



This half term we are focussing on: Honesty

# The Ransom Round Up

Good Morning Parents and Carers,

As we settle further into the term, it's been truly heartening to witness the strong sense of community that continues to thrive in and around our school. Over the past couple of weeks, we have had a number of events and activities that have not only brought our children new experiences, but also brought our school community together as well.

A huge thank you to all of our amazing parents who gave up their time, energy, and culinary talents to prepare such an incredible variety of dishes for our Food Around the World event on Thursday - the event truly was a celebration of global cuisine! The care and pride that went into each dish was evident and it was a real privilege to see children (and adults!) embracing the opportunity to try new flavours and learn more about the diverse cultures represented within our school. Turning the playground into our very own street food market created a fantastic, festival-like atmosphere. The space was filled with the sounds of conversation, laughter, and the delicious aromas of food from all over the world. It was especially heart-warming to see so many families coming together and enjoying each other's company. These moments go far beyond the food itself - they are a celebration of everything that makes our school community so rich and inclusive.

Events like this remind us of the importance of coming together, celebrating our differences, and showing appreciation for one another. Your generosity and spirit of collaboration are truly what make our school a special place to belong.

Alongside this, we have also had a busy and successful few weeks for our children. Our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils recently took part in tag rugby festivals, where they represented the school with great energy and enthusiasm. They gave their all and made us incredibly proud - not just in their performance, but in their attitude and teamwork. A big thank you to the staff who accompanied them, especially Mrs Herbert who organised everything.

We also hosted our Key Stage 1 Information Evening this week, and we are very grateful to all the parents who attended. We

Please click here to find out what is happening at the school this week



Disco tickets

*Sale ends on Sunday!*

The ticket sale for the Autumn Discos (16/17th October) will close at 5pm on Sunday 12th October. Pick up a ticket for just £5 [here](#). We're still also a little short on volunteers - please do sign up [here](#) to help if you can!

The Secret Present Room elves are now all set to start preparing 2,000+ gifts before the magical day in December. They will need lots of donations of NEW and UNUSED items that will make suitable gifts for both children and adults. (Please keep hold of any old or second-hand toys or games until the summer fete as there is no space in school to store these items.)

Please leave your donations in the SPR donation box to the left of the clothes donation bin in the car park asap. (And please don't leave anything in the main

hope the session was helpful in giving you a clearer picture of what to expect this year and how we can work together to support your child's learning and development.

To round off the week, we enjoyed a relaxed and sociable Wine and Cheese Evening here at school. A huge thank you goes to our fantastic SPA for organising the event. It was a lovely opportunity for parents to connect in a more informal setting, and those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Thank you once again to everyone, parents, carers, staff and pupils, who contribute in so many ways to the life of our school. Whether through attending events, supporting your children at home, or helping out behind the scenes, your involvement makes a real difference.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Mr Plunkett

## Homework at School

Homework at our school has been carefully designed to reflect current educational research. It is progressive across year groups and ensures a consistent, balanced approach for all children. We are also mindful of balancing screen time with paper-based activities to support healthy learning habits.

Homework will continue to be set by all year groups and will focus on consolidating what has been taught in class. This fundamental principle has not changed. What has changed is how homework is presented and how it supports children's learning across the school. These adjustments are designed to enhance, not limit, progress and to ensure that all children can access the learning. Evidence shows that homework does not significantly improve academic outcomes in school, and its impact is even less pronounced at the primary level compared to secondary education. In fact, research consistently highlights that, for younger children, time spent after school on play, rest, family interaction, and extracurricular activities is far more beneficial for their overall development and wellbeing.

What matters most is the quality of teaching and learning that takes place during the school day. We have already made a number of changes to enhance the curriculum and the wider opportunities available to pupils. As last year's strong results have shown, these changes are having a positive impact on attainment.

Our homework approach is aligned with that of many other forward-thinking schools, and we will continue to refine it in the best interests of our pupils' development and wellbeing.

reception as this can be a fire risk). If you're interested in finding out more about what the SPA is all about, please do come along to the AGM, in the school hall at 8pm on Monday 13 October. No need to book!



*Thinking of getting your child a phone For Christmas?*

Last academic year, many Y6 parents opted for simple phones instead of smartphones for their children, resulting in noticeably happier children and a decrease in phone related incidents taking place in school.

For those considering buying a phone for their child this year, information about simple phones and smartwatches that allow easy contact/tracking without the riskier elements of smartphones - can be found [by clicking here](#).

To find out more about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and to sign the pledge, [click here](#).

## *Hello and Happy Friday!*

We are delighted to say that 11th October is UK BOOKSHOP DAY when we celebrate the marvellousness of bookshops across the country, how they contribute to their communities and all the other great work they do every day to champion reading. By happy coincidence, we are also celebrating our 4th BIRTHDAY this weekend (a couple of weeks late but we've honestly been too busy doing other things in the shop!) To celebrate we have 15% OFF ALMOST EVERYTHING (in store only) for the whole weekend. We are also offering a £5 National Book Token with every book purchase this weekend (while stocks last). And we'll have other great freebies, including free WBD books, on offer all weekend. Please do come in and see us if you can for our celebration weekend! We look forward to it.

## *A message from Hitchin's Director of Cricket - SEN Cricket Opportunities*

During the summer and in partnership with the Lord's Taverners and Hertfordshire Cricket, we have become a Super 1's hub, which is a fully funded scheme, creating cricket sessions for all with educational needs. The sessions are open to kids and young adults who find it difficult to participate in mainstream sport and give great opportunity to not only learn about cricket, but develop physically and socially. Sessions are run by young coaches who provide structured sessions to ensure that all needs are met. Please see the attached flyer and get in touch if it's something your child might benefit from!

## *Calling All Christmas Cratters!*

Do you know someone who runs a local Christmas craft stall and might be interested in taking part in our upcoming Winter Wonderland event?

The SPA is currently looking for local stallholders to help make this festive event extra special. If you, or someone you know, would be a great fit, please get in touch with the school office as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support - we can't wait to kick off the festive season together!

## *Celebration of Sport in the WR Community*

Following the success of last year, we want to re-launch celebrating all of the physical activity and sport that is taking place outside of school.

If your child is enjoying taking place in a sport, or physical activity outside school hours, then please send in a photo of them in action for our 'Celebration of Sport in the WR Community' display.

We want to include a huge variety of physical activities, including our swimmers, triathletes, or surfing enthusiasts. Whatever your child's personal achievement in whatever physical activity - we want to celebrate it! The children love seeing themselves up on the display board and we want to fill it again, as we did last year.

Please email all photos to [m.herbert@wransom.herts.sch.uk](mailto:m.herbert@wransom.herts.sch.uk)

Thank you for your support - here's to another great year of being fit and active!

Mrs.Herbert