



The Ransom Round Up



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

Good Morning Parents and Carers,
Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all. I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful, joyful Christmas break and were able to spend some special time together. It has been a real pleasure to welcome the children back to school and to see the familiar energy, enthusiasm and smiles returning to our classrooms and playgrounds.

This term promises to be a busy and exciting one, with many wonderful learning opportunities planned. Across the school, pupils will be engaging in new topics, developing their skills and knowledge and taking part in a range of enrichment activities that support both their academic progress and personal development. We have different events, experiences and visits coming up this term - all of which we are very much looking forward to!

I would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support and partnership with the school. Working together plays such an important role in helping our children to thrive, and we are grateful for all that you do at home to support learning and wellbeing.

As always, our focus remains on providing a safe, nurturing and inspiring environment where every child can do their very best.

We are excited about the term ahead and all the opportunities it will bring and we look forward to a positive and successful start to the year for everyone in our school community.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Sunday
Mr Plunkett



*Easy and free ways
to raise money to
all benefit the children*

Thank you again for all your fantastic efforts in supporting SPA activities in the Autumn term. The amount raised and some of the exciting plans for how that money will be spent will be shared very soon.

This will be a quieter couple of months in terms of SPA events, however, there are plenty of simple ways you can help the school to raise money to enhance the children's learning throughout the year.

This includes buying uniform from the uniform shed, dropping off any unwanted clothes in the recycling bin in the car park, signing up to Easy Fundraising (who donate money to the school while you shop at no extra cost to you) or buying name labels from Stikins (using ref: 25434)

STIKINS®
Name Labels

**SIMPLY STICK IN
NO SEWING & NO IRONING**
Save time and money with one multipurpose name label for clothes, shoes, lunch boxes, and all school items

To order visit www.stikins.co.uk
Please quote our School Fundraising Number:
25434

New Term Dates For 2026-27

We are pleased to let families know that the school term dates for the 2026-27 academic year are now available.

To help with forward planning for holidays, childcare and family commitments, the full list of dates can be found on our school website [by clicking here](#)

Autumn Term Assessment Update

We will shortly be sharing the results of the recent Autumn Term assessments. Please remember that these assessments are primarily used diagnostically by our teaching staff. They provide vital insight into where gaps in learning exist, helping us tailor class teaching and put necessary additional support in place for the term ahead. We look forward to discussing these results, and your child's progress, during our virtual Parents' Evenings which are coming up on February 11th and 12th. Further information regarding how and when you will receive these reports will follow early next week.

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 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.

Thank you for helping us support our whole school community.

Important 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.

Have Your Say on Bus Travel in Herts

Hertfordshire County Council is inviting residents to share their views on the future of bus travel in Hertfordshire as part of the Intalink Enhanced Partnership consultation. This consultation will help shape plans and priorities for local bus services from 2026-2030. Responses can be submitted **by clicking here**. The survey closes on 9 March. Thank you for helping to shape local transport services.



Hitchin MP wants to know your thoughts on social media

Growing public and political concern about the dangers of social media have been reported widely in this week's news, with the Prime Minister suggesting the government might consider introducing a law to prevent under 16s accessing the platforms. Hitchin MP Alistair Strathern has publicly encouraged parents to share their views on the issue with him – he can be contacted at: alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk One of the best ways to keep children safe from social media continues to be delaying the age at which children have smartphones. For further information about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement, and to join the many families at school who have signed the pledge, visit: <https://bit.ly/SFCWR>

Tree Planting Day at College Wood, Silsoe

Help us grow the new College Wood by joining our Public Tree Planting Day on Sunday 8 February 2026. Volunteers will be planting a range of native trees, creating a flourishing woodland for wildlife and future generations to enjoy. It's a fantastic opportunity to get outdoors, support your local community and be part of a lasting environmental legacy. The Forest of Marston Vale Trust team will be on hand all day with tools, trees, protection materials and practical demonstrations, so no previous experience is needed. **Please click here for further details.**

Yr 6 SATs & PGL Information Evening

A reminder to all Year 6 parents that there will be a SAT's and PGL information evening at 6.00pm on Wednesday 21 January. This meeting will explain more about the SAT's assessments and how you can best support your child in preparing for them. You will also have the opportunity to find out more about the upcoming PGL residential trip in June. We hope you can join us.



Lots of children have been busy with their Let Grow projects over the holidays – thanks so much to the parents that have emailed us to let us know what their children have been up to. Well done to Anya (Y1) who folded and put away all the laundry while telling her mummy to rest – growing independence whilst helping out at home is a fantastic combination! Meanwhile, Abby (Y5) worked really hard and made a PowerPoint presentation over the holidays all by herself titled “The Burns family Christmas traditions” and presented it to her family. Incredible work Abby!

During the holidays, Aron (Y6) enjoyed lots of cooking and baking on his own. The photos show him making (and eating!) a hummingbird cake. He did a lot of pineapple cutting, measuring, and mixing the ingredients together. I am sure it was delicious – fantastic work, Aron!

Ethan (Y1) has really got into drawing over Christmas, and with his new pens and paper, has followed “how to draw” videos by himself.

He concentrated really hard and produced some wonderful drawings. What amazing work Ethan!

Jesse (Y3) was lucky enough to get a ‘build your own’ robot for Christmas. Despite the instructions being tricky to follow and there being many small pieces to cut out, trim with plyers, and assemble, he managed to build it with minimal adult assistance. Well done Jesse!

Please keep sending in your children’s amazing Let Grow projects to Mrs Airey: n.airey@wransom.herts.sch.uk. Thanks!

Discounted tickets to watch Saracens Takeover at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium!

As we take part in numerous tag rugby events throughout the year, we have been emailed the following discount for the upcoming Saracens Takeover at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Saturday 28th March. Annoying if you are on the Hitchin Rugby Club tour on the same weekend, but if you’re not, and love the opportunity to watch some live rugby, what an exciting set of games to watch! There are a limited number of tickets offered to us at a 15% discount on standard price match tickets, so please see the information below to get your hands on some. This offer is valid until 27th March, giving you the perfect chance to secure your seat for one of the biggest fixtures of the season.

How to redeem your discount

Click here for [Event Information Screen - etickets](#)

Simply use the code to the right at checkout when purchasing your tickets. The discount will be applied automatically.

Mrs Herbert - PE Lead



Sports Update For the Spring Term

Run to the North Pole

Last half term, the children were monitoring and counting the number of times they could run around the field, to see if we could cover the distance between Hitchin and the North Pole! JUST in time for Christmas, we managed it - mostly thanks to the amazing lunchtime running of Year 4! We had hoped to fit a Santa fun run in, but weather in the last week made for a less than ideal running environment.

A HUGE well done to all classes and watch this space for a new app we are investing in, to allow all children to log really accurately how far they run and track their improvements over time.

Sports Clubs and Competitions

Sportshall athletics, cross country running, netball and football were on offer to Y1-6 in the Autumn term. Competitively, so far this year, we now have a winning girls' football team and a winning girls' cross country team - a huge well done to all the Year 5 and 6 that have represented us so far!

The new year (starting this week) looks to offer lunchtime clubs to Reception upwards, meaning more than 400 children will have access to lunchtime sports clubs (as well as other non-sporting activities run by other members of staff.) Our new activities including multisports, distance running, athletics and speed stacking, to name a few. Our Year 5 and 6 also have seven brand new opportunities across the week, to learn and refine their skills as Sports Leaders, which we are very grateful for as they are such an asset to our clubs with the younger children.

The Spring Term features many of William Ransom's sporting competitions and festivals. This includes Sportshall Athletics, Boccia, Dodgeball, Speed Stacking, Rapid Fire Cricket, Glow-in-the-dark Dodgeball and football at Top Field.

Do check out the information above about discounted tickets to watch some top class rugby at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in the Easter holidays as well - these aren't offered to every school.

Thanks as always, for your help and support - here's to a fun and fit new term ahead!

Mrs Herbert - PE Lead