

Activities

It has been a very busy and exciting first two weeks to this half term!

Owls were transported back in time, examining fossilised poo and handling remnants of a shooting star in their Stone Age workshop. They were also visited by Mr Hunter, a practising magistrate, who led a mock trial and shared how the Magistrates service works.

KS1 and KS2 children have also participated in Macbeth and Story Telling workshops in celebration of World Book Day, with the excitement of dressing up and sharing books on Thursday, the big day! There were some very impressive costumes from such a brilliant range of stories.

A reminder that the postponed Bedtime Storytime will now take place next Thursday evening at 5.30pm.



Thank you for all the support from home in making these events special.

There are still so many more exciting learning opportunities to come this term; please see diary dates for more information.

Staffing

Unfortunately, Mrs Sokhi is unable to be in school at the moment following a family bereavement. We hope to see her back in school very soon and our thoughts are with her and her family.

Year 5 Maths Challenge

Well done to our team of Y5 children who took part in the regional heats of the Y5 Maths Challenge at William Ransom School this week. Although we did not reach the final stages, we performed well and the feedback from the children involved was that they had lots of fun

Maths Open mornings

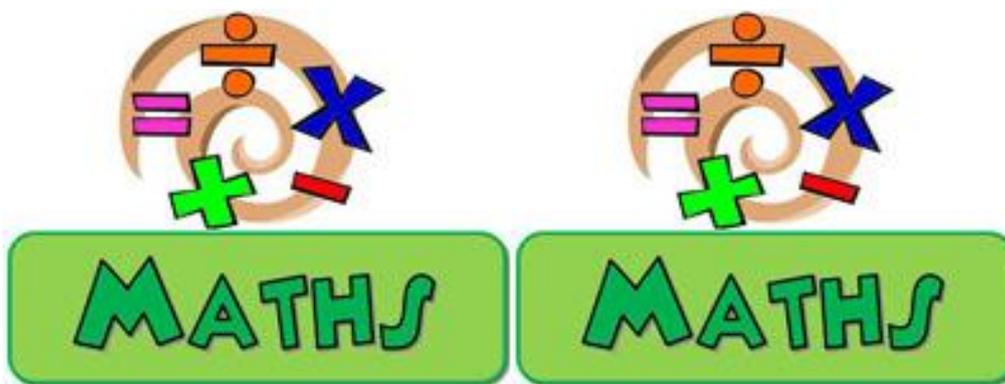
Maths Open Mornings

Please join us in enjoying a maths lesson with your child. This is an opportunity for us to share how maths is taught in class and also for parents to experience strategies which might be helpful to use at home.

Dates are as follows:	Owls	Monday 5 th March
	Kestrels	Tuesday 6 th March
	Swifts	Wednesday 7 th March
	Wrens	Friday 9 th March

All sessions take place between 9am and 10am.

The open morning with Robins will be rearranged as soon as Ms Sokhi returns to school.



Winter weather

A big thank you to Julie George, our Cleaner in Charge, Julie's husband and to Darren Simmons for keeping our playground safe for everyone to arrive safely at school each morning this week. Clearing the snow and ice is a huge task in the winter weather and we would welcome any volunteers who might be able to help when needed. Please speak to the school office if you would like more information.

Working It Out Together

If you are still interested in taking part in the Working It Out Together sessions, please complete the reply slip which was sent home before half term or speak to the school office. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to work with Mrs Fenner on improving aspects of school.



School Closure Information – Important Update

We are experiencing some extremely cold weather at the moment and so far have managed to keep the school open. This is not always an easy decision as we try to balance the safety of staff and pupils who have to travel to school with our wish to keep the school running as normal.

A reminder that last year Herts County Council launched a new Schools Closure Notification System which allows parents to receive a text or email if the school closes. In order to receive a text or email parents need to register with the new system which is hosted by a company called Everbridge.

To register, please visit <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489> where you will be directed to the 'Sign Up' page. Click on the 'sign up' button located at the top right hand corner of the page on the grey strip and from there follow the instructions. It should take no more than a few minutes to register and you will be able to edit your information at any time, eg change of mobile number or email address. If you have children at more than one Hertfordshire school, you can register for those schools in a single registration process. Once signed up, you will receive messages relating to the status of schools during severe winter weather. This new system allows you to receive this information automatically and so saving parents the need to listen to radio stations or wait for a telephone call.



We will also continue to use the Cascade system and we are grateful to parents who text messages across the village which helps us to get the information to parents as quickly as possible.

Information about school closures across Hertfordshire continues to be broadcast on BBC Three Counties Radio and announcements made on 106.7 and 106.9 BOBfm, Heart 96.9 Home Counties and Heart 97.6 Home Counties. If you don't have access to a radio, links to school closure information can be found on the following website: www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties

A decision to close the school is never taken lightly. Once a decision has been made, the school answer phone will announce if school is closed and a Parentmail message will also be sent out.

School Meals – Price increase

Hertfordshire Catering Ltd, who provide our school meals, have announced that they are raising the cost of school meals after the Easter holidays.

We will continue to charge £2.40 for meals for the summer term increasing to £2.50 in the autumn term. Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils are still entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. If you feel you may need to change your child's school meal schedule, please inform the school office before the end of term to take effect after the Easter holidays.

Anyone who may be entitled to Free School Meals, please speak to the school office or visit: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

New Classroom

We are delighted with our new classroom! We have still not taken occupation but you may have seen furniture and equipment being delivered so we hope it won't be long before we can move in!! The classroom will be the new home for Owls.

The reason the classroom was built was that the current Owls classroom is too small to accommodate a full class of pupils. The local authority agreed to build the classroom to accommodate our existing pupils. This means of course that the new classroom is simply a replacement rather than an additional classroom. Our school budget income is based primarily on pupil numbers so in order to establish a further class we would need to see a significant increase in the number of pupils at the school.

The additional space created when Owls vacate their current classroom will provide us with a valuable extra resource to accommodate small group teaching as well as meetings with external professionals such as the school nurse. Plans for additional use are under discussion.



Spring Term Dates 2018

Monday 5 th March	9-10 Owls (Class 5) Maths Morning – parents invited 6.30pm Year 6 SATS Parent Information Meeting
Tuesday 6 th March	9-10 Kestrels (Class 4) Maths Morning – parents invited Owls (Class 5) Knex Challenge
Wednesday 7 th March	9-10 Swifts (Class 3) Maths Morning – parents invited
Thursday 8 th March	9-10 Robins (Class 2) Maths Morning – parents invited
Friday 9 th March	9-10 Wrens (Class 1) Maths Morning – parents invited
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th March	Science Week Cycle Training – Level 1 and Level 2
Friday 16 th March	Whole school North Herts Sports Partnership Day
Thursday 22 nd March	9am – Parent Information Meeting in School Hall Swifts & Kestrels (Classes 3 & 4) trip to Verulamium Museum, St Albans 6.30pm Parent Information Meeting in School Hall
Friday 23 rd March	PSA Bags2School Clothes Collection Sport Relief
Thursday 29 th March	Last day of term

Summer Term Dates 2018

Monday 16 th April	First day of Summer Term
Tuesday 17 th April	Parent 2 Parent meeting 9.15am Year 3 / 4 Multi Sports Festival
Wednesday 18 th April	Class 1 swimming starts
Tuesday 24 th April	Parent 2 Parent meeting 9.15am
Tuesday 1 st May	Parent 2 Parent meeting 9.15am Year 3 / 4 Speed Stacks competition
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Tuesday 8 th May	Parent 2 Parent meeting 9.15am Year 3 / 4 Mini Tennis Challenge
Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th May	Year 6 SATS Week
Tuesday 15 th May	Parent 2 Parent meeting 9.15am
Monday 21 st to Friday 25 th May	Walk to School Week
Friday 25 th May	Inset Day – school closed
Monday 28 th May to Friday 1 st June	Half Term holiday – school closed
Monday 4 th June	Inset Day – school closed
Monday 11 th to Friday 15 th June	Year 1 Phonics Testing
Tuesday 12 th June	Athletics Rally
Friday 15 th June	Class photographs
Monday 25 th to Friday 29 th June	Year 6 Residential Visit to Isle of Wight
Wednesday 4 th July	Key Stage 2 Performance 2pm and 6.30 pm
Thursday 5 th July	Key Stage 2 Performance 6.30pm
Friday 6 th July	Reports to Parents
Wednesday 11 th July	Sports Afternoon
Thursday 12 th July	Secondary Transfer Day (to be confirmed)
Monday 16 th July	Open Session for Parents re Reports – 3.30 – 5pm
Wednesday 18 th July	Reserve Sports Afternoon
Tuesday 24 th July	Leavers' Assembly – 9am End of term

Term Dates 2017-2018

Spring Term 2018

Half Term: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2018
INSET Day: Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16th April – Friday 27th July 2018
Half Term: Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2018
Bank Holiday: Monday 7th May 2018
INSET days: Friday 25th May, Monday 4th June, Wednesday 25th July 2018
Occasional Days: Thursday 26th July, Friday 27th July 2018