



Newsletter

March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We find ourselves arriving, quite quickly I feel, at the end of the Spring term. Warm, sunny days still seem to elude us but we have not let the gloomy weather dampen our mood so far this year.

The newsletter is once again full of the exciting learning and extra-curricular activities the children have enjoyed since our return after February half-term and I am sure you will enjoy looking at these with your child.

This half term has been a busy one in which we have undertaken school trips to the river in the rain, Shaken up Shakespeare with Year 5 and of course had our Ofsted Inspection. I anticipate our report will be published shortly after the Easter Holidays.

Our PTA have worked tirelessly again this half term to provide fun activities for the children - the entries for the Easter Bonnet and Easter colouring competitions are outstanding and I understand the Wine Tasting evening was a roaring success.

We do, of course, end the term on a slightly sad note as we say goodbye to Mr Felts who is off to work his magic with young children in the town. We wish him well on this new path but I feel sure this will not be the last we see of him.

The summer term promises to be just as jam-packed with exciting learning opportunities across the school and I hope to see you at some of the events we have planned. So, thank you for your continued support this term and I hope you have a lovely Easter Holiday.

Best wishes

Mrs Shenston



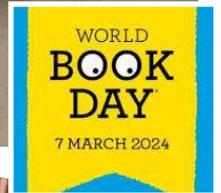
Farewell Mr Felts



We are very sad to have to say goodbye to our wonderful Site Manager, Mr Felts. We wish him all the best in his new role—he will be very much missed.



We saw some fabulous costumes in school to mark World Book Day. Mr Harris was “sophisticated”, Mr Evans was “inquisitive”, while Mrs Shenston and Mrs Keyser were “identical”. Mrs Caswell-Lay was “vibrant” and Miss Lynch was a “hero”. We had several other superheroes, mermaids, a bookworm and rainbows, plus children who were fashionable, cosy, sleepy, smart, posh, punk and many, many other inspired ideas!



Year 6 Bikeability

Year 6 had a very successful week taking part in daily cycle sessions to improve their cycling skills and confidence on the local roads around school.



Following a PSHE lesson on recognising world and UK problems and how charities work to help, some Year 6



pupils were inspired to hold a fundraising event selling cakes and sweet treats after school in aid of the Little Princess Trust, the NSPCC and Four Paws UK.

Charity Fundraising



Thank you for your support of our Red Nose Day—we raised almost £300 for Comic Relief.



KNEX Challenge



Years 5 and 6 took part in a KNEX Challenge workshop. Their mission was to build a bulldozer, considering the blade, the ability to lift the blade and ensuring there was a space for the driver to fit.

Our winners were Jack and Izequiel in Year 6 (top left) and Thomas and Elliot in Year 5 (below).





Year 5 CanalAbility Trip



The weather wasn't going to dampen spirits when Bluebell Class travelled to Harlow to explore the River Stort with CanalAbility. The children took turns to steer the boats and helped open and close locks as they explored the Stort from Burnt Mill Lock to Hunsdon Mead nature reserve.



Wiz, Wham, Alakazam!



Years 3 and 4 put on a magical performance of their Easter production, 'Wiz, Wham, Alakazam!' based on the themes of teamwork, acceptance and finding new friends.



Year 5 Shakespeare Workshop



We were delighted to welcome back Anthony from Shaking up Shakespeare, who ran a three-day workshop for Bluebell Class, culminating in a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to parents and families.



Reader of the Week



Congratulations to our Readers of the Week
Chloe-Jane, Nicholas, Eloise, Amaya and Jack.

Scooter and Skateboard Workshop

With skateboarding being included in this year's Summer Olympics in Paris, we were delighted to welcome Team Rubicon to school recently to run a skateboarding and scooter workshop!



Easter Bonnets



As you can see we had a huge response to our the Easter Bonnet competition!



Sports News



Our Hillmead Heroes Cheerleading Squad took part in a Display Day at Summercroft School recently, displaying great leadership and communication as they demonstrated their pom dance and cheer routine!



Football update

We send huge congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 mixed football team who had great success in their first year of taking part in the KAS Silver League, taking us through to the top of the table playoffs.

Unfortunately we lost our semi-final match against Manor Fields on penalties but it was a great team effort with some stand-out performances from Heidi, Seb and Jack—a big “well done” to everyone. We look forward to going again next year!

Our Year 5 and 6 netball team were in action at the inter-schools netball competition recently.



Gymnastics Competitions

We sent two teams to gymnastics competitions recently—a big thank you to both teams and congratulations to our Year 2 team (above) who came 4th!