



Newsletter

Autumn 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another wonderful term, we want to celebrate the incredible hard work and achievements of our pupils. From engaging in exciting learning opportunities to demonstrating kindness and resilience, our children continue to inspire us every day.

This term has been filled with activities that reflect our commitment to ensuring all children feel included, inspired, and empowered to reach their full potential.

We are immensely grateful to our parents and carers for their unwavering support, which plays such a vital role in our school community.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season – we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year!

Kind regards

Mrs Shenston
Headteacher



Children in our Year 6 Bluebell Class at the KS2 Christingle Service.

Our thanks once again to the PTA for donating the beautiful Christmas tree which has decorated our entrance hall for the last few weeks. We are also grateful that they managed to secure the services of Father Christmas on the last day of term. He spent time in each classroom chatting to the children and giving out gifts.

Our Fundraising



We made a swift start to our fundraising for the year, when two Year 6 groups held charity stalls at our September Sizzler, one of two events we host to welcome our new families at the start of the school year. The Year 6 friends ran stalls selling bracelets and crafts, and raised £124 for the Dogs Trust and £94 for Cancer Research.

The following week we held a Macmillan Coffee Morning as another chance for new families to get together, and raised over £100.

We are always pleased to support our local Food Bank and were delighted to welcome Jane Towns from Bishop's Stortford Food Bank, who came along to our Harvest Assembly to tell us about the vital work carried out by our local branch.

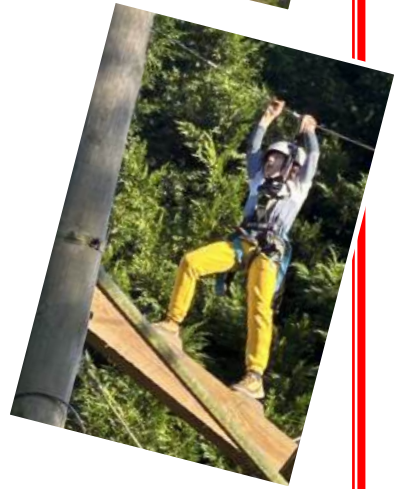
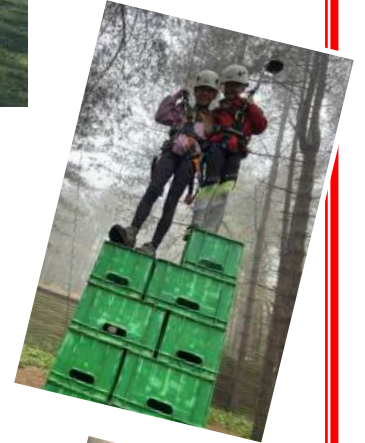
As always we are grateful for your support of the Poppy Appeal - this year we raised £212.74.

Our Happy Bags collection was also very well supported, raising £116.55 for school.



A Year 6 team also ran a stall at Winterfest, raising £41.20 for the RSPCA and our School Council.

Year 6 Residential to Hilltop





**Anti-bullying
Week**

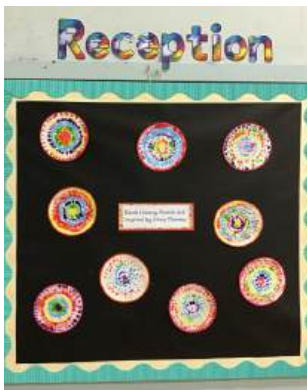


We held an Odd Socks Day to support anti-bullying week.

This year the theme was 'Choose Respect'. Our class discussions were about what respect means, what bullying is and how we can make good choices.

Some of the activities included: creating a respect web where we connected everybody with respectful remarks, creating a respect pledge, following the BBC live lesson, making a kindness rocket to fill with examples of kindness we have seen and writing a speech bubble for how to show respect and kindness to others.

Black History Month



We marked Black History Month in school in a number of ways.

Reception watched a special episode of Jojo and Gran Gran about BHM and then made some black history art. They also read the story 'So Much' and have discussed how everyone is different and how everyone has different family traditions.

Year 2 studied Mary Seacole in their history lessons and the book, 'Too Small Tola' in guided reading.

Year 4 studied the art of Jean-Michel Basquiat and created their own thoughtful pieces in his style.

The other year groups watched a video or read a story exploring the experiences and contributions of people from communities across the UK such as Alison Bennington who came to the UK from Barbados at age 19 and worked for the NHS as a nurse for many years.

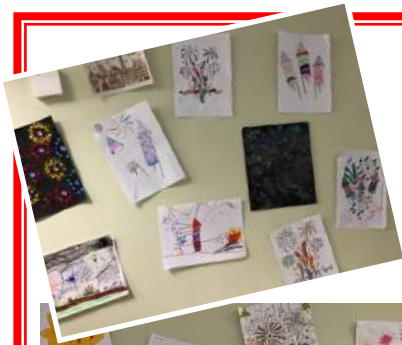
**Daffodil Class celebrate
102nd Birthday!**

Children in Daffodil Class made birthday cards to mark the 102nd birthday of Margaret, a resident of Elm View Care Home on Stortford Fields.

Margaret's 102 years also happened to be the total combined age of all the children in the class at the time!



PTA News



As ever the PTA have been working tirelessly this term, organising some fabulous events for the children and also some adult only events.

We started the term with a pumpkin carving competition, resulting in some amazing entries. The Halloween Hamper Raffle and Halloween Disco were very successful! We then held a bonfire colouring competition to tie in with a special 5th November school lunch.

Staff and friends teams took on parents at a very fun quiz night. We soon started to get in the Christmas spirit with the beautiful tree in the school entrance, provided and decorated by the PTA. Staff, parents and friends then had an enjoyable evening wreath making with expert guidance from our PTA chair and florist Rhona. Christmas events continued with a very popular Smiggle Advent Calendar raffle. Winterfest was a triumph, with so much hard work being rewarded with bumper crowds. Finally we were



delighted that the PTA were able to secure a visit from Father Christmas himself on the last day of term to give a gift to each of the children.



Congratulations to Emilia, Rory and Sienna who won the PTA's Smiggle Advent Calendar competition!



The winning quiz team!



Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher

Mrs Shenston set the children an October half-term challenge to find out more about the tree that their house team is named after. All children who took part were given a raffle ticket to go into a draw to win an afternoon of hot chocolate and biscuits with her. Below are our first winners. Since then children are being given raffle tickets for producing other excellent work and our hot chocolate sessions are becoming a regular—and very popular—event!



Readers of the Week



Congratulations to all our Readers of the Week this term!



Charity Days



Your generosity has continued as we raised £281 when we went spotty for BBC Children in Need and on Christmas Jumper Day we raised £129.55 for Grove Cottage.



First Aid Workshops

We are very grateful to the PTA who arranged and funded first aid workshops for our children in Years 4-6. Representatives from St John's Ambulance spent the day working with the classes teaching them some emergency first aid skills and were impressed by their knowledge and enthusiasm.



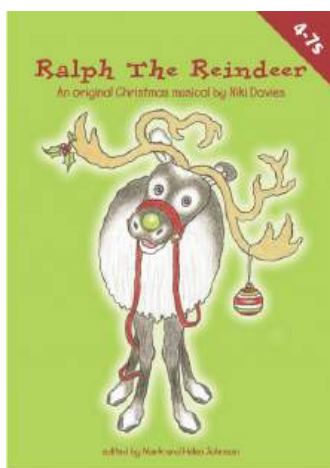
ELSA Study



We were delighted to host an ELSA Clinic recently as part of a government-backed study looking at screening children aged 3-13 years to see if they are at risk of developing Type 1 diabetes in the future and whether providing access to intervention treatment early will delay how seriously the child will become unwell.

We received some lovely feedback from the nurses who visited, saying how brave the children were who took part—they had to have a finger prick blood test—and that they had explained to the children just how valuable their involvement was to the study and how much it may help other children in the future.

EYFS Christmas Performance—Ralph the Reindeer



**KS1 Christmas Performance
"A Christmas Quarrel"**



Panto time!

We were delighted to welcome Mance Productions for two performances of Jack and the Beanstalk, partly funded by the PTA.

The children had a fabulous time joining in with all the actions and songs, including a festive rendition of Baby Shark!!



Christmas Lunch



A very big thank you to Jackie and Roberta, our kitchen team from HCL, who served almost 200 Christmas lunches, ably assisted by Mrs Shenston!

Letters to Santa

Daffodil Class have been learning about road safety, and put these new skills to good use when they walked to the postbox to send their letters to Father Christmas.



Our Christmas Danglers



Sports News

Football Scores

KAS Silver League

Hillmead	6	7	Magna Carta
Howe Green	6	4	Hillmead
Hillmead	2	1	Northgate
All Saints	3	3	Hillmead



Children have been out and about this term representing the school at a number of sporting events. Our Year 5 and 6 football team have taken part in some thrilling, high-scoring fixtures and we look forward to more next term!

Year 5 recently headed off to the Rugby Club to take part in an inter-school Tag Rugby Festival and Year 4 have sent teams to Tri-Golf and Rapid Fire Cricket competitions.

Our Cheerleading Club have been working hard in their sessions practicing for a KS2 Intra Schools Cheerleading Competition, where they scored top marks for their chant, formations and team spirit.

