



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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- Nursery - Andrew's Fruit and Vegetable Market
- Year 4 - Moat Mount



A Note from Mrs Tregear



Dear Parents

As we reach the end of what has been a long but wonderfully productive half term, it's lovely to take a moment to reflect on all that our children have achieved across the school. Their enthusiasm, effort, and joy for learning have shone through in every classroom.

In Nursery and Reception, the children have loved exploring our Nature Reserve, discovering signs of autumn and learning about the changing world around them. Their curiosity, teamwork, and love for outdoor learning have been a delight to see.

In Year 1, the children have been busy developing their writing skills, inspired by the story Cave Baby. They have been learning how to "uplevel" their sentences by using adjectives to add more detail and description, and it's been wonderful to watch their confidence as young writers grow.

Year 2 has been exploring the fascinating topic of the Great Fire of London! They have had great fun learning Al Start's catchy song and producing some amazing artwork to bring the topic to life. It has been fantastic to see their excitement and creativity as they learned about this important event in British history.

Year 5 have taken part in a fantastic cross-Trust dance project this half term, culminating in an incredible performance at Bushey Meads School on Wednesday. Children from all three schools in the Bushey St James Trust came together to present "Dancing through the Decades," a spectacular show celebrating musical and dance styles through the ages. I was delighted to attend this event and could not have been prouder of our pupils. They were extremely brave and performed with such energy and confidence in front of a large audience – it truly was an extravaganza! Thank you so much to all the parents and families who were able to attend and cheer the children on. We also welcomed the lovely Miss Halif who has joined us as a student teacher from UCL. Meanwhile, Year 6 have embarked on an inspiring year-long cultural exchange project with the British Virgin Islands . They were honoured to welcome Dr Angel Smith, who shared fascinating insights about the history, culture, and food of the islands. This special partnership is already enriching our pupils' understanding of life in another part of the world and promises to offer many exciting opportunities for collaboration in the months ahead.

This afternoon, we also enjoyed our traditional Harvest Festival – a wonderful way to end such a busy half term. It was lovely to welcome our Year 3 and Year 4 parents to join us for this special celebration. The children have put a lot of effort into preparing for this occasion. I'm sure you thoroughly enjoyed Year 4's spirited rendition of "Consider Yourself" from Oliver Twist – a joyful reminder that we are all part of one extended family. Our celebration also helped us to reflect on the importance of community and kindness, as we collected a feast of goods for the Red Trust Foodbank. The School Council will be delivering these donations, demonstrating that even a small contribution can make a big difference to those in need. This message of compassion and gratitude is one of the most valuable lessons our children can learn.

As this first half term draws to a close, I want to say how proud I am of every single child at Hartsbourne Primary School for their hard work, resilience, and positive attitude. It has been a long half term, but one filled with creativity, learning, and community spirit.

Looking ahead to the next half term, we have much to look forward to – from learning new topics and creative projects, to the festive season, which always brings such warmth and excitement to our school community.

I HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL HALF TERM BREAK. THE CHILDREN HAVE WORKED EXCEPTIONALLY HARD AND TRULY DESERVE A REST. ENJOY A WELL-EARNED BREAK WITH YOUR FAMILIES, AND THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.



With warm regards,
Mrs Tregear
Executive Primary Headteacher





Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event
Monday 3 rd November	INSET Day
Tuesday 4th November	First Day of Term
Tuesday 4 th November	The Smeds and The Smoos - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Tuesday 4 th November	Year 4 Swimming Starts (Group 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)
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



School Photos are now live!



A message from Carmel Jane Photography:

We are excited to share that the photographs are ready, and they look amazing!

If you pre-registered, please check your inbox for your unique access link. If not, please contact us on www.carmeljane.co.uk/pre-registration-support and Insert school code: JRWRNZJYBJ

There are limited time discounts available, so act fast!
All photographs will be sent straight to your home address.

Welcome to Nursery and Reception 2025

This first half term has flown by, but our youngest members of the Hartsbourne family have settled in brilliantly. We hope you've enjoyed yourselves as much as we've enjoyed getting to know you!





Autumn Term Parent Teacher Consultations

Nursery to Year 6

Autumn Parents' Evening - Online Appointment Booking

Parent consultation evenings for this term will be face to face appointments on **Tuesday 11th November from 3.45pm – 6.25pm, and Thursday 13th 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 20th October and will close on Monday 3rd November at 12pm.

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



Pupil Wellbeing Parent Survey

As part of our ongoing work to support children's wellbeing, resilience, and independence, we'd like to understand more about parents' views and experiences.

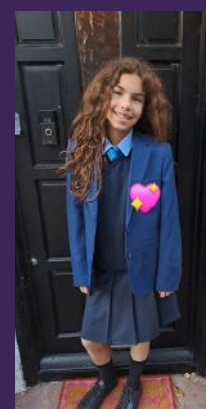
Your responses will help us strengthen how we support pupils at Hartsbourne – both in school and in partnership with families.

This short survey should take around 5 minutes to complete. Responses can be anonymous, and all feedback will be used to improve our approach to pupil wellbeing.

Pupil Wellbeing Survey

Celebrating our School Leavers

We always talk about the Hartsbourne family, and we love to hear how our children are doing when they move onto secondary school. In recognition of this we asked parents to send in photos of their child's 'First Day', and we just wanted to take a moment to share how proud we are of the young people they've grown into.





ATTENDANCE MATTERS

THE HIDDEN COST OF TERM TIME HOLIDAYS



Before I started working in a school I definitely wasn't aware of the huge impact on children when they have time off during term time, but over the years I've seen how it affects friendships and self esteem, as well as causing gaps in children's learning. From the outside it's easy to think that a couple of days here and there won't matter too much but you'd be surprised how quickly it all adds up



Absences and Anxiety

When a child is absent from school for any amount of time, it can cause feelings of anxiety. They are aware that they'll have missed out on learning which is hard to catch back up, but also friendship dynamics change extremely quickly at primary school age and children often struggle to fit back in on their return. We definitely see a higher number of friendship issues in classes with a lower attendance percentage, than we do in others where the children have had the opportunity to learn to resolve issues for themselves in school on a regular basis.

SEND or Missed Learning?

One of the first things external agencies will look at when a query is raised around SEND needs and support is has the child had the opportunity to make the same progress as their peers. If a child has not been in school regularly then is their lack of attainment simply due to not being in lessons when they are supposed to? In order for us to support all of our children to the best of our ability they need to be in school and ready to learn at the right time. These steps will give your child the best possible chance of making progress and getting the support they need if additional intervention is required.

Missing school means missing out.

Regular attendance and punctuality is paramount to our children reaching their full potential and making the most of the educational opportunities which Hartsbourne offers them.



CURRENT ATTENDANCE

WHOLE SCHOOL - 95.2%

NURSERY - 93.7%	YEAR 3 - 96.5%
RECEPTION - 96.2%	YEAR 4 - 93.9%
YEAR 1 - 95.2%	YEAR 5 - 95.2%
YEAR 2 - 95.4%	YEAR 6 - 95.3%



IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE THEN PLEASE LET US KNOW.

SAFEGUARDING MATTERS

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE



What are AI chatbots?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbots – such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini and others are becoming more common in everyday life. Children may encounter them at school, in games or even through websites and apps. While these tools can be useful and fun, it's important for parents to understand how they work, the potential risks and how to keep children safe.

AI chatbots are computer programmes that can hold a conversation with a person.

They can:

- answer questions (e.g. helping with homework or explaining a tricky topic).
- spark creativity (e.g. helping write a poem, story or quiz).
- support hobbies and interests (e.g. generating recipe ideas, sports facts or coding tips).
- provide entertainment (e.g. riddles, jokes or role-play style games).

Used wisely, chatbots can be a helpful tool for learning and fun.

When conversations can become concerning

Although conversations may start out innocent, there are risks to be aware of:

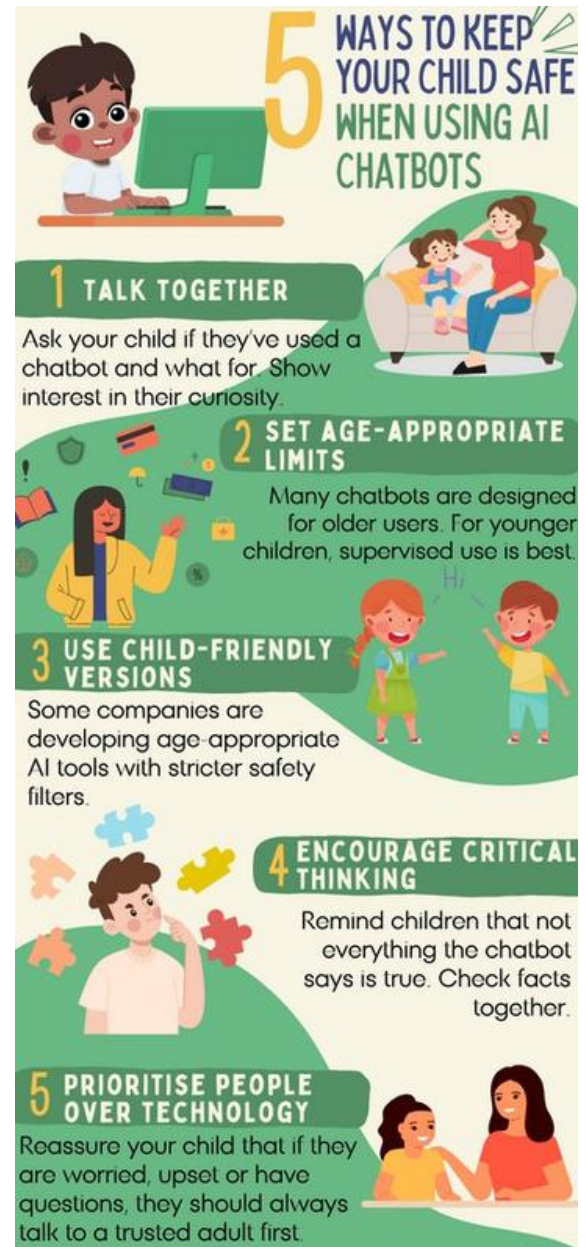
- **Unpredictable responses:** chatbots sometimes give inaccurate, confusing or inappropriate information.
- **Role-play risks:** a child may ask the chatbot to pretend to be a friend, character or even a parent figure. This can blur the line between fantasy and reality.
- **Sensitive topics:** children may explore personal worries with a chatbot and the answers they receive might not always be supportive, accurate or safe.
- **Over-reliance:** a child might start turning to a chatbot for advice instead of trusted adults.

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In this issue:

AI chatbots

Roblox safety



Key message: AI chatbots can be a useful tool, but they are not a replacement for safe, supportive human relationships. With guidance, supervision and open conversations, parents can help children explore this technology in a safe and balanced way.

SAFEGUARDING MATTERS

Roblox: What every parent needs to know Roblox is one of the most popular online gaming platforms for children, with millions of young players logging in every day. Unlike traditional video games, Roblox isn't just one single game – it's a whole virtual universe where users can play, create and share games with others around the world. This makes it exciting and engaging for children, but it also introduces some important safeguarding concerns that parents need to be aware of.

What is Roblox?

🎮 A gaming platform – millions of user-made games ('experiences') to explore, from obstacle courses to role-play adventures.

🗣️ A social space – players can chat, make friends and join groups, making it as much about socialising as gaming.

🔧 A creative tool – children can design their own games and characters, sometimes learning coding along the way.

Why children love it

Roblox sparks imagination, teamwork, and problem-solving. Children enjoy playing with friends, creating unique games or characters, and being part of a huge online community. But because it can be open and social, risks include strangers contacting children, age-inappropriate content, and the games being so immersive that switching off can be hard.

The risks parents should know about

Online grooming – strangers can use chat to befriend children with harmful intentions, often starting with friendly messages, gifts or in-game help before encouraging private chats elsewhere.

Inappropriate content – despite moderation, some games may include violence, scary themes or sexualised material.

Over-absorption – Roblox is designed to keep players hooked, which can impact sleep, schoolwork and family time.

In-game purchases – using 'Robux,' children may feel pressured to spend on costumes, upgrades or items, leading to overspending.

How parents can support their child playing Roblox

Play together

Sit with your child, explore Roblox together and ask them to show you their favourite games.



Set parental controls

Use Roblox's safety settings to limit chat, control who can message or join games and manage spending.



Talk about online friends

Remind them that online identities can be misleading. Encourage them to protect personal information and avoid shifting conversations to other apps.



Agree limits

Set clear boundaries for screen time and in-game spending. Encourage breaks and a balance of activities.



Open conversations

Let your child know they can always talk to you if someone or something makes them uncomfortable.



Friday 24th October 2025 – Diamond: being independent learners and responsible people, solving our own problems where appropriate.



Year 1 – Freddie is growing his confidence to write simple sentences on his own and Sorcha shows responsibility in her learning by independently solving problems.

Year 2 – Eli is always an independent and helpful learner in class and Haven always tries to work through difficulties to solve her own problems when she can.

Year 3 – Fatima is a considerate and responsible member of the class and Alannah demonstrates motivation and independence when solving problems.

Year 4 – Jamie always puts his best effort in to solving tricky independent problems in lessons and Eliana always shows responsibility and determination in class.

Year 5 – Ailani is developing her confidence to be able to answer worded problems in maths independently and Ta'Ziyah is a responsible learner, always looking to improve his work.

Year 6 – Sophie is always a responsible, independent learner in the classroom and Shiv has used a range of strategies to solve his own problems in all lessons throughout the week.

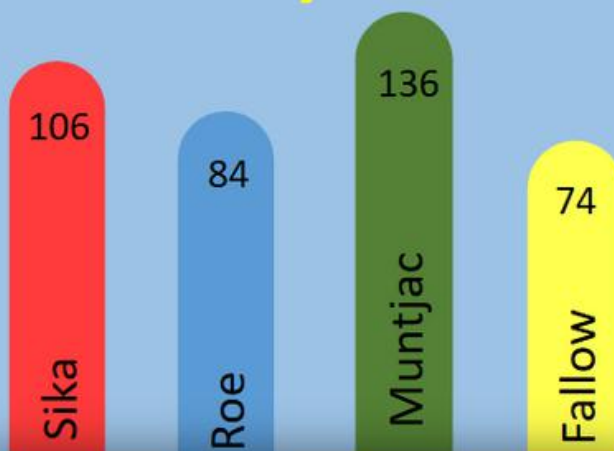
This week Clive the Carrot is awarded to...



Year 4 & Year 6!



Housepoints – Friday 24th October 2025



Muntjac 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.

Nursery - Andrew's Fruit and Vegetable Market

On Wednesday 19th November, Nursery will be visiting Andrew's Fruit and Vegetable Market as part of their work on which vegetables are grown and eaten throughout Autumn. They will be walking there and back and would therefore be extremely grateful for a few parent volunteers to help. They are planning to be out for the morning and expect to be back by 11.00.

If you are able to help then please could you complete this form by **Wednesday 5th November**.

<https://forms.gle/xY5a1bwdtLpUSWRo6>



Class Specific Messages



Year 4 - Moat Mount Residential

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.