



# The Ransom Round Up



Please click here to find out what is coming up next week.

Good Morning Parents and Carers,  
It has been a wonderful start to the new half term and it was a joy to see everyone returning with such energy and hitting the ground running! On our first day back, the atmosphere was electric as the entire school gathered for our annual House Pancake Race. It was a sight to behold - brave volunteers from each House sprinting with frying pans in hand, successfully flipping pancakes before passing the pan to their teammates. Well done to all our runners for their incredible skill and sportsmanship.

The excitement continued last Wednesday with an amazing Pine Class Assembly. A huge thank you to Mrs. Gibson and the children, who did a fantastic job showcasing their learning through drama, song, and even some musical instruments. Our mathematicians have also been busy taking part in the Year 5 Maths Challenge and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and sharp thinking.

The last fortnight also saw great success at the Sportshall Athletics County Finals - our teams put in an amazing effort all round, with the girls' team finishing in 3rd place and our boys' team finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> - a huge well done to both teams for such amazing efforts!

It is fantastic to see the children enjoying their learning so much as we return from the break. There has been so much more going on across the school than I can mention here and you can read all about that in the rest of this newsletter. It has been a great start to the new half term!  
I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Sunday  
Mr Plunkett



## Ticket sale For Comedy Night ends soon!

Remember to grab your tickets to the Comedy Night on 20 March. We've got acts performing you'll have seen on Mock The Week, Have I Got News For You and Live At The Apollo so please come join us for a night of guaranteed laughter and to raise some money for the school. Tickets cost £15 and are available **by clicking here**. Tickets for the next discos on 23/24 April will go on sale soon - further info to follow.



## PE Kit Reminder

Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school. Missing kit has recently caused disruption to lessons. Even in winter, we aim to go outside to keep children active, so a full kit helps them participate safely and comfortably.  
**Please visit our school website for further information.**

## Reminder: Check For Nits

Please check your children regularly for nits. Regular home checks help prevent reinfestation and keep everyone in school healthy. Thank you for your support.

## School Meal Update: 2026/27 Pricing

Please be advised of the updated school meal prices from our catering partner, HCL, effective from 1st April 2026. While HCL has focused on efficiencies to keep increases to a minimum, we have been advised that adjustments are necessary due to rising food and staffing costs. New Meal Prices:

- Nursery & Infant (KS1): £2.61 (No change)
- Junior (KS2): £3.55.
- Adults: £3.00 (£3.60 inc. VAT)

HCL continues to prioritise quality, using 100% British Farm Assured meat, free-range eggs, and locally sourced produce wherever possible. Their meals remain free from added salt and genetically modified ingredients. Thank you for your continued support.



Tell the government how you  
Feel about social media

Six weeks ago, over just five days, 250,000 parents - including many from this school - wrote to their MP calling for changes to be made regarding children's access to social media. The government listened and their consultation is now live. It takes just 10 minutes to respond and every response matters. If this is something you care about, please do share your views **by clicking here.**

To find out more about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and what has been happening in this school, **click here.**



## Rising Stars Update



Due to increasing costs to our business, we have had to very reluctantly decide that from 13 April 2026 our wraparound club prices will need to increase. Our new prices will be:

- Breakfast Club - £7.25
- After School -
- Until 5.00 - £11.00
- Until 5.30 - £12.50
- Until 6.00 - £14.25

We are pleased to still be able to offer different timeslots after school rather than changing to a 'flat fee' as many other providers do. We are still one of the lowest cost providers in the area and do hope that you understand this very difficult decision we have had to make.

Kind Regards

Nick Webb, Managing Director

## Thank You to Our Wonderful Parent Volunteers

A huge thank you to all the parents who kindly gave up their time on Sunday to help Mr Carmody plant a variety of new trees around the school grounds. Thanks to your enthusiasm and teamwork, a fantastic amount was achieved in just one morning. The new trees will enhance our school environment and be enjoyed by pupils for many years to come.

On behalf of the whole school, thank you for your time, effort, and wonderful community spirit. We truly appreciate your support.



## Netball Update

Our netball teams recently played two matches against Whitehill, showing great teamwork and determination. The team worked hard and were pleased to score three goals.

Last week saw two more matches take place and even better results, with the Red Team earning a fantastic 10-10 draw and the Blue Team being narrowly beaten after a determined performance.

Both teams represented the school brilliantly - and the sun shone too! A big thank you to Miss Swinburne for all her hard work supporting the teams. A huge well done to everyone!



## World Book Day – Hitchin Book Trail

### Happy World Book Day!

Attached to this email is a free Hitchin Book Trail map, created by Next Page Books in partnership with local businesses. The trail has been enjoyed by hundreds of families over the years and is a fun way to explore the town while celebrating books and reading.

Families can print the map at home or pick up a free copy from Next Page Books, Hitchin Library, or Visit Hitchin. The trail runs until 13th April, so there is plenty of time to take part.

Once completed, maps can be returned to Next Page Books to be in with a chance of winning prizes from the businesses involved. Happy reading and exploring!



## Young Artists' Summer Show Entry

We are delighted to share that Demir from Holly Class has entered the Young Artists' Summer Show at the Royal Academy of Arts. This exciting exhibition celebrates creativity from young artists across the country, with artworks judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals. Selected pieces are displayed online and at the Royal Academy itself. Demir's artwork is titled "The Ocean Creature's Day" and we think it is absolutely lovely! Well done Demir, for sharing your creativity and taking part in such a wonderful opportunity.

Mrs Morris



## Junior Bake Off – Apply Now!

Applications are open for the 12th series of Junior Bake Off, Channel 4's show celebrating young bakers aged 9-15. Filming starts in July 2026, but applications close 15th March 2026.

Interested bakers can apply online: [www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk).

Encourage your child to showcase their baking skills!





Thanks to parents who continue to share their children's Let Grow projects with us.



Finn (year 1) has watched his dad volunteer at Hitchin Football Club for many years and has always shown a keen interest. When his dad took on an additional volunteer role running the club shop, Finn was keen to get involved. He now helps his dad sell a range of merchandise and sweets at the club shop on a Saturday afternoon. He has even started making loom band bracelets in the Hitchin colours to sell in the club shop, with all proceeds going to the football club. He was delighted to sell his first loom band bracelet last Saturday! Amazing work Finn!



Leo (Y2) has been working hard learning how to cut an apple using a sharp knife, without any help from an adult! Meanwhile his brother Charlie (Y5) went to the bakery to pick up some bread for his grandma. His grandma shared that Charlie had done this before and had been extremely nervous but this time he was a more relaxed. Experiencing nerves and then managing to work through this and succeed is such a powerful experience for our children. It helps them to learn how much they can achieve if they work hard to overcome their fears.



It was also lovely to hear how Zara (Y5), has been having sewing lessons. She was lucky enough to receive a sewing machine at Christmas from grandparents and has been sewing scrunchies all by herself. She even repaired her friend's fidget toys which had frayed. Well done Zara!



We'd love to hear more Let Grow stories. Please send them to [n.airey@wransom.herts.sch.uk](mailto:n.airey@wransom.herts.sch.uk). No need to send pictures if you don't have any (after all, if they are doing something independently, you won't be there to take photos!)- just a few lines about what the children have been getting up to will do! Thank you. To find out more, please do have a look at the Let Grow slides which you can access on the school website [HERE](#).



One of the responsibilities of School Governors is to monitor the progress and performance of the school. Governor visits form an important part of this role. newly elected parent governor, I was very pleased to have the opportunity to visit the school recently and would like to share some observations from my time in Year 1. During my visit, I spent time with the children as they completed

their bridge-building projects. They were keen to talk about their work and confidently used words such as "freestanding", "stable" and "strong" when describing their designs. Many children shared their ideas for how they might adapt their bridges further, with "more glitter" proving a popular suggestion! During the afternoon session, I observed the new Year 1 continuous provision approach in place, with children choosing from a range of activities and engaging with different areas and resources across the classroom. This included a cosy reading corner and a variety of materials that were being used throughout the session. It was a pleasure to spend time in the classroom and to see the children engaging in their activities and sharing their work with such enthusiasm!

*Emma Kent, Parent Governor, D&T Subject-Link Governor*

## *Parking Notice – School Car Park*

We are writing to clearly remind parents and carers that parking in the school car park is not permitted between 8:00am and 4:45pm, as stated on the signage.

This is essential to ensure:

- That staff can access and leave the site safely
- That children are not left unattended in the car park
- Vehicle movement on site is kept to a minimum during busy school hours

We also ask families to park responsibly and considerately on surrounding roads. We continue to receive concerns from local residents about unsafe parking, including blocked driveways, obstructed pavements and parking too close to junctions. This behaviour puts children, families and other road users at risk.

If you witness dangerous parking or driving, please report it via Police 101. Parking concerns on public roads can be reported to North Hertfordshire District Council, and wider concerns can be shared with the Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership (details available online). Thank you for your cooperation.

## *Could This Extra Support Help Your Family?*

We want to make sure every child and family in our school community gets the support they are entitled to. You might be surprised to learn that many families are eligible for Pupil Premium funding, even if you have never applied before. Pupil Premium is not a label and it does not single children out. It simply helps the school access additional funding so we can better support your child and your family, both now and in the future.

### **How this helps you and your child**

When a family successfully registers for Pupil Premium:

- The school receives extra funding to help us support learning, wellbeing and enrichment
- It helps us signpost families to additional help or opportunities when needed
- And as a thank-you, you receive vouchers directly to support your family

### **What families receive**

For every successful application, you will receive:

- £75 supermarket voucher (your choice)
- £25 book token
- PLUS £50 supermarket voucher (of your choice) **every year** until the end of Year 6

Applying is easy and confidential. You can choose the option that feels most comfortable for you and either apply online yourself **by clicking here** or by speaking to the school office, who will be very happy to help you apply in complete confidence. Many families qualify without realising it, and applying does not affect your child's experience at school in any negative way. Registering for Pupil Premium helps everyone: you, through vouchers and access to support; your child, through additional resources and opportunities; and the school, by enabling us to continue supporting families as fully as possible. If you are unsure whether you are eligible, we encourage you to apply or to have a quiet chat with the school office or a member of the leadership team – we are always happy to help.