



Newsletter

July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding school year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on our many achievements and extend my thanks to everyone who has been part of our journey.

This year has seen some incredible highlights: from our Year 6 pupils impressing during their SATs and residential trip, to the success of several wonderful productions from our younger children at Christmas, Years 3 and 4 at Easter and Years 5 and 6 with their summer production of Porridge. Our children have sung not only at South Mill Arts but also at the O2 this year and we have been delighted that our children have represented our school so well at the many sporting competitions that have taken place this year. The culmination of our sporting and musical endeavours took place last week with our annual Summer Music Concert and Sports Presentation Evening.

This week we also say a fond farewell to two valued members of staff. After ten wonderful years, Helen from our school office is leaving us to enjoy life in the Yorkshire Dales. Her professionalism, warmth, and endless organisation will be deeply missed. Another treasured colleague, who returned to us recently after many years, is now heading into retirement. Mrs Walker's kind and caring presence has made a difference in Reception, Year 3, and Meadow Class, and we thank her wholeheartedly.

A huge congratulations and thank you to our PTA, whose tireless efforts this year have raised vital funds and brought the school community together through events like the Summer Fête and Winter Fair. We are so grateful for your commitment as your generous donations have helped towards the ever increasing cost of coaches for school trips, purchased 15 more glockenspiels for our music lessons and replaced our ancient sound system in the school hall.

My sincere thanks also go to our dedicated Governors, who give their time and expertise to support the strategic direction of our school, and of course, to you – our parents – for your ongoing support, encouragement, and trust in us.

I wish all of our families a safe, happy, and relaxing summer. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Friday 5th September**.

Kind regards
Mrs Shenston



Congratulations to our new House Captains for 2025-26!



Visit from Childrens Laureate



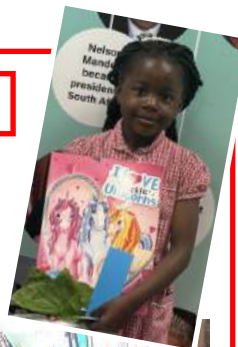
Connor Allen visited Hillmead recently and spent two day working with Years 4-6. He is a Welsh writer, poet and actor and served as Childrens Laureate of Wales 2021-23, using his platform to inspire young people through storytelling and poetry.

After a difficult childhood Connor turned his life around and thanks to a love of reading, has written a book about growing up, working out his place in the world and the danger of a life spiralling out of control. He now visits schools in the hope that he can inspire the next generation. During his visit the children were encouraged to reflect on the school's values of being inspired, valued and empowered to create "I am" poems to build self confidence.



Readers of the Week

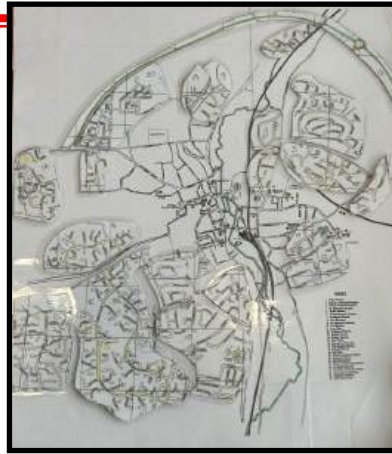
Congratulations to our Readers of the Week this half term!



Music Festival

Sunflower and Buttercup Classes were excited to join schools from across town for a celebration of music at South Mill Arts.



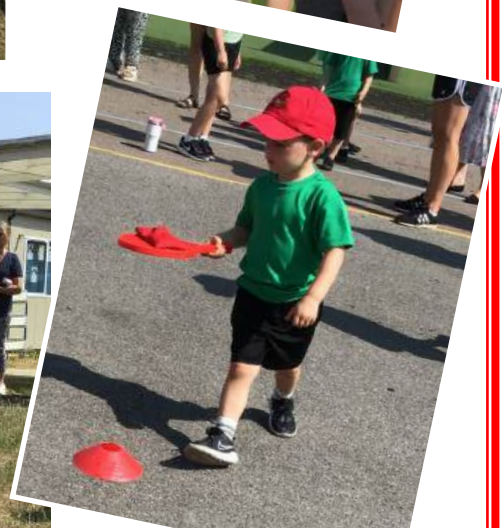


**Year 6 visit to
Stortford Museum**



Bluebell Class took a trip to Bishop's Stortford Museum to study our local history. They began by creating a timeline of the town's history and updated a map showing the changes to the town centre and population growth. They looked for evidence of the changes they discovered by examining artefacts at the museum and then gave presentations to the rest of the class on their findings. In the afternoon, they took a fascinating history walk through the town and found lots of historical clues showing how transport and industry have shaped Bishop's Stortford.





EYFS & KS1 Sports Day





**KS2
Sports
Day**



Year 1 visit to Hertfordshire Zoo

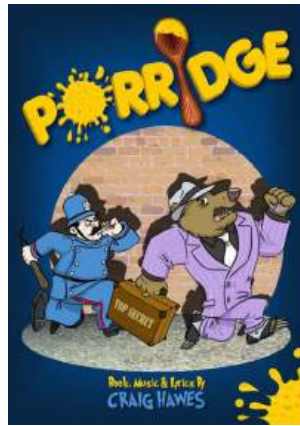




**Nursery visit to
Boydell's Dairy
Farm**



Year 5 and 6 Play

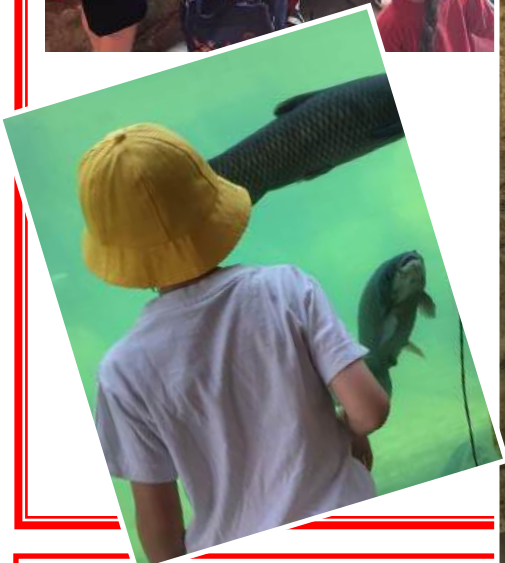


**Year 2 visit to the
Henry Moore Foundation**





Daffodil and Meadow Class visits to Hertfordshire Zoo



Year 3 visit to Audley End



Tulip Class had a fascinating day at Audley End House learning about the life of a Victorian servant. They explored the "below stairs" areas such as the kitchen, pantry and laundry and the children were taught some of the tasks that housemaids and footmen took on such as dusting, shoe shining, silver polishing and flower arranging. They finished the day with some sketching of the house and grounds.



**Year 4 visit to the
Henry Moore
Foundation**



After their visit to the Henry Moore Foundation Daisy Class were inspired to make their own models from the sketches they had drawn.



**Year 6 visit
to Harlow
Outdoors**





Summer Music Concert



Hillfest 2025



As always we are very grateful to our fabulous PTA who put on an amazing Hillfest once again—raising a staggering £4128.47! The sun was shining very brightly and there was a huge turnout to support their efforts—with fantastic music, games, entertainment, food and drink. Congratulations to all the lucky raffle winners and to Ellie in Snowdrop Class who won an amazing Hello Kitty hamper!



Welcome to new staff

We've been delighted to welcome Miss Walsom and Miss Lau to Hillmead this term as Learning Support Assistants (LSAs), and we're very pleased that Mrs Mason will also be joining the LSA team in September.



Miss Walsom, Miss Lau and Mrs Mason



Thank you to everyone who was able to support our Happy Bags collection this term—we raised £86.85!

Sports Presentation Evening



Sports Presentation Evening was another great success—with some excellent demonstrations of dance, karate, gymnastics and cheerleading, plus the ever-popular and highly competitive staff versus pupils match—this time in netball!



As well as celebrating sporting achievements in and out of school, our School Games Values Awards were presented to Ferne, Freddie, Mia, Bea, Elijah and Amber and the Richard Webb Trophy for 2025 was awarded to Rory. Congratulations to them all!

