Autumn Term Value: Respect

This half term we are focussing on: Honesty

Friday 16th October

The Ransom Round Up

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another bustling, vibrant fortnight at William Ransom, packed with rich learning experiences, sporting firsts and fantastic community spirit.

First and foremost, a massive thank you to our brilliant School Parents Association (SPA) and all the dedicated parent volunteers who gave up their evenings to host four wonderful discos last week. Coordinating four separate events across two nights is a colossal undertaking, but seeing the children's huge smiles, energy and fantastic dance moves made all the hard work entirely worthwhile - everyone had a great time!

On the sports field, both our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 teams represented William Ransom brilliantly at a local T1 rugby tournament. Ahead of the competition, the pupils took part in a coaching session to master the fundamentals of the game and they took to the pitch with tremendous enthusiasm, showing superb teamwork and sporting behaviour throughout.

Inside the classrooms, learning has been brought to life in many memorable ways. A standout highlight was Year 4's RE workshop in the hall exploring the Sikh concept of Langar, where the children deepened their understanding of equality, sharing and community through a meaningful, hands-on experience.

Meanwhile, Year 3 and Year 6 pupils have been busy working with clay in our annual workshop sessions, carefully crafting beautiful poppies. Together with the poppies created in previous years, these will be displayed outside the front of the school next month as a collective, visual mark of respect from our whole school community.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support across all our school events and initiatives.

Mr Plunkett

Midday Supervisory Assistants Needed!

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

HPCI 2026 SEND Survey: Have Your Say

Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI) represents local SEND families to help decision-makers improve education, health, and care services. Their 2026 Annual Survey is now open to find out what is working and what needs improvement: **Full Survey** **Short Survey**

Your feedback directly shapes where local services focus support.

Do you know our next school governor?

Do you know our next school governor? We're looking for a Co-opted Governor (non parent/carer of a child at the school) to join the governing body and support the continued development of our school. We would particularly welcome people with experience in HR, education, or health and safety/premises, but anyone with enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute to our children's education is encouraged to get in touch. Do you know someone who might be interested? Please share this opportunity with them and ask them to contact Laura Chapman at governors@wransom.herts.sch.uk to find out more. Thank you.

Laura Chapman, Chair of Governors

School Communication Policy: Quick Summary

To support clear communication and protect vital teaching time, please keep these guidelines in mind:

- **First Point of Contact:** Please send all general queries, pupil messages and appointment requests directly to the School Office via phone or email.
- **Response Times:** The office team acknowledges emails within one working day. Teaching staff respond within three working days of that acknowledgement. Staff do not check emails during teaching sessions or outside working hours.
- **Urgent Enquiries:** For safeguarding concerns, time-sensitive matters, or emergencies, please telephone the school office directly.
- **Speaking with Staff:** Brief messages can be passed on at the classroom door in EYFS or with senior leaders at either of the playground gates. All formal meetings must be booked in advance via the office.
- **Respectful Communication:** All interactions should remain courteous and constructive.

A full copy of the policy is available on our website

What's the big issue with smartphones anyway?

To find out the extent to which smartphones impact children's mental health, the increased safety risks they pose and why tech leaders themselves keep their children's lives smartphone-free, take a look at The Smartphone Lowdown. This interactive tool also discusses the solutions and how you can join other parents already working together to make a difference for the next generation. To find out more about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and what has been happening in this school, visit: https://bit.ly/SFCWR

Doughnut sale - Friday 23 October

A massive thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the discos last week, to the people who bought the tickets and to the children for their fantastic dance moves and energy! They were all hugely enjoyable events and wouldn't be possible without everyone's help. Money raised through SPA events is used to fund equipment and activities to enrich the enjoyment and education of all the children in school - the total raised through the discos will be confirmed soon. There will be a doughnut sale on the last day before the half term holiday - Friday 23rd October - straight after school in the school playground, with a separate table offering allergen-free doughnuts. Doughnuts will cost £1 each - to keep queues short, this is a cash only event so please dig out your pound coins! 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. And finally, if you your child still needs a costume for Halloween, be sure to check out the pre-loved costumes on offer in the uniform shed!

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.

Since September 2024, William Ransom have been taking part in The Let Grow project, to help build independence and resilience in our children. Children tend to be far less independent than we were, or our grandparents were. In a world where we are surrounded by 24-hour news streams and social media, parents feel more fearful about their children being out of sight, which means that children are given fewer opportunities to assess risk or problem solve.

We are giving the children an exciting piece of homework: Do something you haven't done before, without any adult supervision! Prepare a meal, cut up an apple, get some eggs from the shop, post a letter, ride round the block, take the dog for a walk... the possibilities are endless and your children are up for the challenge!

Well done to Evana (Y6) who has started going to the local shop independently! She has enjoyed it so much that she now regularly offers to go get whatever her family needs from the shop - brilliant! Charlotte (Y1) made her first ever banana bread over the holidays - amazing work Charlotte! Sadie (Y5) has been really busy with her Let Grow projects! On her own, she has made a card for her auntie, and walked to the letterbox to post it! Over the holidays, Sadie also went independently with her friend Reina to the 'green' to play without any parents to supervise! Finally, a big well done to Jesse (Y4) who set himself the challenge of making his very own Mandalorian helmet. He created a masterpiece and even wore it on the train into London! These achievements help our children to realise just how capable they are, which in turn helps them feel more confident to take on the many challenges that life throws their way.

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 getting up to will do! Thank you.









Community & Seasonal Events

Garden House Hospice Care: Tractor Colouring Competition

- The Competition: Children are invited to colour and design a festive scene featuring the Christmas Tractors! Design sheets must be returned to the school office by Friday 27th November 2026. The winner will receive a special school visit from a tractor, a prize and a copy of the storybook Tractor – Where Are You Going Today!
- The Tour: The 6th annual Farmers on Christmas Lights Tour convoy will take place on Sunday 20th December, passing through Baldock (6pm), Letchworth (6:45pm), and Hitchin (7:30 pm)

Hertfordshire Constabulary: Safe & Happy Halloween

- As Halloween approaches, local officers ask families to follow the "Be a Good Neighbour" guidelines. Knock only at decorated homes welcoming trick-or-treaters; respect "No Trick or Treat" notices. Ensure children carry torches, wear visible clothing, and stay accompanied. Non-emergency anti-social behaviour can be reported by calling 101 or via herts.police.uk (reserve 999 strictly for emergencies)

Alistair Strathern MP: Christmas Card Competition 2026

- How to Enter: Email entries to alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk including your child's name, age, class, and school. The winner will receive a prize and an opportunity to meet the Speaker.
  Submission Deadline: Friday 6th November 2026



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.