



This half term we are focussing on: Resilience

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

The Ransom Round Up

Good Morning Parents and Carers,
As we come to the end of another busy half term, it has been a pleasure to see so much enthusiasm, creativity and teamwork across the school this week. Here are just a few of the many highlights! Key Stage 2 pupils thoroughly enjoyed our Glow in the Dark Dodgeball event, where the hall was filled with energy, laughter and fantastic sportsmanship. It was wonderful to see children supporting one another and embracing the fun of healthy competition.



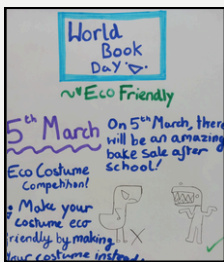
In Key Stage 1, Year 1 have been exploring structures in Design and



Technology, designing and constructing bridges and buildings while thinking carefully about strength and stability. They have also continued to make great use of the outdoor provision to enhance their learning through exploration and imaginative play. Year 2 pupils became budding chefs as they designed and made their own healthy smoothies, practising important food preparation skills and learning about balanced choices.



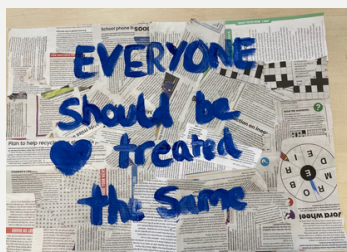
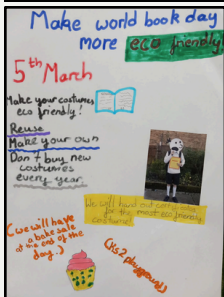
Key Stage 2 have also had an exciting week. The Year 3 and 4 speed stacking competition showcased impressive concentration and teamwork! Special congratulations to the girls' team for winning the relay event! Meanwhile, Year 3 pupils have been developing their sewing skills in Design and Technology, demonstrating patience and determination as they learned new techniques. Year 6 have been creating powerful artwork as part of their Activism unit, designing collages on causes they feel passionate about and adding impactful slogans to share their message.



Finally, our Eco Club have been busy creating posters to promote this year's World Book Day with a focus on sustainability. This year we will be celebrating a winning eco costume in each class and we encourage families to see this as a chance to be creative together using items from home. Repurposing and reusing materials not only reduces waste but often leads to the most imaginative and memorable costumes!

Thank you for your ongoing support and best wishes for a restful and enjoyable break.

Mr Plunkett



Internet Safety Week: Listening to Our Children, Working Together

This week we marked Internet Safety Week, an important opportunity to celebrate the positive ways our children use technology while also reflecting on how we can continue to strengthen their online safety. Alongside engaging classroom activities, we held two dedicated assemblies – one for Years 3 and 4 and one for Years 5 and 6 – focusing on pupils' real-life online experiences. We were incredibly proud of how honestly and thoughtfully the children contributed to these discussions.

Years 3 and 4 – Growing Independence

It was wonderful to hear how much children enjoy creative games and connecting with friends online. At the same time, their responses show just how early online independence begins:

- 50 pupils said they access the internet on their own device without an adult present
- 24 pupils admitted to talking to strangers in online games
- 16 pupils shared that they had experienced something worrying online
- Of those 16, 10 pupils had not told a trusted adult

Importantly, many children said they stay quiet because they worry about getting into trouble or losing access to their device. This highlights how powerful reassurance at home can be – children are far more likely to speak up when they know they will be supported, rather than blamed.

Years 5 and 6 – Increasing Independence and Risk

Older pupils spoke maturely about the benefits of being online, particularly for socialising and gaming. However, greater independence can also bring increased exposure to risk:

- Almost all pupils regularly use a device
- Around half interact with others online
- Around a quarter admitted to playing with people they do not know
- Around 10 pupils had been contacted by a stranger online
- Over 20 pupils reported a negative online experience
- 4 Year 5 pupils said they had been asked to meet someone they did not know
- 9 pupils reported being threatened online

Password habits were another area for development:

- Over 20 pupils use their name in their password
- More than 25 pupils include their date of birth
- A small number include their house number

While these figures are sobering, the most encouraging message from both assemblies is that children want guidance and are willing to talk when they feel safe to do so. Their honesty gives us a valuable opportunity to respond proactively. We encourage families to continue the positive conversations already happening at home: regularly check privacy settings and age restrictions, discuss who children are communicating with online, reinforce that personal information and passwords should never be shared and, most importantly, reassure children that they will never be in trouble for reporting something that worries them. A simple message such as, "If something goes wrong online, we will fix it together," can make a lasting difference. Internet Safety Week reminds us that supporting children online is a shared responsibility. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our children remain safe, confident and responsible digital citizens.



Tickets on sale soon for Comedy Night!

We are delighted to announce that the hilarious Adrian Poynton will be hosting another Comedy Night on Friday 20th March to raise funds for school. Tickets will go on sale shortly after the half term break.

Here are some other dates for your diary...

27 March - Doughnut sale, 23 April - Reception & Y3/4 discos

24 April - Y1/2 & Y5/6 discos, 6 June - Summer Fete

Thank you to everyone who helped out with and attended the doughnut sale on Friday. Despite the bad weather, it was a great success as always!



Talking to children about phone habits

Whatever your views on smartphones, talking to children about them can be tricky. To help with that, a new one minute long film featuring Gladiators' 'Steel' has been released. The engaging clip encourages children to think for themselves about the life they could have if they don't let 'a phone steal their power.' Several children in school are also already enjoying a new book - The Amazing Generation - which invites young people to step back from their screens and realise how capable, confident and adventurous they can be in the real world.

Aimed at 9-12 year olds, and written by Jonathan Haidt (author of The Anxious Generation) the book is packed with facts, stories and secrets that the tech giants don't want people to know.



William Ransom Girls Football Report

We Started of pretty well, tackled well and luckily no slips or falls. 2 min in to the game and 2 goals were scored. Although it was slippery, we managed to stay on our feet. Ten minutes into the game and 3 more goals were scored. 12 minutes into the second half and Whitehill scored a goal. 5 more minutes until the game was over. It was 9-1 to William Ransom! Everyone played so well, we all wanted the ball! We started off nervous but we grew in confidence!

Goal scorers Lila, Anna, Zara P.

By Lila ☺ and Anna ☺ Beech class Y4

Message From HCL

Due to a supply issue the meatballs on the menu after half term will be replaced with a plant sausage.

Meatballs will still be available for children with specific allergies. If your child has ordered meatballs, they will receive the plant sausage unless allergy arrangements are in place. Thank you for your understanding. Kind regards, HCL Catering Team

William Ransom Fourth Plinth Challenge

Inspired by the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, we are offering children the chance to display their own pieces of art in school. We are going to create our own plinth and rotate artwork, allowing it to be shared across the school. Beech Class have organised this as part of their own class project and have decided the theme is nature. If your child would like to take part, they should create a painting, sculpture or drawing, inspired by nature. The deadline is Tuesday 24th February and all pieces should be given to Beech Class.



What is the Let Grow Experience?

Since September 2024, we have been taking part in an exciting new project, to help build independence and resilience in our children. Children tend to be far less independent than we were when we were growing up.

In a world where we are surrounded by 24-hour news streams and upsetting stories shared on social media, parents are more protective of their children than ever before. Children are losing opportunities to take risks, problem solve when things go wrong and build self esteem by achieving things completely on their own. To find out more, please do have a look at the Let Grow slides which you can access on the school website [HERE](#).

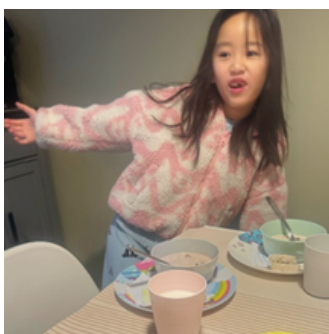
The idea is simple - the children are set an unusual homework project - to do something without any adult supervision and then share their experience with their classmates and teachers.

Previously, we have sent home 'leaves' every half term for children to record their projects, but now we are encouraging children and parents to make Let Grow part of their every day lives, to think of any opportunity no matter how big or small, and just have a go at a Let Grow project. Let Grow is for all the children across the school from Reception up to Year 6. While cooking projects seem to be most popular, our Let Grow children have been walking to the shops on their own, doing their homework on their own, posting letters on their own, getting dressed on their own and more! [The Let Grow website](#) itself has plenty of inspiration and resources if you'd like to find out more.



Thanks to parents who continue to share their children's Let Grow

projects with us. Over the last couple of weekends, a few boys from year three have been doing some hard physical labour in an attempt to make the entrance to Pinehill at the top corner less muddy for anyone crossing the field. Bertie, Evan, Zack, Eddie, and Josh have each carried sack-loads of woodchip, (weighing in the region of 10 kg each!), to help with this effort and have been earning some decent money at the same time. The boys should be super proud of themselves - their hard work will be helping the local community who make use of Pinehill field regularly. What superstars!



Well done to Emily in Year 3 as last month she baked biscuits for her family, helping to mix the ingredients and use the cutters independently. She also surprised her family by preparing breakfast on her own and asked everyone to stay in bed until it was ready. Emily felt very proud of herself and enjoyed being trusted to do things independently. Amazing work Emily!

We'd love to hear about more Let Grow projects please. The next time you're in the supermarket, consider asking your child to go find a product in another aisle, or give them a couple of pounds to go buy something for themselves. Let us know how they get on! Please send any Let Grow projects to 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.

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.