Autumn Term Value: Respect

Friday 6th November

This half term we are focussing on: Co-operation

The Ransom Round Up

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a brand new half term! I hope you all enjoyed a restful, refreshing break with your families. We have hit the ground running this week and the school has already been a hive of energy, immersive learning and vibrant community spirit.

Our week began with classrooms transported back in time through two fantastic living history days. On Monday, Year 4 looked magnificent dressed in their tunics and togas for Roman Day, taking part in a brilliant visiting workshop that brought ancient history alive through drama, activities and artifact handling. Year 5 followed on Tuesday with an equally thrilling Viking Day, donning helmets and shields to immerse themselves in Norse craftsmanship, culture and sagas. Year 1 also journeyed into the past this week with the Great Fire of London - and you can read all about that in the article to the right.

To round off an incredible week, Friday saw our wonderfully successful Festival of Languages Day. It was a true celebration of our diverse community, and we were so grateful to welcome parents into school to share their heritage and family traditions with the children. Experiencing the rich breadth of cultures that make up our school directly from our community was an inspiring highlight for everyone involved.

All of this follows a memorable end to our previous half term, which saw Year 6 enjoy a fantastic, enriching visit to the Imperial War Museum Duxford, where they explored historic aircraft and represented the school impeccably. Alongside that trip, we were treated to a wonderfully entertaining assembly by Chestnut Class.



Secret Present Room donations needed asap please!

With just under a month to go, the Secret Present Room elves are now full steam ahead getting everything ready for the big day. The elves would be hugely grateful if you could bring in NEW and UNUSED donations that could make nice gifts for adults and children. The following would all make fantastic donations:

- Buy One Get One Free deals
- Free samples/travel bags
- Unwanted cosmetics/toiletries from gift sets
- Unused novelty gifts

Please see the separate flyer attached to the email for further information about the Secret Present Room. Please leave your donations in the SPR donation box to the left of the clothes donation bin in the car park asap. (And please don't leave anything in the main reception as this can be a fire risk.). Thank you in advance – the event is a truly wonderful experience for the children and is only possible with your help.

Year 1 Fire of London Day

On Thursday, Year 1 stepped back in time to 1666 for our always enjoyed Great Fire of London day! The morning included making soda bread, like Thomas Fariner, learning the song 'London's Burning' and the highly anticipated reenactment of the houses burning, led by safety expert, Mr Carmody. In the afternoon, there were creative activities and art work themed around London. The day was hugely enjoyed and will surely be a day that the children remember for years to come.

As well as this, we were very proud of our Year 5 children, who showed great dedication, awareness and skill while completing their Bikeability training on local roads.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support and enthusiasm across everything we do. Here's to a happy, productive and inspiring half term ahead!
Mr Plunkett

Internal Provsion Survey

We are looking into creating an on-site Internal Provision at William Ransom to provide academic, sensory and emotional support for pupils with high support needs, while keeping them connected to their year groups. To share your thoughts on this initiative, please take a minute or two to complete our **short survey by clicking here.**

Thinking of getting your child a phone for Christmas?

Last academic year, many Y6 parents opted for simple phones instead of smartphones for their children, resulting in noticeably happier children and a decrease in phone related incidents taking place in school. With ever-increasing evidence emerging about the harms caused to children's mental health and wellbeing by smartphones, William Ransom has now joined many other Hertfordshire schools in signing up to the council-backed 'Bricks for 26' pledge to make primary schools smartphone-free environments.



For those considering buying a phone for their child this year, information and reviews of some of the 'brick' alternatives to smartphones **can be found by clicking here** To find out more about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and to sign the pledge, visit: https://bit.ly/SFCWR

Year 5 and 6 Cross Country

On Wednesday, we entered the annual Cross Country competition with 9 other primary schools at Knights Templar. Our 2 Year 5 teams ran a half mile race, while the 2 Year 6 teams ran a mile race with around 50 children in each race. Our team have been training hard at our Thursday lunch club since September and the hard work surely paid off. Our Y6 boys' team finished 4th/10, Y6 girls finished 2nd/10 and both Y5 teams won their category! A huge mention has to go to Zara (1st), Ned (3rd) and Lila (3rd) who came away with individual medals for their outstanding performances. The 16 children were a huge credit to the school, with fantastic team work and resilient spirit during their runs on a cold afternoon. We were hugely proud of all of them!



A and B team netball match

Our new A and B netball teams took to the court for the first time on Thursday, playing against Samuel Lucas. Sadly, both teams lost against a brilliant opposition, but the games were well played and the spirits were high throughout. We can move forward into our next games with confidence and more experience when we play St Andrews next week. A massive well done to all 17 players, it was a pleasure to umpire and watch your games.



Year 1 Multi-sports

On Tuesday, Year 1 had an exciting afternoon of art and sport. While half the year spent an afternoon creating beautiful firework themed art, the other half walked to Whitehill school. Here we spent time with 5 other local primary schools, taking part in fun sporting activities run by Year 6 sports leaders. The children took part brilliantly and it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone - well done Year 1!

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 Library Volunteers Needed

Do you love books and have an hour or two to spare? We are looking for a volunteer to help keep our school library tidy, organised, and looking its best for the children. While we already have fantastic volunteer help maintaining our digital system, we would love a hand looking after the physical shelves. If you'd be happy to pop in and help sort through books, please contact the school office. (Please note: timings will need to fit around our scheduled Rocksteady music sessions.)

Remembrance Day: Uniformed Organisations

On Wednesday 11th November, we invite all children who belong to uniformed youth organisations – such as Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, or Scouts – to wear their organisation's uniform to school to mark Remembrance Day. Children who are not members of these groups should attend in their regular school uniform.

Community Walk: Safer Routes on Stevenage Road

The Stevenage Road Residents' Campaign is hosting a community walk alongside local police and councillors to highlight traffic and pedestrian safety concerns. All families are warmly encouraged to join.

- Date: Sunday 22nd November
- Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- Meeting Point: Outside The Orange Tree pub, Hitchin

Winter Lunchtime Football Updates

To keep children active and engaged through the colder months, lunchtime football will continue throughout the winter for Yrs 3, 4, 5 and 6. To maximise the time children spend playing rather than changing, children will stay in their normal school clothes. While this avoids eating into their active time, it does mean clothes may occasionally come home with a bit of mud. To participate moving forward, children must have football boots suitable for grass/mud. We also strongly recommend that they wear shin pads for safety.

The lunchtime Timetable moving forward will be:

- Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: Years 5 & 6
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: Years 3 & 4

Parking Reminder: Please Respect Our Neighbours

A polite reminder to all parents and carers to park considerately at drop-off and pick-up. Local residents have raised concerns about cars blocking driveways, mounting pavements, and double-parking, which creates serious safety hazards for children crossing. Please avoid blocking access points, parking on yellow markings, or obstructing footpaths—or consider parking a short walk away to help ease congestion. Thank you for helping keep our children safe.

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

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.