



The Ransom Round Up



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

Good Morning Parents and Carers,
What an incredible week it has been at school, filled with fantastic achievements, inspiring attitudes, and so much to celebrate! Firstly, it has been a real joy to see the marvellous creations coming out of our Let's Get Cooking club. The dishes have looked and tasted delicious and it is clear just how much enthusiasm our children are bringing to this popular club.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who attended our recent events, including the Year 6 SAT's and PGL information evening, the ADD-vance coffee morning and the anxiety coffee afternoon. Your engagement and support are really appreciated and we hope you found these sessions helpful and reassuring.

What a week it has been for sport at WR! Firstly, a huge well done to all of our netballers who always give their all. Their resilience, determination and positivity have been wonderful to see!

Wednesday saw our Year 5 and 6 pupils take part in the Dodgeball Festival, where they demonstrated a fantastic attitude throughout and made the most of a great sporting experience.

On Thursday, our Sportshall Athletics teams went on to deliver absolutely outstanding performances against other North Herts schools. Our girls finished in a



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:

Apply online yourself by clicking here

Or speak to the school office, who will be very

sensational first place - winning by over seven clear points and securing a well deserved place in the County finals! Our boys also performed brilliantly, finishing third and missing out on second place by just a single point - a huge well done to all!

Saturday brought yet another huge highlight, with our girls' football team competing in the County Finals following their superb win in the North Herts tournament - and what a performance it was! Winning three matches, drawing one and losing one, the girls scored the most points overall and were crowned County Champions! This incredible result means they will now go on to represent Hertfordshire in the South of England tournament - an absolutely phenomenal achievement for a truly special group of girls who support one another, play for each other, and fully deserve the amazing success they are currently enjoying.

We are immensely proud of all our children and the dedication, teamwork and enthusiasm they show every day. We are also incredibly grateful to all of our staff who go above and beyond to give the children these amazing opportunities and experiences.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Sunday
Mr Plunkett

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.



It was a pleasure to visit the school this week to see Geography in action. I dropped in on a number of classes and it was great to see all children engaged in

their lessons, using both their previous learning (Year 1's recalled learning about the equator) and specific geographical vocabulary.

Andrew Fennemore - Chair of Governors





Doughnut sale on Friday 13 Feb!

DOUGHNUT SALE!
FRIDAY 13TH FEB
STRAIGHT AFTER SCHOOL



There will be a doughnut sale on Friday 13th Feb straight after school in the school playground. There will be a separate table offering allergen-free doughnuts. Doughnuts will cost £1 each. If your child is in Rising Stars and you would like them to have a doughnut, please send £1 in an envelope in their bag. Plans are also underway for some other exciting events, including another Comedy Night later this term! Further details to follow soon. The money you have helped raise at SPA events is being used to fund lots of brilliant equipment and activities to enrich the learning and enjoyment of all the children in school - look out for the SPA newsletter next week to find out more.



Change is happening - new guidance about smartphones in schools

A common concern among parents as their children reach secondary school age is whether smartphones might be needed for any school activities. The government has just issued new guidance to clarify that pupils shouldn't be using smartphones at any point in the school day - including lunch or breaks. All three local secondary schools have already confirmed that smartphones are not required for any school activities in Hitchin. Additionally, from April, Ofsted will begin to assess school phone policies and their impact on learning, behaviour and wellbeing. Separately, the government has just announced a three month consultation on children's social media use to examine the most effective ways to ensure that children have "healthy online experiences". The consultation is seeking views on, among other things, banning social media use by children under a certain age.

Change is happening - in Westminster, in schools and beyond - driven by parents and carers like you. To find out more about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and how you can be part of this social change, visit: <https://bit.ly/SFCWR>



One of the responsibilities of being a Governor is visiting and seeing the school in action during the day. This allows us to experience the school environment so we can better understand and support the school.

This week I took an opportunity to meet with the School Council and then observed some of KS2 lunchtime play. The School Council meeting was fun to observe, and it was great to hear the children's ideas. The children were confident and articulate and whilst some of their excellent ideas aren't overly practical, it was positive to gain insight into what the children and their classmates would like. Thank you to Mrs Mitchell for facilitating the visit and providing the children with a helpful guiding hand, and a gentle reality check or two; unfortunately a school dog would get very lonely during the holidays! During outdoor play, most children were happily playing, no doubt helped by the welcome appearance of sunshine! Staff were attentive to the children and demonstrated good rapport. School values were clearly on show throughout my visit, reflected in the positive behaviour, respectful interactions and enjoyment of the children.

Laura Chapman - Vice Chair



Food is definitely the theme of this week's Let Grow projects! Well done to Sahib (Y4) and Raina (Y2), who made their own pizzas as part of their let it grow experience. Sahib even managed to carefully place the pizzas in the oven which takes a lot of courage! They had lots of fun and can't wait to cook something on their own again!



Aidan (Y6) made a delicious layered dessert for his family. He crumbled the Lotus biscuits and sliced the bananas, added the custard cream, built it up layer by layer, and topped it with fresh blueberries. It chilled in the fridge for 3 hours, and his family really enjoyed the dessert Aidan made for everyone. Not only did Aidan enjoy creating the dessert himself, his parents also really appreciated being treated to something delicious. Great job Aidan!



Huge congratulations to Toby (Year 2) who has finished reading his first chapter book all on his own, and Harvey (Year 4) walked to a friend's house and delivered a card all by himself! They are both feeling very proud of themselves! Harvey also walked all the way around Halsey Drive on his own. His mum said he was absolutely buzzing afterwards, so very proud of himself and quite rightly too! These projects really do help build children's self-belief and confidence, it's amazing to see.



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- just a few lines about what the children have been doing 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.