



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

I was privileged this week to be invited to a staff development afternoon at Bushey Meads, where we heard Luke Mitchell from a company called 'Positive Regard' speak to us about their relational approach to managing children's behaviour. He was an extremely engaging speaker and very relatable, consistently reiterating that he understands how difficult it is to remain patient when children aren't making helpful choices and giving examples from as recently as the previous week of when he'd gotten it wrong.

We all get it wrong, and that's okay. None of us are perfect and we all carry our individual struggles with us on a daily basis. The variables that can turn a good day into a bad one can be so slight, and I'm sure you can all recall days when you held it together for a good long while, but your bucket got fuller, and fuller, and fuller, until eventually it overflowed. As it is with parenting, so it is with teaching.

And the key, of course, is not to be the perfect parent, or the perfect teacher, but to be the best that we can be and make amends when we get it wrong. As someone who has gotten it wrong, felt guilty and apologised plenty of times in my teaching career, I've seen how much it means to children when the adult holds up their hands and admits they were wrong about something.

I also enjoyed Luke's rejection of the supposed debate between 'traditional' approaches to managing behaviour and 'progressive' approaches. His opinion, which I share, is that the best way forward is a blending of the two. At Hartsbourne, we do have high expectations of children's behaviour and consistent routines that we expect them to follow, because when everyone follows the same expectations, everyone feels safe. If you don't believe me, ask yourself what happens when you're driving and one fellow road-user starts weaving in and out of the lanes on the motorway, or performs an aggressive overtake.

However, we also come to work every day knowing that, for whatever reason, at least one child is going to act impulsively, say something they shouldn't or just simply find it hard to tow the line today. And when that happens to the point that we need to instil a consequence, part of that consequence will involve us asking that child if they're okay, and whether there's something they need to talk about that's leading them to behave this way. As with so many things in life, extremes are to be avoided. The middle way tends to be the one to follow.

Have a lovely weekend and we will see you all next week.

Mr Harper 😊



Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event
Monday 13 th October	Carmel Jane - Individual School Photos
W/C Monday 20 th October	Harvest Festival and Second Hand Uniform Sale
Wednesday 22 nd October	BSJT Dance Show - Year 5
W/C Monday 27 th October	October Half Term Holiday
Monday 3 rd November	INSET Day
Tuesday 4 th November	First Day of Term
Tuesday 4 th November	The Smeds and The Smoos - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
6 th and 7 th November	Moat Mount - Year 4
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)

SPOTLIGHT ON...

SAFETY AND PRIVACY

How we teach children to respect each other's boundaries.

A big part of the way we support children as they move through our school is teaching them what we deem to appropriate and inappropriate behaviour amongst each other, both in terms of what they say, and what they do. One of our favourite tools in this particular arsenal is the NSPCC's 'Underwear Rule' lesson, which we deliver on an annual basis. But what exactly are the messages that this lesson is designed to provide?

The Pants Acrostic

PRIVATES ARE PRIVATE
ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR
BODY BELONGS TO YOU
NO MEANS NO
TALK ABOUT SECRETS
THAT UPSET YOU
SPEAK UP, SOMEONE
CAN HELP

This acrostic is fundamental to what we teach children about both their underwear and respectful touch in general.

The messages are short and memorable, designed to give children clear information about what is and isn't appropriate, as well as reassure them that we are here to listen if they want to discuss anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

We're also mindful to remind them of times when touch that would usually be deemed inappropriate may not be, e.g. during a medical examination.

Good and bad touch

At an age-appropriate level, teachers will discuss with children what constitutes good touch and bad touch. As mentioned above, context is key, and we want children to understand the ways in which what is acceptable and not at school can differ from home.

People you can trust

The concept of children identifying trusted adults that they would feel comfortable turning to if they needed to discuss personal matters, is fundamental not just to this lesson, but our school safeguarding culture. Many classes will make 'helping hands' at the start of the year, where children identify their trusted adults.



The highlight of the lesson is always giving children their own pants template to decorate! They apply a design of their choosing and will often include a key message from the lesson, usually taken directly from the Pants Acrostic. These colourful, frilly garments are then displayed in classrooms, serving as a consistent reminder of appropriate touch and who to turn to if needed.



School Photos!

Monday 13th October



This is just a quick reminder that Carmel Jane will be in school on Monday morning to take individual and sibling school photos.

All Parents are requested to pre-register to enable access to your child's photographs. Pre-registration is required for every photo shoot.

Registration only takes a minute. Please visit

www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk

and enter the following code:

JRWRNZJYBJ

You will then be asked to pre-register with your child's full school register name.

If your child has P.E on Monday, and you would like them to be photographed in their school uniform, then please feel free to send them in with their P.E kit in a separate bag so they can change into it for their lesson.

Dogs On Site

Like many schools, we operate a strict 'no dogs on site' policy (with the exception of therapy or service dogs). But why is this?

Safety Concerns

Even well-trained dogs can become unpredictable in noisy, crowded environments. Children rushing to crowd around a dog could cause it to feel threatened and aggressive.

Allergies and Health Issues

Some children and staff have dog allergies, or asthma triggered by dog dander. Dogs can also carry fleas, ticks or parasites that could spread.

Consistency and Fairness

We know many of you own dogs, and if we allow one, we have to allow all, which could create an environment that is difficult to manage and potentially dangerous.

Hygiene

Any dog owner will tell you about the mess dogs leave behind! At best this can make our school environment unsightly; at worse it can pose health risks for curious children.

Liability

We could be held legally responsible if a dog on our site injures a child or member of staff.

Phobias

Many children have a genuine fear of dogs, and having them on site could cause distress.

As a staff we are extremely dog-friendly, and many of us are dog owners ourselves! Our policy is not based on aversion to dogs, but simply a desire to ensure that everyone is safe and comfortable on our school grounds. Thank you for your understanding!





PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor and welcome applications from parents who are keen to make a positive contribution to our school. In this voluntary position, you will work as part of a team and play a vital role in ensuring the Local Governing Board Committee is connected with parents and the community.

In particular, we are looking for candidates who possess skills and experience in industries other than education (for example premises, finance, business etc) to broaden the skillset of our current governing body.

What does an effective Parent Governor require?

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for pupils.
- Good interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn, develop new skills and attend relevant training.
- The ability to support and challenge by contributing to the vision and direction of the school.
- The ability to attend and contribute in meetings whilst maintaining confidentiality.
- The ability to work as part of a team and value the contributions of others who may hold alternative views to your own.
- An appreciation of the right to privacy of our staff and children, who will not generally be referred to by name during meetings.
- To attend at least one full meeting a term.
- To be willing to join a subcommittee/working party which will meet termly.
- To visit the school in between meetings as part of a link governor role to gain a great understanding about specific aspects of Hartsbourne and provide support to the staff members designated to lead it.

Being a Governor is a “hands off” role – strategic decisions made by Governors influence the wider leadership of the whole school, but Governors are not responsible for, or involved in, the day-to-day, operational running of the school.

For an informal discussion regarding the role please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Alison Hanbury (via parents@hartsbourne.org.uk).

If you would like to apply, please write a short statement of no more than one side of A4 saying why you would like to join the board and what you can bring to the role.

Nominations should be returned to the school office or emailed to parents@hartsbourne.org.uk by noon on Wednesday 22nd October 2025.

Anyone who has a child on the roll of the main school at the time of the election is eligible to stand (and you do not have to resign if your child leaves during your term of office). If there is more than one candidate, a ballot will be held. Once appointed, an induction will be provided to explain the role and the date of our first full governing body meeting will be shared.

Good luck!



HARVEST

Festival Donations

**WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY
20TH OCTOBER**

WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOOD FOR THE RED TRUST FOODBANK LOCATED IN BUSHEY AS PART OF OUR HARVEST CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR. THEY ARE MOST IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- TINS: MEAT & FISH; VEGETABLES; VEGETARIAN AND MEAT MEALS; FRUIT, PUDDINGS AND CUSTARD; BAKED BEANS AND PULSES, SOUP
- JARS: PASTA SAUCE, OTHER COOK-IN SAUCES,
- PACKETS: RICE, PASTA, INSTANT NOODLES, BREAKFAST CEREAL, PORRIDGE, SUGAR, BISCUITS
- DRINKS: TEA AND COFFEE, LONG LIFE MILK, LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
- OTHER: TOILET ROLL, SANITARY PRODUCTS, NAPPIES, WASHING UP LIQUID, TOOTHPASTE.

Please bring all donations to the school hall.

Second Hand Uniform

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated second hand uniform to the school. We will be in the hall from 8.30 to 8.55 each morning on the above dates as well to give everyone an opportunity to pick up some second hand uniform as they drop off their Harvest Donations.

All money raised from the second hand uniform will also be donated to the Red Trust



Friday 10th October 2025 – Sapphire: working collaboratively, listening to others and accepting challenges or changes to our ideas.



Year 1 – Mira is a collaborative learner who always supports her peers and Aliza shows great openness when faced with challenges.

Year 2 – Violet has worked well with a range of partners during English this week and Theodore listens to others and accepts changes to his ideas.

Year 3 – Francesca contributes thoughtfully when working with others, while Robert shows perseverance by approaching all tasks with a positive attitude.

Year 4 – Maddison has been a brilliant collaborative partner this week and Megan has taken on feedback for her English work brilliantly.

Year 5 – Lily always shows a positive attitude to any challenge thrown her way and Franklin always works well with a range of partners, showing support.

Year 6 – Madeleine is a great role model for others as she always works well in groups and with partners whilst Johnny has accepted challenges or changes to his ideas this week within his writing.

This week Clive the Carrot is awarded to...



Year 4!



Housepoints – Friday 10th October 2025



Sika wins!



Class Specific Messages



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - The Smeds and The Smoos

On the 4th November Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be travelling to the Radlett Centre to watch The Smeds and The Smoos. They should wear their usual school uniform and will need a packed lunch that day as they will be eating before they leave.

To cover the cost of this trip we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £20.06 which is payable either via Arbor, or by handing cash into the school office by the 17th October. 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/b74stuCDHE9b732EA>

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.

At present, due to the low number of families who have paid the Voluntary Contributions for this trip, it is currently running at an £840 loss. If you are able to afford the £20.06 requested, then please do make a payment so we're still able to run school trips moving forward.

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.



Class Specific Messages



Year 4 - Moat Mount Residential

We are once again offering Year 4 the opportunity to go on a one night residential to Moat Mount. The children will travel via school minibus and will be taking part in team building activities, archery and outdoor games.

The final cost of the trip has now been confirmed as **£56 per child (£46 is left to pay if you have already paid your deposit)** and is available on Arbor for payment. The deadline for payments is **Friday 24th October at 12.00pm.**

Things to note:

Food and Medication

Please send your child with a packed lunch for the first day. The children will be preparing their own dinner in the evening and lunch for the following day. Please could you also complete this form to let us know about any dietary requirements and medication.

<https://forms.gle/rfVdHm9Y8WBq5wqT8>

What to Bring

- ☐ Packed lunch
- ☐ Clothes suitable for outdoor activities
- ☐ Slippers
- ☐ Wellies
- ☐ A rain jacket
- ☐ A sleeping bag
- ☐ A cuddly toy
- ☐ A book for bedtime
- ☐ Toothbrush, toothpaste, flannel
- ☐ Pyjamas
- ☐ A torch (if they have one)

Children should come to school on Thursday in trainers and clothes suitable for outdoor activities.



Class Specific Messages



Year 6 - PGL Residential

As Mr Willimott previously communicated the dates for PGL have changed to w/c Monday 23rd March 2026. Despite this week usually costing £100 more per child, as the change was due to an error at PGL's end, they are honouring the price they quoted us for the original dates.

As a result the total cost has now been confirmed and will be **£363.96**

As you have paid your deposit of £50 the remaining cost is **£313.96**

You are more than welcome to pay more if you are able too but set out below is the payment schedule for the remainder of the cost.

Payments are to be made by no later than the following dates:

Friday 31st October £ 100.00

Wednesday 26th November £ 113.96

Wednesday 7th January £ 100.00

Full payment is required before the trip.

Payments can be made via Arbor as usual, and unfortunately if a payment date is missed PGL may not be able to keep your child's place open.

Date for you diaries : Mr Willimott will be holding a PGL information meeting on **Wednesday 11th February at 5.00pm**. During this meeting you'll be given information about timings for drop off and pick up, what the children will need, and processes for medication etc.