

# HCFS Newsletter

Spring Term Two – March 2026



## A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the spring term, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to our wonderful children and staff. This half term's checkpoint assessments have shown strong learning and impressive progress across the school. The commitment in classrooms—both from pupils giving their best each day and from staff providing high-quality teaching—continues to make us incredibly proud.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers for attending our recent parent consultations. Your partnership and collaboration with us play a vital role in supporting the learning journey of every child. We truly value the time you take to engage with teachers and celebrate your children's achievements.

As we head into the Easter break, I wish all our children and families a restful, joyful holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the summer term on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Warmest Wishes,  
Mrs Hobson

## Key Dates for Summer Term One

13.04.26	Summer Term 1 Commences
16.04.26	Athletics Competition
22.04.26	Hockey Competition
04.05.26	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
07.05.26	Dynamos Cricket Competition
07.05.26	Year 5 NSPCC Workshop
07.05.26	Year 2 NSPCC Workshop
11.05.26	Year 6 SATs Week
11.05.26	Kingfishers Daily Swimming Lessons (2weeks)
15.05.26	Year 6 SATs Party!
18.05.26	Year 2 Owls School Trip to Church Farm
18.05.26	District Tri Golf Competition
19.05.26	Boys Dynamo Cricket Competition
21.05.26	Girls Dynamo Cricket Competition
22.05.26	Year 2 Puffins School Trip to Church Farm
25.05.26	<b>HALF TERM – One Week</b>
01.06.26	<b>INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
02.06.26	Summer Term 2 Commences

# Congratulations

This half term's winning house group is

## Parrots

with **313** points!

## A Reassuring Update for Families

Although recent news may feel worrying, please be assured that there are currently no meningitis cases in Hertfordshire, and the situation is being closely overseen by local health teams. To help keep our community well, we kindly remind families to ensure their children are up to date with recommended meningitis vaccinations.



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## Staff News



**Farewell to Miss Collett:** We would like to inform the school community that Miss Collett has left her role as Learning Support Practitioner. We thank her for her contributions during her time with us.

**Best Wishes to Mrs Ephgrave:** We send our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Ephgrave as she began her maternity leave last week. We look forward to hearing her happy news in due course.

**Welcome to Mrs Boakye:** We are delighted to welcome Mrs Boakye, who has joined our team as a Learning Support Practitioner. We look forward to the skills and enthusiasm she will bring to our school community.

## Attendance Awards

23 <sup>rd</sup> February	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	9 <sup>th</sup> March	16 <sup>th</sup> March	23 <sup>rd</sup> March
Foxes 99%	Swans 100%	Owls 99.33%	S.hawks 99.63%	Owls 96.25%
Falcons 98.32%	W.peckers 99.66%	Kestrels 99.33%	Swans 99.33%	Falcons 95.83%
Badgers 98.24%	Kestrels 99.33%	K.fishers 98.61%	Foxes 99%	Foxes 94.38%
Kestrels 98%	Falcons 99%	Swans 97.67%	Owls 98%	Swans 94.17%
Owls 97.67%	Seals 98.95%	S.hawks 97.67%	Ducks 97.67%	Deer 93.75%
Rabbits 96.84%	Puffins 98.33%	W.peckers 97.59%	Kestrels 97.67%	G.Eagles 93.75%
Ducks 96.67%	Foxes 98%	Falcons 97.33%	K.fishers 97.32%	Duck 93.33%
S.hawks 96.67%	Ducks 98%	Foxes 97%	Deer 97%	Hedgehog 92.97%
Seals 95.79%	Badgers 97.62%	G.Eagles 97%	G. Eagles 97%	Badger 92.65%
G.Eagles 95.33%	G.Eagles 97%	Rabbits 96.43%	W.peckers 95.97%	K.fishers 91.67%
W.peckers 94.96%	K.fishers 96.48%	Hedgehogs 96.2%	Puffins 95.67%	Kestrels 89.58%
Hedgehogs 94.71%	Rabbits 96.15%	Ducks 96%	Falcons 93.33%	S.hawks 89.58%
Puffins 94.67%	Owls 95.33%	Seals 95.26%	Seals 90.53%	Puffin 89.17%
Swans 93.33%	Hedgehogs 95.06%	Puffins 95%	Rabbits 88.82%	W.pecker 88.33%
Deer 93%	Deer 94%	Deer 92.5%	Hedgehogs 85.63%	Rabbit 88.24%
K.fishers 90.34%	S.hawks 92.33%	Badgers 88.82%	Badgers 85.29%	Seal 87.97%

The end of Spring Term Two Attendance Winners are:

**Foxes class!**
























We strive to achieve a minimum of 95% attendance. Further information regarding attendance can be found on the [Attendance Page](#) of our school website.

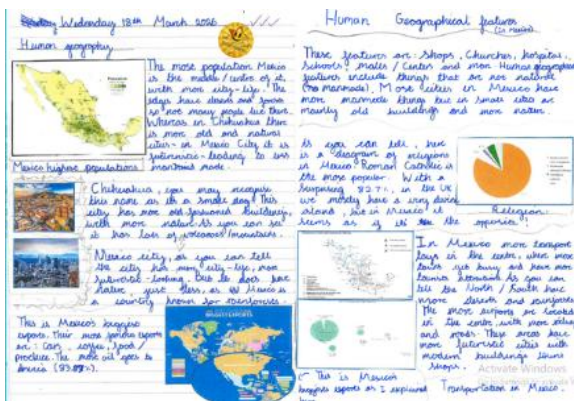
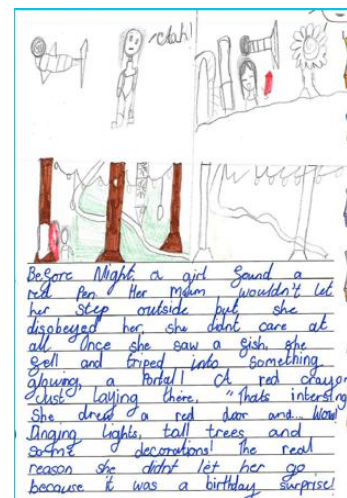
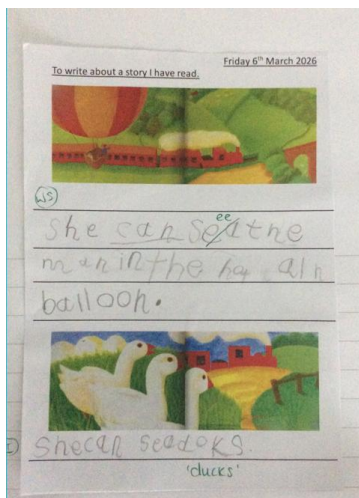
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### Principal Awards

6 <sup>th</sup> March	 Swans	 Ducks	 W.peckers	 K.fishers	 Kestrels	 G.Eagles	 S.Hawks	
13 <sup>th</sup> March	 Badgers	 Rabbits	 Hedgehogs	 Deer	 Seals	 Foxes	 Owls	 Puffins
20 <sup>th</sup> March	 Swans	 Ducks	 W.peckers	 K.fishers	 Falcons	 Kestrels	 G.Eagles	 S.Hawks



























1	£1.52, £1.86, £1.26, £1.39, £1.72	smallest	<input type="text" value="£1.26"/>	<input type="text" value="£1.39"/>	<input type="text" value="£1.52"/>	<input type="text" value="£1.72"/>	<input type="text" value="£1.86"/>	largest
2	£1.82, £1.37, £1.54, £1.78, £1.77	smallest	<input type="text" value="£1.37"/>	<input type="text" value="£1.54"/>	<input type="text" value="£1.78"/>	<input type="text" value="£1.77"/>	<input type="text" value="£1.82"/>	largest
3	£2.79, £2.09, £2.64, £2.15, £2.38	smallest	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	largest
4	£3.22, £3.72, £3.92, £3.12, £3.02	smallest	<input type="text" value="£3.02"/>	<input type="text" value="£3.12"/>	<input type="text" value="£3.22"/>	<input type="text" value="£3.72"/>	<input type="text" value="£3.92"/>	largest
5	£4.49, £4.30, £4.94, £4.29, £4.82	smallest	<input type="text" value="£4.29"/>	<input type="text" value="£4.30"/>	<input type="text" value="£4.49"/>	<input type="text" value="£4.82"/>	<input type="text" value="£4.94"/>	largest
6	£5.99, £5.15, £5.37, £5.81, £5.73	smallest	<input type="text" value="£5.15"/>	<input type="text" value="£5.37"/>	<input type="text" value="£5.73"/>	<input type="text" value="£5.81"/>	<input type="text" value="£5.99"/>	largest
7	£6.22, £6.16, £6.91, £6.01, £6.77	smallest	<input type="text" value="£6.01"/>	<input type="text" value="£6.16"/>	<input type="text" value="£6.22"/>	<input type="text" value="£6.77"/>	<input type="text" value="£6.91"/>	largest

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## Core Value Awards - Responsibility

6 <sup>th</sup> March	 Badgers	 Rabbits	 Hedgehogs	 Deer	 Seals	 Foxes	 Owls	 Puffins
13 <sup>th</sup> March	 Swans	 Ducks	 W.peckers	 K.fishers	 Kestrels	 Falcons	 G. Eagles	 S.Hawks
20 <sup>th</sup> March	 Badger	 Rabbits	 Hedgehogs	 Deer	 Seals	 Foxes	 Owls	 Puffins

Responsibility



### Half Term Highlights

#### Red Nose Day Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we supported Red Nose Day by holding a non-uniform day. Thank you to everyone who supported this charity by donating on the day, in which we raised £. We also sold 300 Red Noses, which amounted £600! The total amount raised of £750 has been donated to Comic Relief, what a tremendous effort! Congratulations to Luca C who won our Design a Red Nose Competition, winning a £15.00 Smyths Toys voucher!



#### Young Voices at the O2

Year 4 had an amazing time singing at the O2 Young Voices concert! After a speedy journey to the O2, the children enjoyed a productive rehearsal before eating their HIGHLY DESIRED packed dinners! We then lit up the O2 with our torches and the children enjoyed not only performing in the O2 but also the amazing performances from the guest singers and dancers. The whole Young Voices choir blew us away with their amazing singing and actions and were even able to sign one of the songs. It was definitely worth the later bedtime!



Mrs Wallace  
Y4 Teacher  
LKS2 Phase Lead



#### Sporting Events

##### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Indoor Athletics, Year 5/6 - 9:30 - 12:30**

Year 5 & 6 took to Onslow to take part in the indoor athletics festival. This was a qualifier to see if we would make it through to the finals. Unfortunately we did not, however the boys came 3<sup>rd</sup> and the girls came 4<sup>th</sup>. All children behaved themselves exceptionally and represented the school in a brilliant way.



Mr Flynn  
Sports Co-ordinator

##### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - OSAllstars Event, Year 4/5 - 1:10 - 3:30**

On Tuesday, 8 year 4/5 children went to Onslow to take part in a participation event. With events such as Obstacle relay, Speed Stack Cups and more, we all had a great time!

##### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Inspire & Engage Event, Year 3 - 9:30 - 2:30**

Hosted at Wodson Park in Ware, 15 children took to this all day event to take part in some different sports & activities they would never go too. We had a carousel course such as Circus Tricks, Bowls, Tennis and more!

##### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Girls Football Match Vs Oakview (Away)**

The girls played their penultimate game last week and it was one of their most competitive games yet. With no recognised goalkeeper, we took turns in goal and went into the half 0-0. With a flurry of late goals from Oakview, we fell to a 3-0 loss however the girls have had such an upturn in performances lately. I am so proud!



### Half Term Highlights continued

#### Science Day at HCFS

Science Day at HCFS, took place on Friday 27th February and was a vibrant celebration of curiosity, creativity, and hands-on learning across the whole school. Children from every year group immersed themselves in a variety of engaging scientific experiences designed to spark excitement and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

A highlight of the day was a 40-minute workshop with Sublime Science, where pupils took part in lively demonstrations and interactive experiments. From bubbling potions to surprising scientific reactions, the workshop encouraged children to ask questions, make predictions, and think like real scientists. The energy in the room was infectious, with pupils enthusiastically joining in and sharing their discoveries.



**Mrs Morris**  
*Science Custodian*

In addition to the workshop, each class created a poster entry for the National British Science Week competition. Children worked collaboratively to brainstorm ideas, design eye-catching layouts, and communicate scientific concepts creatively. This activity not only supported their understanding of the theme but also encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and artistic expression.

Throughout the day, year groups engaged in fun and practical investigations tailored to their learning stage. These hands-on tasks allowed pupils to explore scientific ideas through real experimentation—testing, observing, evaluating, and enjoying the process along the way. To find out more about what your child's year group explored during Science Day, please make sure to read the class blog, where teachers have shared detailed updates, photos, and reflections on the activities.

Science Day at HCFS truly showcased the joy of learning and the power of scientific curiosity.





### Half Term Highlights continued

#### HAS News

Wow, another term has flown by and the brighter weather is slowly starting to appear!

This term the HSA held our annual Valentine's Disco. The children all seemed to have an amazing time, and the event raised over £600. We then had one last treat before half term with our delicious Doughnut Day! This was hugely popular and raised over £250!



The HSA has also been able to fund over 50 new books for the library to expand our collection, costing approximately £500. In addition, we were delighted to fund a visit from a "Super Scientist" during Science Week, who performed various exciting experiments for all year groups, costing £750.

This brings the total amount the HSA has funded so far this academic year to nearly £4,000! The HSA hopes to continue raising funds to provide these valuable experiences and resources for our school, and we therefore ask for your support in any upcoming events.

#### Year 3 Celtic Harmony School Trip

This term, Year 3 have been learning about Prehistory, focusing on the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages as part of our History project. To bring this learning to life, the children enjoyed an exciting day trip to Celtic Harmony Camp, where they experienced what life might have been like thousands of years ago.

When we arrived, the children were split into tribes and given their tribe names: the *Proud Eagles* (Swans) and the *Wild Boars* (Ducks). Throughout the day they took part in a range of hands-on activities that helped them understand how people survived during prehistoric times.



**Mrs Viera**  
Y3 Teacher

The children learnt how to make fire using simple Stone Age materials such as sticks and hay. As prehistoric people were hunter-gatherers, they also went on a hunt in the woods using training spears. Impressively, both tribes managed to successfully hunt a giant woolly mammoth! Along the way, they gathered berries, plants and nuts—carefully avoiding the poisonous mushrooms hidden in the forest.

Using their gathered ingredients, the children helped cook a stew with wild cabbage and herbs to enjoy alongside the other foods they had found. They also tried their hand at building dens using branches and sticks, just like the nomadic people of the time would have done. To finish, they learnt about how early tools were made using natural materials such as wood, stone and animal antlers.

We ended the day gathered around the fire inside a large roundhouse, listening to a story before heading home—smoky, tired and full of wonderful memories from a fantastic day of learning. It seems that time travelling thousands of years into the past can be quite exhausting!





### Half Term Highlights continued



**Miss Irish**  
YR Teacher

#### Reception's First Class Assembly

This half term, our Reception children wowed us with their very first class assembly. They shared learning from *The Train Ride*, describing what they might see on their journey and showing some brilliant writing. They also took us into space, talking confidently about the eight planets, and explored real-life superheroes like firefighters and police officers.

The children spoke clearly, remembered their lines and performed their songs with fantastic actions. The Early Years team are so proud of them all. Well done, Reception!



**Mrs Canty**  
Y2 Teacher

#### World Book Day

World Book Day was a wonderful celebration of our shared love of reading. This year, the whole school focused on *The Journey* by Aaron Becker, with each class taking part in imaginative creative-writing and art activities inspired by the book. Laughter and excitement filled the day as children tried to guess which staff members were hiding behind the masks of our mysterious Masked Readers.

We also enjoyed spending time sharing books and stories with one another. The children looked fantastic in their costumes, and in the afternoon, they took to the catwalk for a brilliant fashion show, proudly showcasing characters from their favourite books. To end the day, parents and carers joined the children to share a book together, bringing our celebration of reading to a warm and joyful close



#### Mother's Day Fundraising Event

Thank you to everyone who supported our Mother's Day Fundraising event, we raised £665, which will be used to support our enhanced curriculum activities.



### Half Term Highlights continued



**Mrs Canty**  
Y2 Teacher

#### Bug Visit:

Year 2 were very lucky to enjoy an exciting visit from 'Lots of Legs', a company that brought a fantastic range of creepy crawlies into school for the children to observe and even hold.

The classroom was buzzing with enthusiasm as the children explored the different mini-beasts, asking lots of interesting questions to find out more about each creature. We were incredibly impressed by how brave many of the children were, especially those who chose to hold creatures such as the stick insect and the woodlouse. It was a memorable experience filled with curiosity, courage and lots of fun!



### Out of School Achievements!



Making his Scout pledge and achieving his first 3 badges

**WE LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS!**  
If your child wants to share their achievements with us so that they appear in our next newsletter, please send them in to [office@hcfs.org.uk](mailto:office@hcfs.org.uk)

### Hay Fever

As hay fever season approaches, please can we kindly remind you to support your child with taking the necessary medication before attending school each day. Thank you.





### Working Together: Raising Concerns Effectively

At HCFS, we value our partnership with families and are committed to maintaining open, respectful and constructive communication. To ensure that any concerns you may have are addressed swiftly, positively and by the most appropriate member of staff, we kindly ask that you follow the steps outlined below:



#### Who to Contact and When

**1. Class Teacher – First Point of Contact**

We encourage you to speak directly with your child's class teacher. Teachers are available for informal conversations at the end of the school day during collection or via a telephone call arranged through the school office.

*Please note: Teachers are not available for discussions at morning drop-off as they are welcoming children and settling them into their learning.*

**2. Phase Leader – If Further Support is Needed**

If your concern remains unresolved after speaking with the class teacher, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting or call with your child's class teacher and phase leader.

**3. Assistant Vice Principal (AVP)**

Should the matter still require further attention, an AVP will be happy to support you.

**4. Vice Principal**

If needed, the Vice Principal can assist in resolving ongoing concerns.

**5. Principal**

For matters that have not been resolved through the above steps, the Principal is available to support you directly.

**6. Trust Board**

If concerns persist after all internal steps have been followed, you may request involvement from a member of the Trust Board via the school office. If necessary, you may then proceed to follow our formal complaints procedure.



## End of Term Message from the Chair of Trustees

The end of the Spring term has arrived so quickly, and it is lovely to see the sunshine is trying to come out finally!

There have been many exciting events throughout this term with Year 4 singing at the O2 for Young Voices, the HSA's Valentine's disco, World Book Day, Science Week and wonderful assemblies that parents have had the opportunity to watch. Well done to the teachers for creating these assemblies and to the children for all their hard work!

Just to remind you, the main responsibilities of the Trust Board are to set the strategic direction of the Trust, hold senior leaders to account, oversee the school's financial performance and make sure the voices of stakeholders, particularly parents, are heard. Trustees continue to visit the school by meeting with teachers, observing classes in action and evaluating progress made. We greatly appreciate any feedback you have provided during this academic year as it helps the Board to understand what you, as parents, think the school does well and where it could improve.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break, and we will see you in the final term for this academic year!

Maxine Kinghorn – Chair of Trustees

