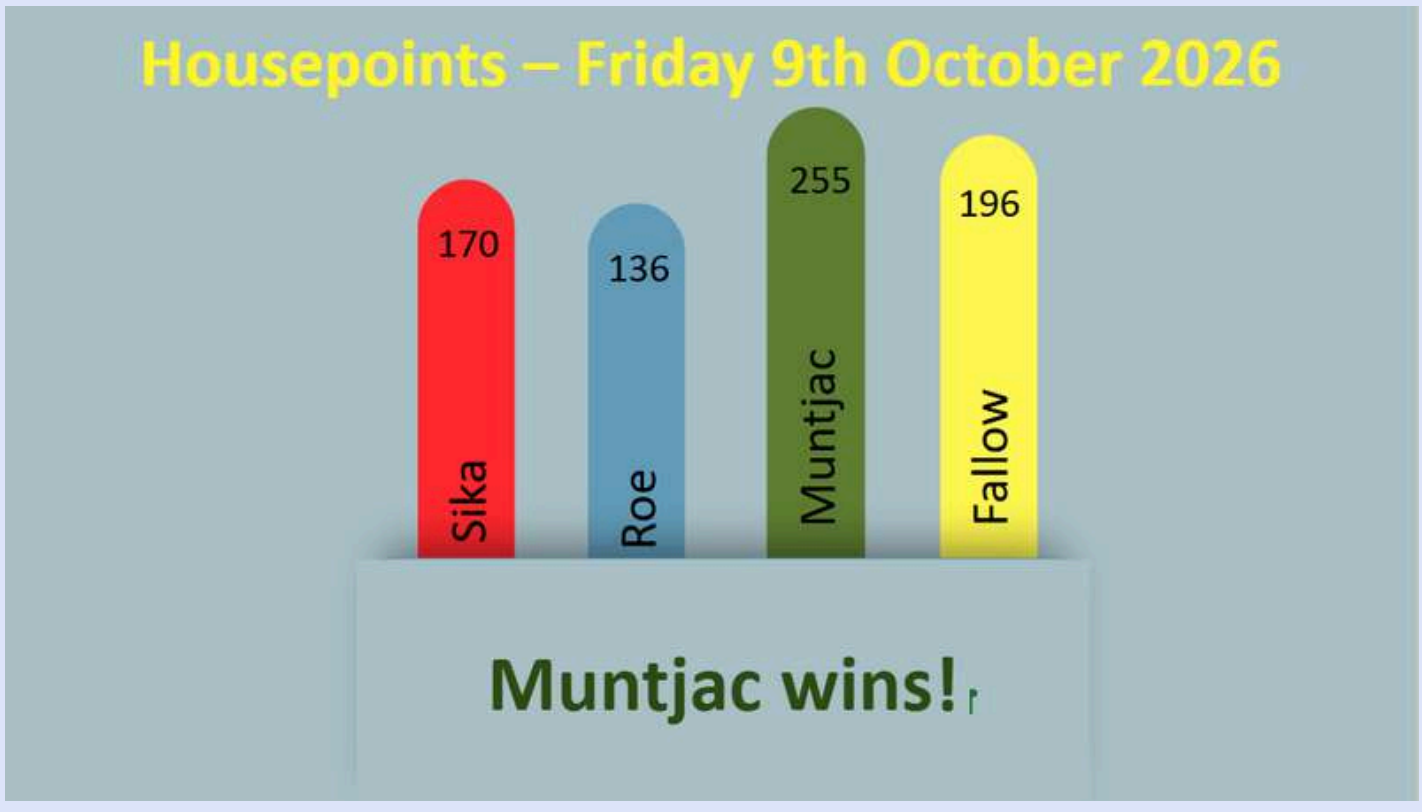
If you are able to do so, please help us continue to support the Red Trust Foodbank in Bushey as part of our Harvest Festival by donating some of the items on the adjacent list.

Donations should be made via classroom doors from Monday 19th October. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Friday 9th October 2026 – Sapphire: working collaboratively, listening to others and accepting challenges or changes to our ideas.
Year 1 – Talia works collaboratively with her peers, showing a kind and supportive attitude and Sisley embraces challenges and shows flexibility by adapting her ideas and work.
Year 2 – Lewis works well with others and listens to ideas and Grace is adaptable, embracing challenges and welcoming changes to her ideas.
Year 3 – Eli and Najma demonstrate excellent collaboration skills by listening thoughtfully to others and being supportive team members.
Year 4 – Vinnie and Olly are both brilliant learning partners, listening respectfully to the ideas of others and always eager to tackle challenges.
Year 5 – Aurora and Lily have worked well and collaboratively with their peers and open to accepting further challenges. Well done both of you!
Year 6 – Lily P always takes on feedback to make her work even better with such a mature and positive attitude and Ediz works well with a range of his peers, always listening to them to collaborate on ideas.

This week Clive the Carrot is awarded to…

Year 3



Class Specific Messages

Nursery - Pyjamas and Book Day

On Wednesday 21st October, Nursery children are invited to come to school wearing their pyjamas and bring to school their favourite book. This will be an wonderful opportunity for them to share the stories they love with their friends, at the same time discovering tales they might not have heard before.

Year 3 and 4 - Harvest Assembly

As you are aware we are holding our Harvest Assembly on Friday 23rd October. Traditionally Year 3 and Year 4 lead this assembly and so we would like to offer you the opportunity for you to come in a bit earlier for pick up to watch it.

The assembly is due to start at 2.30pm, and we can accomodate two people per child/family.