



The Ransom Round Up

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy and purposeful couple of weeks across the school.

Our Year 2 pupils had a fantastic visit to the British Schools Museum recently. Stepping straight into a Victorian classroom, the children experienced first-hand what school life was like in the past. It was a brilliant, hands-on extension of their history learning and the museum staff commented on just how engaged, curious and polite our children were throughout the day.

A massive thank you to everyone who joined us on the MUGA for our Food Around the World event. What an amazing afternoon it turned out to be! The incredible spread of delicious dishes and drinks representing cultures and heritages from across the globe was nothing short of wonderful. Seeing so many families gathering, sharing and chatting reminded us once again what an amazing, vibrant and supportive school community we have here. We are so lucky, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who cooked, prepared, served and contributed to making it such a massive success.

Last week, we also completed our very first routine "invacuation" practice across the school. Just like regular fire drills, these practices simply help everyone feel calm and prepared if an unexpected situation outside ever required pupils and staff to remain safely indoors.

Following assemblies to reassure the children, they were absolutely fantastic - listening carefully to their teachers and taking the whole exercise completely in their stride.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support, kindness, and partnership across everything we do.

Wishing you all a very relaxing and enjoyable weekend ahead!

Mr Plunkett

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

Hertfordshire School Nursing Newsletter

The Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust School Nursing Team has published its latest newsletter for primary schools. It provides practical health and wellbeing advice, helpful tips for families and details on local support services available across Hertfordshire. [You can read the newsletter and access their resources here](#)

WellChild Award Winner!

We have some truly wonderful community news to share. One of our Year 5 mums, Rebecca, was recently honoured at the national WellChild Awards, receiving the Champion of Children's Nursing award presented by Prince Harry.

Rebecca was recognised for over a decade of extraordinary dedication as a paediatric nurse, supporting medically fragile children and their families through some of their toughest transitions from hospital to home. While we know she is far too humble to mention it herself, this remarkable achievement deserves our full recognition. Huge congratulations to Rebecca from all of us – we are incredibly proud to have you in our school community!

You can watch the short, inspiring video about her work here:

[WellChild Award Video.](#)



Summer Let Grow Projects: Share Your Stories!

Did your child take on an exciting Let Grow challenge over the summer break? Whether they walked to the local shop independently, learned to cook a meal, organised their own outdoor adventure, or mastered a brand-new skill on their own, we want to hear about it! We are preparing our first Let Grow feature of the school year for our next newsletter and would love to showcase a wide variety of our pupils' achievements. Please email the school office with a brief description of what your child got up to – photos are very welcome, but stories without pictures are just as great. Thank you for helping us inspire confidence and independence in our children!



Support across Hertfordshire to reduce smartphone harms

Across Hertfordshire, support for delaying smartphones continues to grow with families at nearly 8 in every 10 schools having now pledged to delay the age at which their children get smartphones by signing the pact. With ever-increasing evidence emerging about the harms caused to children's mental health and wellbeing by smartphones, many Hertfordshire schools are also now signing up to the council-backed 'Bricks for 26' pledge to make primary schools smartphone-free environments. Information and reviews of some of the 'brick' alternatives to smartphones can be found at:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>



Disco tickets on sale!

Tickets for the Autumn Discos on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 October are now on sale [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 11 October.

We're still looking for more helpers too – if you are able to come along and help sell sweets / glowsticks etc [please fill in this form](#).

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!



Parking Reminder: Please Respect Our Neighbours

A polite reminder to all parents and carers to park safely and considerately during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. We have received concerns from local residents regarding cars blocking driveways, mounting pavements, and double parking in surrounding roads. This causes significant disruption for our neighbours and creates serious safety hazards for children crossing. Please ensure you do not block access points, park on yellow markings, or obstruct footpaths – or consider parking a short walk away to help ease congestion. Thank you for helping keep our children safe and our neighbourhood accessible.

Save the Date: Festival of Languages – Friday 6th November

Our annual Festival of Languages is returning on Friday 6th November, and we would love your help to make it an inspiring, memorable day for the children! If you, or a family member such as a grandparent, aunt, or uncle, speak another language or have roots in another country, please consider coming into school to share your culture. Whether you can spare an hour for a single class workshop or stay for the whole day, no teaching experience is necessary.

Ideas for getting involved:

- Teach simple greetings, numbers, or phrases
- Share a song, traditional story, or playground game
- Bring in traditional clothing, crafts, or artefacts
- Talk about your country's geography, food, customs, or celebrations
- Teach a dance or simply share what makes your culture special to you

The children get so much out of hearing directly from our school families. If you would like to volunteer, whether you have helped before or are joining in for the first time, please email Mrs Hall at j.hall@wransom.herts.sch.uk with:

- Your child's name and class
- The language and/or country you would like to share
- Your availability on the day (e.g. one session, morning, afternoon, or full day)

Thank you for helping us celebrate the rich diversity and global cultures within our school community!

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

Safeguarding Childhood: Device Policy Update & 'Bricks for 26' Pledge

We have joined other schools in signing the 'Bricks for 26' pledge, committing to make our school entirely smartphone-free for all primary pupils by September 2027.

Growing evidence links early smartphone and social media use to rising anxiety, cyberbullying, and lost social interaction. By acting together as a community of schools, we want to remove peer pressure and change the norm for our children.

Key points:

- From September 2027: Smartphones will not be permitted on school premises at all. For Year 5 and 6 pupils walking independently, only basic 'brick phones' (voice calls and basic SMS only, no internet access or cameras) will be allowed, handed into the office each morning.
- Medical Needs: Exceptions remain in place for pupils requiring devices as part of an agreed individual medical plan (e.g. diabetes monitoring).

A full copy of the Hertfordshire collective letter and our current Mobile Phones and Smartwatches Policy are attached.

Pupil Premium Update: Could Your Family Benefit From Extra Support?

From September 2026, national eligibility for Pupil Premium has expanded: all families receiving Universal Credit are now eligible to apply, regardless of income. If you didn't qualify before, you likely do now. (Already registered? No need to reapply—existing claims are reviewed automatically.)

What Is Pupil Premium? Pupil Premium provides direct government funding to our school for your child's learning, wellbeing, and enrichment. It is strictly confidential and carries no stigma—it simply ensures our school receives the resources to support your child.

Direct Benefits for Your Family Alongside school funding, newly approved applicants receive:

- £75 supermarket voucher of your choice
- £25 book token, an additional
- £50 supermarket voucher every year until your child finishes Year 6

Year 2 Parents: Universal Infant Free School Meals end after Year 2. To ensure your child continues receiving free school meals in Year 3 and beyond, you must register for Pupil Premium.

How to Apply: Applications are quick and confidential:

- Online: Apply directly via the Hertfordshire portal [here].
- Via the School Office: Contact the office or leadership team—we can check your eligibility and apply on your behalf.
- Checking takes only a few minutes, with direct savings for your household and vital support for our school.