

Wheatcroft School



End of Term Newsletter





Mrs Miller's Message



As a school we have packed so much into the Spring term which ended in a lovely way with our very popular PTFA Easter Egg Hunt! My thanks go to the PTFA for organising this great event for our children.

Well done to the PTFA for organising our book sale for World Book Day. This was a lovely opportunity for children to choose new books and they really enjoyed sharing them with their parents in our end of the day reading session. Thank you to the parents who were in attendance at our HfL Education reading workshop; I hope you were able to gain some ideas to continue supporting your child to read at home.

No term would be complete without an end of term production and it was truly wonderful to see our Lower Key Stage 2 production of Porridge. How amazing they were acting and singing with such confidence they really rose to the performance. Our children really shine when performing and it was so lovely to see the huge smiles on their faces as they sang, narrated, acted and danced. I was proud of every single one of them as they came together to perform, well done. My thanks go to the Lower Key Stage 2 team for your commitment to working with the children.

This term has brought a wealth of sporting opportunities for our children and my thanks go to Mrs Woodier who works so hard to ensure our children continue to take part in the sporting events with other schools. Mr Griffin also deserves recognition and a big thank you for the time he has given to take the children to the events. We are extremely lucky as a school to be able to transport the children with our minibuses to and from the events. If you hold a D1 licence and would be interested in supporting the school by becoming a minibus driver please do speak with the office.

It was lovely to welcome you all to our parent consultations earlier in the term, we hope that you were able to take the time to celebrate all that your child has achieved in their year so far. In the summer term we will be holding our open afternoon which will give you another opportunity to look through your child's work and achievements. Do make sure you check our summer term dates and put this in your diary.

As we come to the end of another busy term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community for their continued commitment and support towards educating the pupils of our school. Thank you so much to the Wheatcroft staff and Governors for their continued commitment to our school and children; I am sure you will agree with me in wishing them a well-deserved restful Easter with their own families and friends.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter. I look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 16th April.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Miller
Headteacher



Nursery



This term we have been busy growing lots of different plants and looking at the changes as Winter turns into Spring. We planted beans, sunflowers and cress as well as some flower seeds in our garden for Summer. We have enjoyed watching our daffodils grow and looking for mini beasts.



We love stories and this term we have listened to stories about bears, stories about growing and we celebrated our favourite books on World Book Day. We really enjoyed visiting the book fair to buy new books and dressing up as our favourite characters.

We are really looking forward to the summer term in Nursery.



Reception 1



We had a role play spaceship in our classroom during our 'Blast off!' topic! We read a range of space stories and fact books. 'The Smeds and The Smoos' and 'Qpootle 5' were our favourites. Our next topic was 'Traditional tales'. We have acted out 'Little Red Riding Hood' in Grandma's cottage and pretended we were Goldilocks visiting the house of the three bears. We played in the giant's castle from 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and retold the story of the 'Gingerbread Man'.



We have continued to visit Forest School every week, observing how the forest has changed now that the weather has become warmer. We loved reading stories in the forest for World Book Day and recreated a book cover out of natural objects. We also looked fabulous in our book character costumes.



Learning about Easter has been a fun time filled with colourful, creative crafts and drawings. Many of us have noticed examples of spring new life around us; daffodils, blossom and crocuses, new baby chicks and lambs.

We have enjoyed playing with our small world farm.

Have a lovely Easter everyone!



Reception 2



This term we have been exploring the topics of 'Blast off!' and 'Traditional tales'. After Christmas, the children enjoyed learning all about rockets, astronauts and the solar system. We had a special visit from Dr Foster who came to discuss how rockets are launched into space. Then using a pump, plastic bottles and water he shot rockets into the air on our Wheatcroft playground!



This half term we have been lucky enough to have Mr Rock a PE specialist come into Reception on Friday mornings to teach us gymnastics, football and games. The children have loved learning new skills and we have seen them be put them into practise with our play leaders at lunchtimes.



The second half of this half term we have been learning about traditional tales. The children have enjoyed the stories Little Red riding hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Gingerbread man and Goldilocks and the 3 Bears. The children's favourite part of this topic has been re-telling the stories in our role play area.

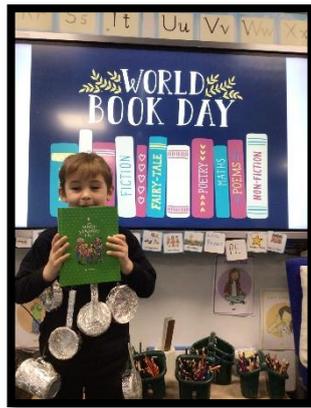
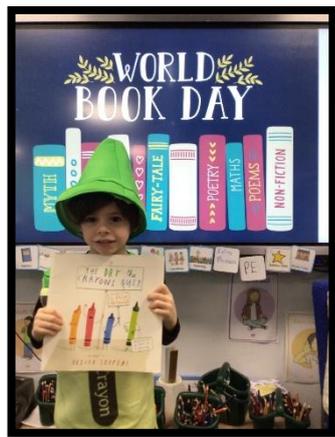


Year 1



We have had a very busy term in year 1 that was filled with lots of exciting experiences. In design and technology we made vegetables muffins. The children cut their own vegetables up carefully and chose the ones they wanted to try in their muffins. They said they tasted like cake!

We also celebrated world book day this term! The children dressed up as some amazing characters from their favourite books. They had a go at making their own picture books and read with their buddies in Year 5.



In science we have been looking at plants and how they grow. We planted seeds from 4 different vegetables. These were tomatoes, avocado, apple and pepper. The children predicted that the tomato seeds would grow the quickest because they are the smallest seed. Every plant apart from the avocado has started to grow!

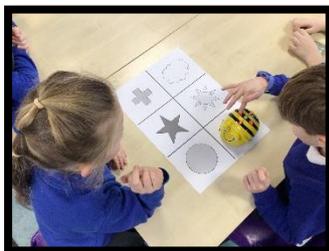
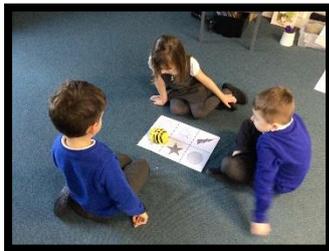
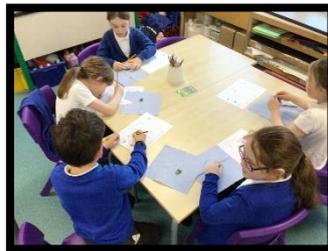
In History we have been looking at how holidays have changed in the recent past. We were lucky enough to have a visit from Mrs Higgs' mum. She talked all about what holidays were like when she was younger and how they compare to the holidays she goes on now. She even brought in an old film camera!



Year 1/2



In Science this term we have been learning all about plants. The children have investigated a range of seeds looking at their size, shape and textures. We looked around our school for plants we could find in winter and we will compare this in the spring and summer time. We had a great PE session with Mr Rock playing a variety of football games with our friends.



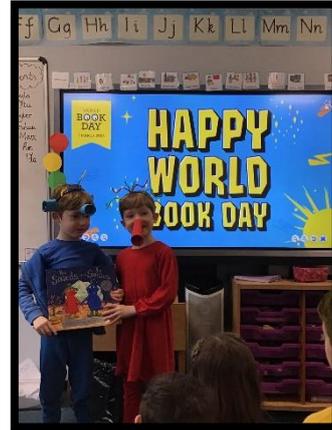
In Computing the children have learnt how to programme and control a moving robot (beebot). They enjoyed seeing where it would move to on the grids and giving it their own series of instructions. In RE the children have learnt about Judaism and the festival of Passover they made Matzah with Mr Wackett, the children loved this and said it tasted like crackers. In Design Technology and geography the children have learnt lots about where food comes from in its natural form and tasted a variety of fruits and vegetables. Finally the children planned and made and evaluated their own veggie muffins.



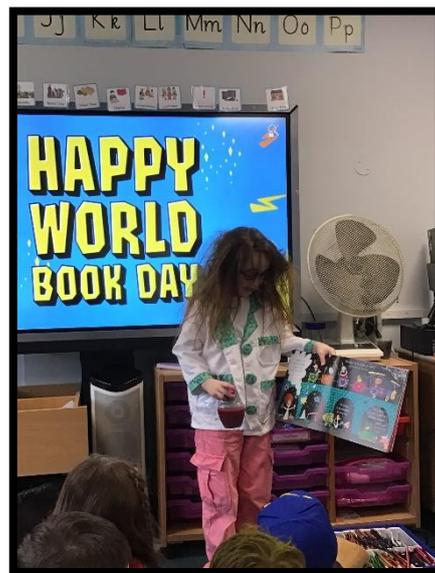
Year 2



Spring term was an exciting one in Year 2! We loved science week, in particular building trees out of paper for the STEM challenge.



We also had great fun on World Book Day, dressing as characters and creating our own books. The class really enjoyed sharing their books and explaining why they chose them.



We were very lucky to have a guest speaker come in and speak about holidays in the past. The Year 2s wrote and asked some excellent questions.

Year 3

We have enjoyed a packed Spring term in Year 3. After Christmas, we learned about Roman Britain and enjoyed a fantastic workshop learning how to be Roman soldiers. We even got to taste food which the Roman soldiers would have eaten! We enjoyed making circuits and switches in Science and investigating conductors and insulators.



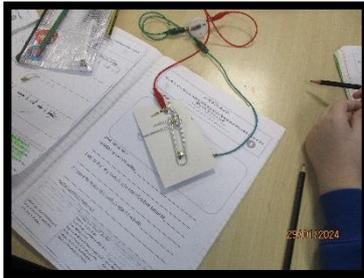
In the second half term we loved dressing up as our favourite book characters for World Book Day and being able to buy books. We enjoyed listening to a story in a different language and had fun making finger puppets of a well-known fairy tale. We had a lot of noisy fun learning to play the saxophone and could eventually play a short tune! In Science Week, we created paper tree sculptures. Well done to Millie and Jasmine who created the class winning tree. For homework, we designed posters on the theme of 'Time'. Well done Georgia for your class winning poster. We have all worked really hard rehearsing our play, 'Porridge'. We are looking forward to an exciting Summer term, with a class trip to Hertford Castle and swimming.



Year 3 / 4



We have enjoyed a packed Spring term in Year 3 / 4. After Christmas, we learned about Roman Britain and enjoyed a fantastic workshop learning how to be Roman soldiers. We enjoyed making circuits and switches in Science and investigating conductors and insulators.



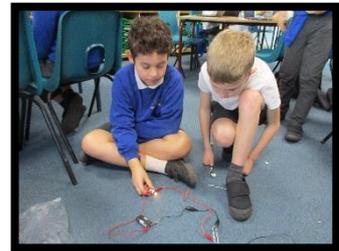
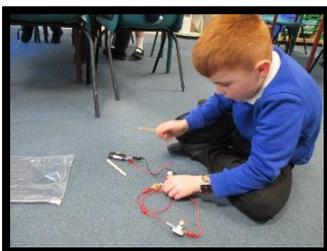
In the second half term we loved dressing up as our favourite book characters for World Book Day and creating picture books. We enjoyed visiting the book sale and reading with our buddies. Our Year 3 children had fun learning to play the saxophone and our Year 4 children enjoyed swimming lessons. In Science Week, we created paper tree sculptures. Well done to Neda and Elsie who created the class winning tree. For homework, we designed posters on the theme of 'Time'. Well done Ava for your class winning poster. We have all worked really hard rehearsing our play, 'Porridge'. We are looking forward to an exciting Summer term, with a class trip to Hertford Castle and swimming for our Year 3 half of the class.



Year 4



We started the spring term learning about the Romans in History. We were lucky enough to enjoy a Roman Day with a visit from a centurion. We experienced what life would be like as a Roman soldier by completing tasks in the camp as well as battling Year 3/4 and Year 3!



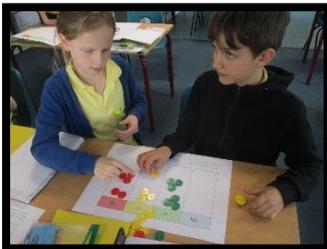
In Science we have had great fun learning about electricity. We predicted how to create a circuit to light up a bulb using wires, a bulb and a battery. We also tested which material could conduct or insulate electricity by adding these into our circuits.



Year 5



This term, Year 5 have worked incredibly hard and each and every one of them should be proud of the work they have achieved. The children loved sharing their learning during their class assembly this term.



In English, we enjoyed reading “The Island”. We acted out the story to get an insight into how the main character would be feeling. We used this to help us to write a monologue explaining how the main character ended up on the island. The children then published their work, showing great pride in their final outcomes.

In Maths we have focused on multiplication, division and fractions. The children have worked hard to use mathematical language throughout their lessons and we have been focusing on using manipulatives to support our understanding.

In Science we have been learning about life cycles and during Science week we made our own telegraph to send Morse code to each other, using a simple circuit.

In PE this half term, we have been learning how to play Basketball. We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Rock for coming in to teach us Tag Rugby during the first half term, as part of our PE curriculum.



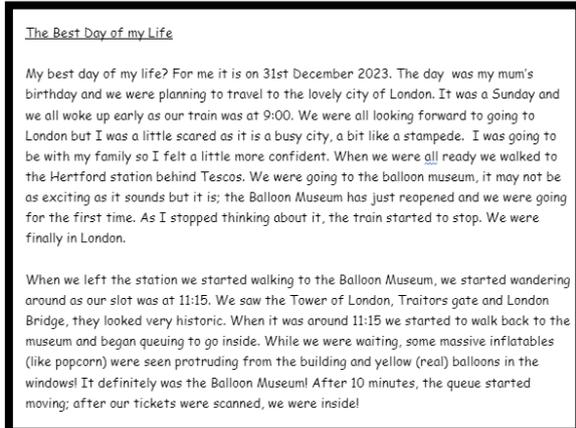
Year 5 / 6



During the spring term, we have learnt so much and experienced new things, from vector drawings to algebra. We have even had a new teacher too. To begin with, we wrote essays about either the best day of our lives or our future careers. We worked hard to edit and improve these prior to typing them up.



In maths, we have become fraction fanatics, mastered ratio and are confident with percentages. Year 6 even overcame the challenge of 'mean' maths. We all loved exploring *The Island* by Armin Grader, writing powerful monologues which we acted out upon completion. Most recently, we have put our complaining skills to the test with formal letter writing. Our class story, *Holes*, has also had us hooked from start to finish.



On World Book Day, we examined and then created our own picture books for KS1. We had to think carefully about language, images and the lessons our narratives would teach. During Science week, we put our circuit skills to the test by sending messages in Morse code. Every one of us also preserved to create our paper free-standing trees. In PE, the class has got outside to develop our teamwork, coordination and tactical awareness in both tag-rugby and basketball. We have all got much better at attacking space. With our history and geography focus being journeys, we went back in time and investigated Windrush, The Titanic and Sir Walter Raleigh's voyages. We have even found out where our clothes and fruit comes from, locating different biomes around the globe. Computing has become a class favourite, first with vector drawings and now with programming formulas into spreadsheets.

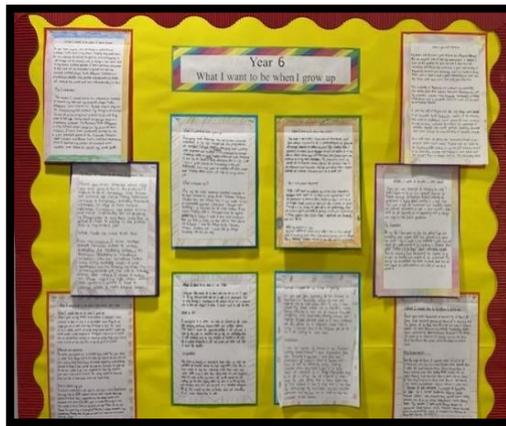
We cannot wait to learn even more in the summer.



Year 6



To start this term, we wrote essays based on 'What I want to be when I grow up' for the Rotary competition. We really enjoyed researching our different future careers, such as zoologists, comedians and aeronautical engineers. For British Science week, we enjoyed exploring the theme of 'Time', sending messages in Morse code, creating 'Time' posters and constructing paper trees for our STEM project.



World Book Day was great fun! We really enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book characters and creating our own picture books. In art, we learnt about graffiti, focusing on how it can spread positive messages to our community. In PE, we have enjoyed playing tag rugby and participating in many sporting events this term; including Boy's district football matches and all of the girls in Year 6 attending a Girl's Football Day at Chauncy School.



P.E



We have had another busy term of PE at Wheatcroft. Mr Rock has been delivering lessons to UKS2 and EYFS. We celebrated women's football week with all our Year 6 girls taking part in a football day at Chauncy, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 girls participating in a football tournament and KS1 and EYFs having a football taster session. EYFS have had the opportunity to take part in Balanceability lessons.



We have had many clubs running this term including running club, netball club, football club as well as Gymnastics and dance. A big thank you to all the staff and parents who have helped run these clubs and helped at the events we have participated in.



We have entered many HWSSP events and have been very successful. We took 2 teams to the rapid fire cricket tournament and one of our teams reached the County final. Our netball team won the festival event at the District Netball winning every match and our football team were runners up after reaching the final without a loss in the District Football tournament. We have also participated in the Cross country event at Hertford Rugby club, the girl's football tournament and sports hall athletics.



LKS2 Production- 'Porridge'



Lower Key Stage 2 have worked really hard this half term learning lines, songs and dances for our production of 'Porridge'. The children demonstrated fantastic acting and dancing skills and their singing was incredible! We hope that all the LKS2 parents enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed performing it!



Thank you to all the staff who have done an amazing job helping the children to stage such a wonderful show and to all the parents who helped children learn lines and provided costumes. Have a very happy Easter!



PTFA



This term the children have enjoyed taking their learning outside of the classroom. The Nursery have enjoyed some lovely spring walks, spotting signs of seasonal change.



LKS2 enjoyed a Roman day where they had visitors come in to prepare them for battle. UKS2 have been using the playground to put forward their cases during our debating topic. Four children from Year 5 also took part in a Math challenge, representing our school wonderfully.



LKS2 have been busy practicing and performing their end of term performance. It has been fantastic to see so many classes coming outside of the classroom, developing their culture capital and embedding their learning through different experiences. Have a wonderful Easter!



PTFA



As we approach the Easter holidays, we'd like to thank you all for supporting another busy term of fundraising events, which help to raise money for projects such as the fabulous new playground markings and new ICT suite.

Spring Term fundraising

In February, we held our ever-popular **Magic Show** and **Discos** which certainly raised the roof! We were delighted that so many parents volunteered to help out and see firsthand how much fun these events are for our children. They also raised **£418** for our school.

In March, we held our biggest book sale yet in support of **World Book Day**, thanks to your generous donations of new and used books. Every child had the chance to take home some books and we hope this has encouraged their love of reading. We really enjoyed seeing all their imaginative costumes! This event raised **£355**.

This morning was our annual **Easter Egg hunt** which is always a highlight of our fundraising calendar. It was a lovely way for the children to finish the term; we hope they all enjoy their chocolate eggs! Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible, we will share the amount raised after the holidays.

Summer Term diary dates

Would you like to know more about what goes on behind the scenes in the PTFA?

Please come along to our **Annual General Meeting** at **2pm on Friday 19th April** where we'll be voting in our new committee and sharing our exciting plans for the rest of the school year. We'd love as many people as possible to attend. The meeting will be held in the Croft so babies and pre-school children are welcome.

We need you!

We're a small team with big plans! We urgently need more people to join us to help organise and deliver our program of fundraising events throughout the year. It's a great way to meet new people and get involved with school life, as much or little as you'd like. Please contact your Class Rep for more info or email ptfa@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk.

Summer Fete

Please save the date for our **Summer Fete** from **12-3pm on Sun 23rd June!**

Following the success of our Christmas Fayre, we'll be asking all parents to get involved by organising a stall for each Year Group. Please look out for more information about this after the holidays.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter!



Parent Meeting Feedback



Parent Meeting Feedback

Thank you to the parents who were able to join the Governors & Leadership team for our Ofsted reflections meeting. We had parent representatives from each of our key stages which was extremely helpful. Our key focus was around the area for improvement in our report which was;

“A number of parents do not feel well informed about their children’s learning or understand the changes happening in the school. The school should improve how it communicates effectively with parents, so that parents can work positively with the school and they fully understand what the school is doing to support their children’s education and well-being.”

We spent time in the meeting reflecting on the Ofsted inspection process and the strengths of the school that were highlighted through the inspection. Parents worked in groups to reflect on what the school already does well and then looked at how we could work together to meet our action.

Parents shared the following as strengths of the school;

- ✓ Curriculum coverage
- ✓ Children talk about what they are learning
- ✓ Children are happy coming to school
- ✓ Inclusive community
- ✓ Behaviour management strategies
- ✓ District competitions
- ✓ Class assemblies
- ✓ Variety of clubs and more on offer now
- ✓ Early years induction
- ✓ Speaking to teachers in the play ground
- ✓ Mindfulness and wellness sessions
- ✓ School dinners
- ✓ Parent involvement in key days e.g. decorations day
- ✓ Phonics workshop
- ✓ PTFA events
- ✓ Young voices and other events
- ✓ Phone calls from teachers

We then moved on to talk about communication with parents. We discussed how the school currently communicates with parents through email, text messages, newsletters, pupil voice, upcoming dates, google classroom and tapestry. Parents then discussed different ways that could enhance parental engagement with the school and help parents better understand how they and the school can work together positively to support children’s education and well-being.



Parent Meeting Feedback



Parents shared the following ideas to improve engagement;

- Send link to website in communications
- Information to be in one place e.g. website and more easily accessible
- More opportunities for parent feedback
- More consistent use of google classroom
- Asking for volunteers on different days of the week
- More parent meeting opportunities, including meetings around assessment, online safety and curriculum support
- More opportunities to look at children's work
- Drop in mornings
- Parent reps for each class
- More communication regarding clubs
- Phone calls for positive reasons e.g. child has achieved an award
- Communication accuracy to improve, simplify communications and send letters out in good time

The leadership team and the Governors have spent a considerable amount of time discussing, planning and implementing ways to improve communication from the school to parents and are pleased to inform you of our plans. We aim for everything to be fully in place by September 2024 and will spend the rest of this academic year implementing and reviewing our plans so please do be patient with us as we work on this target. There are lots of activities and events that the school already does which we will continue doing; below are more ideas to help us work more effectively together.

- Website – we are currently working with a company to design a new website which will make it easier for parents to locate key information about our school including news and dates, class pages and the curriculum.
- Letters – we have reviewed our timings around letters and we now aim, where possible, for letters to come to you no later than 2 weeks before the event. In some cases you will receive communication earlier particularly if there is a cost to you.
- Text messages and emails – we will still be using this as a communication source. We are aware that there have been errors made with these which can of course be frustrating when you are trying to organise around our events. We will endeavour to ensure these are double checked before going out to parents to try to prevent these mistakes.
- Newsletters – newsletters will still be our way of letting you know what has been happening in school but when the website is set up this will involve a link directly to the newsletter and the website to enable you to locate key information that you require.



Parent Meeting Feedback



- The leadership team have looked at our academic year and we are creating a parent calendar to give you more opportunities each term to come into school. This will show you all the opportunities available across the year to come in and celebrate your child's achievements or learn more about what they are doing in school and how you can help them. Part of this will be a learning 'show case' where you will have the opportunity to come in and look through your child's books and classroom to see what they are learning. We have already offered a Year 6 Sats information meeting, a reading meeting and a Year 7 transition meeting.
- Phone system – this has now been updated and should give you easier access to the office as it now brings more phone lines.

We would like to thank all of our parents for sharing your views as this has helped us identify what needs to improve. We hope that you feel able to continue to give your views as we work on improvements in communication. We would also like to thank our Leadership team and our Governors for their continued support of the school. Ofsted recognised that Governors are committed to moving the school forward and that all leaders are proactive at looking for ideas for improvement. The Governor role is a volunteer role and all of our Governors have their own families and working roles so every moment of time they can give to Wheatcroft is very much appreciated.

We look forward to 'Achieving more together'

With kind regards

Mrs Miller
Headteacher

Mr D Hewitt
Chair of Governors





Notes from the Office



Head Lice

For help and advice please [click here](#) to access information on head lice from the NHS.

USEFUL LINKS:

[School Website](#)

[School Uniform Shop](#)

[Foundation Birthday Books](#)

[KS1 Birthday Books](#)

[LKS2 Birthday Books](#)

[UKS2 Birthday Books](#)

[School collection permissions](#)

Please note: From summer term the cost of school meals is increasing.

HCL will now charge **£2.63** for Nursery children and **£3.40** for children not in receipt of free school meals.

Please ensure your account is in credit by paying via School Grid or setting up a direct debit.

Thank you



Uniform

We are pleased to inform you that from summer term all school uniform will be available to purchase from Kids Connection in Hertford.

Their details are:-

www.kidsconnection.co.uk

01992587466

store@kidsconnection.co.uk



Uniform will no longer be available to purchase from the school.

The School Day

Nursery starts at 9.00am

Reception, KS1 and KS2 doors open at 8.45am, registers close at 8:55am

Please remember to call the office 01992 587899 to report your child's absence and then follow this up with an email to

admin@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk

Coming soon:-

You will soon be able to report an absence by leaving a message on our new answer service.





Diary Dates



		Monday 1st April to Friday 12th April Easter BREAK
Monday 15th April	SCHOOL CLOSED	Inset Day
Tuesday 16 th April	08:55	Start of Summer term
Thursday 19 th April	2:00-3:00	PTFA AGM
Monday 22 nd April		CLUBS START
Friday 26 th April	2:45-3:15	Year 2 Assembly
MAY		ASSESSMENT FOR THE WHOLE MONTH FOR KS1
Tuesday 7 th May	All day	Yr3 visit to Hertford Castle
Friday 3 rd May	2:45-3:15	Year 1 Assembly
Thursday 2 nd May	All day	Year 3/4 trip to Hertford Castle
Thursday 9 th May	All day	Year 4 trip to Hertford Castle
Friday 10 th to Thursday 16 th	8:30-9:00	Y6 Breakfast re SATs preparation
Monday 13th to Friday 17th	ALL DAY	ASSESSMENT WEEK WHOLE SCHOOL
Thursday 16 th May	3:15-4:15	PTFA Magic show EYFS & KS1
Friday 17 th May	After school	KS2 Discos
Monday 27th to Friday 31st May Summer half term break		
Monday 3 rd to Friday 14 th June		Y4 Statutory Multiplication Testing
Thursday 5 th June	All day	Reception to Shepreth
Monday 10 th to Friday 14 th June	All day	Y6 Residential trip to Norfolk
Thursday 13 th June	AM	Nursery trip to Cedars park
Tuesday 18 th June	5:00-6:00	Nursery 2024 Intake New Parents Info Meeting
Tuesday 18 th June	6:00-7:00	Reception 2024 Intake New Parents Info Meeting
Tuesday 18 th June	All Day	Class and Group Photos
Friday 21 st June	2:45-3:15	Year 1 / 2 Class Assembly
Sunday 23 rd June	12:00-3:00	PTFA Summer Fete
Thursday 27 th June	AM	EYFS Assembly, Sports Day & Picnic
Friday 28 th June	2:45-3:15	Year 6 Cohort Assembly
TBC		KS1 Trip
Monday 1 st July	AM	Back up date for EYFS Assembly, Sports Day & Picnic
Thursday 4 th July		Final running club session
Tuesday 9 th July	9:30-11:00	KS1 Sports Day
Tuesday 9 th July	1:30-3:00	KS2 Sports Day
Wednesday 10 th July	9:30-11:00	KS1 Sports Day – back up day
Wednesday 10 th July	1:30-3:00	KS2 Sports Day – back up day
Wednesday 10 th July		FINAL CLUBS OF TERM
Thursday 11 th July	ALL DAY	Transition Day – Y6 to Secondary
Thursday 11 th July	2:00-3:30	Open Afternoon
Tuesday 16 th July	6:00pm	UKS2 Performance
Wednesday 17 th	2:00pm	UKS2 Performance
Thursday 18 th July	3:30-5:15	Yr6 Leavers Party
Friday 19th July	1:30	School Breaks for Summer
		New activities will be added to the
		Website when organised such as day trips
		Start of 2024/2025 Academic year will not be before
		2nd September 2024



Diary Dates

