



6 July 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredibly busy few weeks it has been with the weather dominating most of the headlines. Our Sports Days, despite the postponement for rain, were all really successful. I was really proud of the children for their participation and teamwork throughout the different events. We could see how the fundamental skills of speed, agility and balance were developing through the different activities in each different phase. I was also really proud of how well the children supported each other, celebrated successes and persevered even when they were finding it a challenge. The determination to get to the end of the track was evident throughout and testament to the way the children use our Summercroft Learning Powers. The points have all been counted and the winners were announced to the children this morning and as you will see it was a very close run thing:

1st place—Kingfisher (3,739 points)
2nd place—Woodpecker (3718 points)
3rd place—Goldfinch (3198 points)
4th place—Robin (3024 points)



I was also really proud of our Year 2 and Year 5 children who participated in the Bishop's Stortford Primary Music Festival. The annual event was held at South Mill Arts Theatre and gave the children a fantastic opportunity to perform alongside some other local primary schools. The 'Space' theme for the Year 2 children really enthused and engaged them while the Year 5s rose to the challenge of the 'Songs from the Shows' theme. We recognise the value in being involved in these collaborative performances on a professional stage and I know the children loved the opportunity which was well-received by the large audience of parents and carers. Another proud headteacher moment!



Our PTA have been extremely busy over the past few weeks culminating with the Break the Rules Day and Colour Run last weekend. There was a lovely community feel at the Colour Run and it was great to see so many families getting involved and enjoying the experience together. I am very grateful to Wendy and all of the PTA who have planned the event and ensured it was a real success. The raffle prizes were the best we have ever had and I know Kat and others worked relentlessly to get the so many worthwhile prizes. We look forward to sharing the total amount raised in the near future and I am pleased that it provided the opportunity for everyone to come together in an informal and fun way. Well done to the PTA and all the families for your support!

We have also completed our final OPAL Play audit with Sam Fletcher. I am delighted to be able to share that we were awarded the Platinum Award (the highest standard) after getting 97% on the final audit. This is in recognition of the cultural and practical changes that have been made to improve the play opportunities and experiences for the children promoting confidence, creativity, resilience cooperation and fun. Thank you for all your support with resources to get to this point and a huge well done to Mrs Bugg and Mrs Bell-Smith who have been leading on the implementation of OPAL for the past 18 months.



**Platinum
Award
2026 - 2028**

Looking ahead, we still have a really busy few weeks to go. There are a number of trips still to happen for lots of the children while we will also be supporting all the children with the transition to their new classes as well as finishing current topics. Class lists will be sent home early next week and the children will have their 'Move Up' morning with their new class and teacher on Thursday 9th June. Reports will then be sent home on Monday 16th June.

Thanks, as always, for your ongoing support and in particular for the kind messages and gestures last week when we were managing the heat. They meant a lot to all of us.

Kind regards,

Mr. Jess



6 July 2026

	Date	Category	Description
Thursday	09/07/26	Information	Move Up Day for all classes and Secondary Transition Day
Monday	13/07/26	Information	Annual Reports sent out
Tuesday	14/07/26	Information	EYFS Fairytale Workshop
Wednesday – Friday	15/07/26 - 17/07/26	Residential Trip	Year 4 Ufton Court Residential
Thursday	16/07/26	Information	Year 6 Production. Performing to Year 2 – 6 at South Mill Arts to watch performance (pm). Year 2 to 6 children to be collected from South Mill Arts (approx. 3.30pm)
Thursday	16/07/26	Information	Year 6 Production at South Mill Arts to parents and carers (7pm)
Wednesday	22/07/26	Information	Year 6 Leavers Assembly to parents followed by tea and coffee (9:15-10:30)
Wednesday	22/07/26	Information	End of Term – Early pick up at 1.15pm

Young Carers

Many young people qualify to be classed as a young carer. A young carer is a young person who, due to the needs of another family member (including siblings), has adaptations to their general childhood.

If you feel that your child may be eligible to be classed as a young carer, or has been identified and you think that we may be unaware, please contact Mrs Willis via the school office.

For more information, please see the link below, plus details of how the service is changing.

[Young carers in Hertfordshire | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

From 1 April 2026, Hertfordshire County Council will be bringing support for young carers in-house, when the young carer contract with Carers in Hertfordshire comes to an end, integrating it fully within the council's services.

The existing Carers in Hertfordshire contract for adult carers will remain in place.

Work has been ongoing with young carers, families and professionals to make sure the change is smooth, and the support will continue and stay very similar. This includes assessments, help with managing caring responsibilities, regular reviews, ensuring the voices of young carers inform the support they receive, and support in preparing for adulthood.



EYFS

Once Upon A Time!

Over the past couple of weeks, we have continued our *Once Upon A Time* topic by further exploring the story of The Three Little Pigs. The children have thoroughly enjoyed revisiting this familiar tale and taking part in a range of exciting activities linked to the story.



As budding scientists, the children carried out their own "Huff and Puff" experiment to investigate which materials would make the strongest house. We tested a variety of materials including paper, straws, Play-Doh, LEGO, wooden blocks and stone. The children made predictions about which houses would withstand the wolf's blows before putting them to the test using a hairdryer as our very own Big Bad Wolf! We observed carefully, discussed what happened and talked about why some materials were stronger than others. The children showed fantastic thinking skills and used new vocabulary such as *strong*, *weak*, *sturdy* and *durable*.

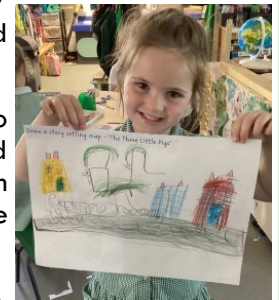
In Forest School, we explored the wonderful textures that can be found in nature. The children collected a range of natural materials including leaves, bark, grasses, flowers and twigs, carefully examining how they looked and felt. Back in the classroom, we used our collections to create nature prints using ink and paper. The children were fascinated to discover the different patterns and marks each item left behind and enjoyed comparing their prints with their friends'.

We were very excited to begin our next traditional tale, Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children immersed themselves in the story, sequencing pictures to retell the events in the correct order and using small world characters and props to act out the story independently. It was wonderful to hear the children using story language and remembering key details as they retold the tale.

In maths, we learned about positional language. The children listened carefully to instructions and placed characters from the story in different positions on a woodland story-setting background. They practised using and understanding words such as *on*, *under*, *behind*, *next to*, *in front of* and *between* while talking about where the characters were.

One of the highlights of the week for many children was making and tasting porridge, just like the bears! The children carefully measured ingredients using cups before helping to prepare the porridge. We then added different toppings to represent each member of the bear family: raisins for Daddy Bear, honey for Mummy Bear and sugar for Baby Bear. The children were excited to taste their creations and discuss their favourite toppings. The porridge was a huge success, with many children enjoying second and even third helpings!

It has another couple of wonderful weeks full of storytelling, investigation, creativity and hands-on learning. We are so proud of the children's enthusiasm and engagement as they continue their journey through our *Once Upon A Time* topic. Well done, Early Years!





Year 1

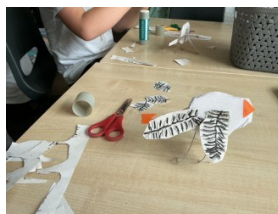
Creativity taking flight in Year 1!

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have learnt the skill of become sculptors. They have used a variety of materials; paper, polystyrene, wire and paper, to create a free-standing bird. The children used techniques taught to create feathers using crayons and oil pastels ensuring they are balanced. They then joined polystyrene together to create the body of the bird; finally, adding the details of the beak and the eyes to create their masterpieces!

In English, we have introduced our new story! The children have become experts in foxes, creating a detailed fact file including facts about the fox's appearance, habitat and diet. The children included 'and' regularly throughout their writing, joining two sentences together. They illustrated their fact files beautifully, taking care in ensuring the colour of the fox's fur is as bright as it can be! The children have also written an 'ode to a star', taking inspiration from the thoughts and feelings on stars and expressing this through rhyme.

In maths, we have introduced money. The children began by understanding 'unitising', which supports with recognition of a coin. We then were able to identify the value of coins and notes through the use of colour as well as spotting the value on the coin. This enabled us to add the value of the coins together to find an amount and to remember that we can only use the coins in our purse.

It has been lovely seeing the children's favourite toys. They have shared the reason why it was their favourites as well as explain what materials they are made out of. We then used this to support us in comparing these to older toys. We discussed how the materials used have changed and why this was. The have also become safety detectives, searching for the key symbols on a toy to ensure they are safe for us to use. The children loved playing with the games after being detectives!



Birthday List

Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays recently.

Hannah C
Elsie D
Soraya F
Heidi W
Elouise F
Hattie G
Parker C-B
Evie J

Dylan P
Emily A
Lyla B
Noah P
Benson S



Year 2

Blast Off!

We wanted to start by saying how proud we were of the children at the Music Festival last week. They all worked so hard to learn the songs and gave an amazing performance on the day! Thank you to those parents who kindly walked the children down with us. It was wonderful to see so many of you there supporting the children. Well done to all the children – you were amazing!

We have had a very busy (and hot) few weeks in Year 2. We have begun our new topic 'Coasts' and have been looking at the different human and physical features of the coastline and how these differ from where we live. We have also been learning key vocabulary such as pier, lighthouse, cliff and bay. We enjoyed bringing our learning to life, with our visit to Holland on Sea. We had a fantastic time at the beach! Luckily the weather had cooled a little and we were able to enjoy making sandcastles and looking for shells.

In DT, the children have been busy researching and designing their own seaside themed puppet. With their designs, the children have cut out their felt and have been busy sewing their front and back pieces together. The children are very excited to continue adding details to finish off their puppets!

In English, we have started a new book where we will be focusing on picture book making. We began by following along with the author/illustrator to learn how to draw the main character of the story. Hopefully this will help us when it comes to designing our own characters.

We have been learning about different life cycles in science over the last couple of weeks. We focussed on the life cycle of a butterfly, and the children were fascinated with the different stages of its life. From this, the children used pasta to represent each stage.

Thank you for all your support last week. It was a hot and busy week!

Mrs Fuat and Miss Roach





Year 3

Feeling Hot, Hot, Hot!

Phew! It has been an incredibly warm week, but the children have shown fantastic resilience. To keep everyone comfortable, we've been taking regular hydration breaks and beating the heat by dipping our feet into water trays.

The absolute highlight of our week was lunchtime when Mr. Webb cooled off the hot children (and some of the teachers!) with a gentle spray from our hosepipe!

Author & Illustrator Spotlight!

The children have been working incredibly hard to finish their very own picture books, inspired by our class text, 'New in Town' by Marta Altes.

We have some seriously talented authors and artists in Year 3! To bring their stories to life, the children used watercolours to create beautiful, vibrant illustrations, and took extra care testing their neatest handwriting skills when adding the text. They are incredibly proud of their final masterpieces and absolutely cannot wait to bring them home to show you!

Soil Scientists at Work!



In Science this week, the children became real researchers as we experimented with soil to find out which type is the most water-absorbent. We put Sandy soil, Topsoil, and compost to the test!

The children did a brilliant job of ensuring it was a completely fair test. They carefully made sure that the amount of soil and the volume of water stayed exactly the same each time they changed the soil type. It was fantastic to see them predicting, measuring, and analysing their results like real scientists!



Tick-Tock! Telling the Time in Maths



This week, we have been mastering the analogue clock! The children have been learning how many minutes are in an hour, identifying the difference between the hour and minute hands, and reading times that are "past" and "to" the hour. To help embed and support this tricky skill, we would love for you to test your children at home using an analogue clock. Try asking them to check the time when they leave for school, eat dinner, or head to bed. Spotting time in the real world is the absolute best way to make their learning stick.





Year 4

Egg-tra Special Heroes and Heroines

In English lessons, the children have begun to publish their own new adventures for Arthur Brownstone, a young Iclander who is 'the unlikeliest of heroes'. Having read 'Arthur and the Golden Rope', the children had the opportunity to devise, plan, write and illustrate their own short comic book adventure for Arthur. From defeating Jotnar to outwitting Nidhoggr, the children ensured that Arthur demonstrated his bravery and resilience, showcasing that anyone can be a hero. We have been really impressed by the children's ideas and illustrations; we might just have some budding Joe Todd-Stantons on our hands!



In science lessons, the children worked scientifically, setting up a simple practical experiment and comparing results. In groups, they investigated the effects different liquids have on eggshells. Eggs were used to model a tooth, as the shell is made from similar materials to tooth enamel. Over time, the children noticed that the shells of the eggs became weakened and damaged by the different liquids, but did cola, vinegar, orange juice or water have the greatest impact on the eggs' appearance? Ask your child to find out the results of this egg-citing experiment! Making important links, the children will use their results to discuss how and why we should look after our teeth by brushing them twice a day, reducing our sugar intake and visiting the dentist regularly.



Art lessons have seen us observing and discussing birds, migration and nests. In our last session, we focused on sketching different types of nests, using a variety of techniques and art materials. We tried to get a sense of the dense, concave shape of the nest. First, the children experimented with a drawing action from the fingers or wrist, using hard or soft pencils and erasers to capture the feeling of the nest. With the second nest, the children were encouraged to add more energy to echo the nest, moving from the elbow and shoulder as they made their drawing marks. We talked about contrasts; how nests are apparently chaotic yet ordered and fragile yet strong.





Year 5

Weaving a bit a magic

The children have been fully engaged in our artist this term, focusing the work of Mexican textile artist, Victoria Villasana. Villasana's artwork centres around the application of various weaving techniques to bring emotive symbolism to the foregrounds of famous portraits. Inspired by her unique style of layering colourful yarn to monochrome backgrounds, our young artists took their own black-and-white photographs and brought them to life using bright, vivid weaving threads. We were so proud to watch them work with incredible patience and precision, masterfully developing their skills in the running stitch, cross-stitch, and fringing to transform their prints into stunning mixed-media masterpieces. We were blown away by the final products – truly inspirational.

Taking the Stage at South Mill Arts Centre!

A massive congratulations to all the children in Sycamore and Hazel class for their incredible performance on the big stage last week. Performing "Songs from the Shows," the children were the absolute definition of professional, representing Summercroft with enthusiasm and pride. Every single child sang their heart out with incredible rhythm and confidence. We are so proud of the hard work and resilience that the children displayed while learning all the songs, and to see them belting out the songs of stage was a true highlight of the year. Thank you to all the parents and carers for your continued support - whether that was helping the children practice their song lyrics at home or cheering them on from the auditorium seats!

Science at Birchwood

The children were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend Birchwood Secondary School this week and participate in two scientific investigations centred around chemistry and physics. We learned all about endothermic and exothermic reactions, experimenting with different liquids to see how different chemical reactions can affect the rise and fall of temperature. We also built our own miniature rollercoasters to investigate gravitational potential energy and conclude how the height and length of our rollercoaster can affect the speed of our passengers (ball bearings). The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to use the resources at the secondary school, and it was a small, successful introduction to their secondary school experience which is just around the corner.



As always, thank you so much for all your support. We truly appreciate it. We hope you survived the heat and that you enjoy the coming weeks as we count down to summer break. Wishing you all the best,

The Year 5 Team



Year 6

A Week to Remember at Osmington Bay!

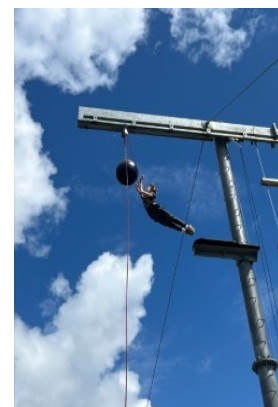
What a fantastic week we've had at Osmington Bay! After a long coach journey, the children wasted no time getting stuck in, heading straight into their first activity before ending the day around the campfire.



Throughout the week, the children embraced every opportunity, taking on a fantastic range of activities including the zip wire, giant swing, trapeze and archery. One of the week's highlights was the nail-biting dragon boat race at the harbour, which ended in a well-earned victory for the green boat!



We could not be more proud of the children. They approached every challenge with enthusiasm, resilience and determination, pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones and conquering fears along the way. They were fantastic representatives of the school. It has been an absolute pleasure to spend the week with them and watch their confidence and teamwork grow.



A huge thank you goes to Mrs Cooper, Mrs Kirkby, Mrs McCann, Mrs Davey and Lottie for giving up their time and helping to make the week such a memorable experience. We couldn't have done it without them!





SEND Updates

We would like to make you aware of some of the local support available for parents of children with SEND.



You can find lots of articles to support children's wellbeing and emotional health [here](#).

Please access the Developing Special Provision Locally, Area 3 (DSPL3) website and Facebook page linked below. There you will find a range of helpful information, advice, courses and further SEN support.

DSPL3 Website- [Developing Special Provision Locally \(DSPL\) 3 - Home](#)

DSPL3 Facebook page- [Delivering Special Provision Locally Area 3 - East Herts | Facebook](#)

There are also a range of other support groups, including:

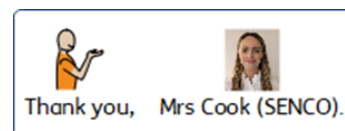
[SPACE Hertfordshire – Supporting families in Hertfordshire | Autism | ADHD | Neurodiversity](#)

[ADD-vance](#)- The ADHD and Autism Trust- courses include 'Understanding my ADHD'.

[Families in Focus | Courses for Parents, Hertfordshire](#)

[Families Feeling Safe](#) • Protective Behaviours training, courses and workshops.

SENDIASS- [Home](#)- Info, advice and support with the SEN systems.



New SEN Signposts:

- 'Understanding My Autism' & 'Understanding My ADHD' courses for children starting in January 2026
- Neurodiversity support Hub- for children with a diagnosis or awaiting an assessment



Punctuality Matters!

Did you know?

The early work in our classes helps the children to embed and practise the skills that they have learnt previously.

Our registers close at 8:55am.

Missed minutes = missed learning = missed opportunities!

Being frequently late for school means lost learning:

- o Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- o Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- o Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

Our school attendance policy can be found [here](#).

If you need advice or support regarding attendance or punctuality please contact our Pastoral Lead, Mrs Willis, at jo.willis@summercroft.herts.sch.uk.



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

School's out ... for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or frying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

THERE'S NO NETWORK LIKE HOME

Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.

IT'S 'THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON

For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney+ and Minecraft will still be there on drizzly Sundays in October.

PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE

It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.

KEEP TALKING

It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about who they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.

LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF

This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep – which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.

FOCUS ON FACTS

The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital rumour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online – especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.

WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING

With no school, children often take every opportunity to fit in 'just one more go' on their favourite game – sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but it could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.

LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES

When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.

DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS

Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example – and, especially, sees that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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Please pass this on to your
pupils parents & guardians



IMPORTANT

SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERING INFORMATION

PLEASE ORDER BEFORE **31ST JULY** TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Please note: This date applies to schools returning at the start of September.
Parents of schools with earlier return dates will need to order sooner.



We have already built up great stock levels to ensure your order is sent out in record time, however there can always be issues that are out of our control. With this in mind **please order as early as possible**, especially if your child is starting school for the first time!

Orders placed up to and including the 31st of July will take priority over all our current stock, so please place orders as soon as possible – This will help ensure that you receive your uniform in good time, as orders placed after this period are more likely to be subject to delays.

Thank you and have a great summer!

The Mapac Team

Click HERE to order!