



The Ransom Round Up

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy, vibrant week across the school! Our Year 5 pupils had an absolutely incredible time during their three days and two nights away at Cuffley. They threw themselves wholeheartedly into every outdoor challenge, showed fantastic teamwork and resilience and made memories that will stay with them for years to come!

Back on site, lunchtimes have been transformed by the pure excitement surrounding the PlayPod. The children have been eagerly telling us just how much they love having it open each day and it is easy to see why - the loose parts have unlocked endless play opportunities. Our playground has become a constantly evolving landscape of imaginative role-play, creative dens, obstacle courses, and ambitious collaborative builds. It is a genuine pleasure to step outside, hear the buzz of happy voices and watch pupils across year groups sharing ideas, problem-solving together and finding boundless new ways to invent their own fun!

We are also eagerly counting down the days to our much-loved Food from Around the World celebration which is taking place on Friday 25th September from 3:20-4:30pm on the MUGA! It is always a standout highlight of our school calendar and we are so excited to welcome all our families to come together and celebrate the rich diversity of cultures and heritages that make our community so vibrant and special. We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful parents, carers and family members who have so generously volunteered their time, energy and delicious culinary traditions to make this event possible. It is this extraordinary warmth, dedication and community spirit that makes our school such a joyful, inclusive place and we cannot wait to share in the delicious flavours and lively atmosphere with you all.

[Please click here to find out what is coming up next week.](#)

Join Our Team: Midday Supervisory Assistants (MSAs)

We are looking for two enthusiastic and caring Midday Supervisory Assistants to join our school team and help support our pupils' safety and wellbeing during lunchtime. If you enjoy working with children and want to play an active, positive part in their day, we would love to hear from you!

To apply or for more information, please contact admin@wransom.herts.sch.uk

Hours: 11:50 am - 1:20 pm (Monday to Friday).

Key Duties

Supervising children during lunchtime in the dining hall and playground, encouraging positive behaviour and good manners, ensuring children follow school rules and stay safe, supporting children who may need extra help during lunchtime

Requirements

Enhanced DBS check (to be completed prior to employment) and additional checks, safeguarding training (applicants must be willing to undertake this training before or upon starting), friendly and approachable manner, good communication skills, ability to work well with children and staff, responsible and punctual

Primary Times – Latest Issue Online

The new edition of Primary Times is now available to read online [by clicking here](#). It's packed with local family events, weekend activities, competitions and useful back-to-school features.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, partnership, and enthusiasm across everything we do.

Wishing you all a very relaxing and enjoyable weekend ahead!

Mr Plunkett



New study shows positive impact For smartphone free communities

A new study from the Institute of Fiscal Studies indicates that communities where at least 20% of families are actively delaying their children having smartphones have seen an 8% fall in social, emotional and mental health problems. Thanks to the fantastic efforts of local parents, Hitchin is seen as a leading light in reducing harms caused by smartphones and is referenced in the report. More than half the families at William Ransom have already signed the pact to delay the age at which their children will have a smartphone. The more families who wait together, the easier it is for everyone. If you are in support and haven't already done so, please do sign the pact.

To find out more about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and what has been happening in this school, visit:
<https://bit.ly/SFCWR>

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD PARENT PACT	
Reception (age 4 - 5)	4
Year 1 (age 5 - 6)	31
Year 2 (age 6 - 7)	52
Year 3 (age 7 - 8)	34
Year 4 (age 8 - 9)	36
Year 5 (age 9 - 10)	39
Year 6 (age 10 - 11)	24

A Huge Thank You to Zoe and Annabel!

A massive thank you to Zoe and Annabel for their fantastic fundraising on the last day of the summer term! Showing wonderful entrepreneurial spirit, the girls ran a refreshment stall on Pinehill Field and raised well over £200 towards air conditioning for the school. We are immensely grateful to both girls for their hard work and initiative—what a brilliant achievement!

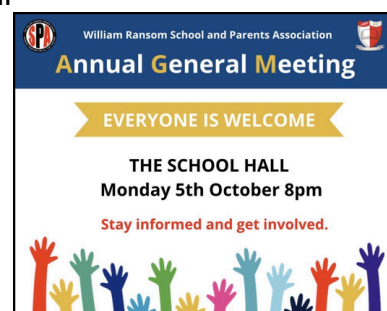
Celebration of Sport in the WR Community

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



What is the SPA all about?

A warm welcome back from the SPA committee, in particular to the families new to school! If you're interested in finding out more about what the SPA is all about, how we raised just shy of £30k last year and how that money gets spent, please do come along to the AGM, in the school hall at 8pm on Monday 5 October. No need to book! Please see the SPA newsletter for further details about everything coming up. If you have any questions about the SPA, please ask one of the committee members - for reception parents new to the school, fellow YR parent Becky Poynton is the person to speak to! Our first events of the year will be the Autumn Discos on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 October. Tickets are on sale for just £5 here. Please make sure you choose the right year group for your child as there are four events in total. Please note there will be no tickets on the door this time - last date to buy tickets is Sunday 11th October.



Important update about Pupil Premium From September 2026

From September 2026, there has been a change to the eligibility criteria for Pupil Premium. From the start of this school year, all families who receive Universal Credit are now able to apply, regardless of the amount received. This means that some families who may not have qualified previously could now be eligible. We would therefore encourage anyone in receipt of Universal Credit to consider applying, **which you can do by clicking here.**

There is no need for families currently receiving Pupil Premium to reapply, as eligibility checks will be carried out by the local authority over the coming of months.

Important reminder for Year 2 parents

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 currently receive Universal Infant Free School Meals automatically. When your child moves into Year 3, this automatic entitlement comes to an end. To continue receiving free meals, families will need to apply for Pupil Premium before their child starts Year 3.

To find out more about the benefits of receiving Pupil Premium funding, please read below.

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.