



AYCLIFFE DRIVE NEWS #23

Head Teacher Newsletter #23

15th October 2026

Aycliffe Drive Primary School

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

This first half term has flown by but we could not be more proud of how pupils have come back to school and engaged with learning. Class teachers report how they see so many pupils striving for our school values of ambition and fortitude and this is lovely to hear that pupils are rising to challenges.

School Values

I would like to bring your attention to our school values, which is an anagram of the word Aycliffe.

A = Ambition; Y = Young Voices; C = Courtesy; L = Learning; I = Integrity; F = Fortitude; F = Friendship; E = Empathy

We have been focussing on our school value of integrity in lessons and assemblies. We have been exploring what it means to be honest, to do the right thing even when it's hard, and to be proud that we can tell the truth to be the best person we can be.

You can support this at home by:

- praising your child when they are honest or take responsibility, even if they make a mistake;
- talking through simple scenarios ("What would you do if...?") and why being truthful matters;
- reinforcing that effort, kindness and honesty are just as important as success.

We are proud of the thoughtful contributions pupils have made so far and the ways they are trying to be the best version of themselves.

British Sign Language Assembly

On Wednesday 14th October, we welcomed a parent from our deaf community into school to teach pupils about the importance of communication in different forms. We were very lucky to learn the alphabet, introductory phrases, colours and feelings. The children really enjoyed learning new signs and discovering more about how we can communicate with and include one another. They were thoroughly engrossed throughout the thirty minutes. Pupils have been provided with an alphabet sheet to practice at home, and we will continue to use the taught phrases in school.

It was especially lovely to see the communication between the parent and their child, and between the parent and the interpreter. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and giving us such a meaningful insight into the many ways we connect with one another. A huge thank you to our parent for sharing their knowledge and making the assembly such a memorable experience. Parents feel free to join in with communicating with us in a morning and afternoon on the gate.

Communication guide

A quick reminder about our school communications: if you have a question or concern about your child's learning, behaviour or wellbeing, the first port of call should always be your child's class teacher. Class teachers know your child best and can usually resolve matters quickly.

How to get in touch and what to expect

- Contact the class teacher first — by email, telephone via the school office, or by arranging a short conversation at the end of the school day.
- Please allow up to 5 working days for a response; teachers will aim to reply sooner when possible.

- If the matter cannot be resolved by the class teacher, they will involve the appropriate senior leader or the SEND/inclusion lead and keep you updated.
- For urgent safeguarding or medical concerns, contact the school office immediately and ask to speak to a DSL. In an emergency always use the office telephone so we can respond straight away. A DSL will aim to be available, and if not will ring you back at the earliest possible moment.
- If you are unsure who to contact, the school office can direct you to the right person.

We value constructive partnerships with parents and believe most issues are best sorted early by the class teacher. Thank you for working with us to support your child.

Parent information

A quick reminder about how we share important information at Aycliffe Drive so you always know where to look.

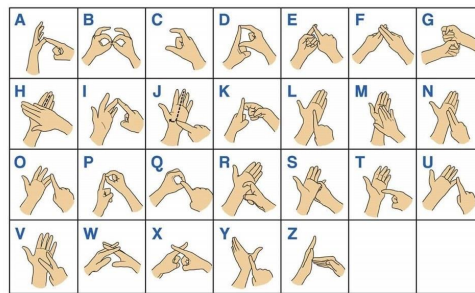
- Weekly admin email (every Monday) — this is our main update. It includes whole-school news, key reminders and dates for the half term. Please check this email first before phoning the school for information.
- Additional emails — we will send extra emails when there are event-specific details, urgent updates or changes to routine.
- Arbor app — we use Arbor for permission slips, payment requests, attendance notes and some announcements. Please enable notifications so you don't miss time-sensitive items.
- School website — for policies, the full calendar of events and copies of newsletters. If you misplace an email, the website is a good place to look.

If you are unsure where something was sent, start with the Monday admin email, then check Arbor and the school website. If you still need help, contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Atkinson



1 - BSL alphabet

Your Query	Who you need to talk to	How to get in touch
Anything to do with your individual child; their progress, behaviour or concerns regarding school or at home.	First step: Your child's Class Teacher is always the first port of call. Second step: A senior member of staff	You can speak to the class teacher at the end of the day, or you can contact the school office to make an appointment
Anything to do with your child's Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision that cannot be answered by the class teacher.	The SENCo, Miss Fitzsimmons	Make an appointment via the office or if you need to contact the SENCO directly email your query to senco@aycliffdrive.herts.sch.uk
Any queries regarding administration, for example pupil records, change of address, dinner money, school trip payments.	Mrs Ashmore, Office Manager	Pop in, telephone or email School Office 01442 973174 admin@aycliffdrive.herts.sch.uk
Anything to do with whole school issues, ideas for the future, or to give some feedback	Administration staff School Governors	School Office 01442 973174 admin@aycliffdrive.herts.sch.uk
Any concerns regarding child welfare or family circumstances of which we need to be aware, or to discuss serious concerns.	Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding: Mrs Fitzsimmons Deputy Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding: Mrs Atkinson, Miss Rumph and Mrs Long	Make an appointment via the office, telephone or write an email and send to the school office at admin@aycliffdrive.herts.sch.uk
Messages about medical appointments*, breakfast or after school clubs, who is collecting your child.	Administration staff in school office * Evidence is required for medical appointments	School Office 01442 973174 admin@aycliffdrive.herts.sch.uk
Absence	In case you child is absent, this needs to be emailed or phone into the school office	School Office 01442 973174 admin@aycliffdrive.herts.sch.uk

2 - Communication guide

Message from the Governors



As the newly appointed Chair of Governors, I wanted to take the opportunity to welcome everyone back to Aycliffe Drive for the new school year. I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

It has been a busy summer on site. You may notice when you return that a lot of work and maintenance has taken place around the school to get it ready for September. This includes painting and decorating across the school, thorough deep cleans of all classrooms and shared areas, and important work to the trees on site to ensure our grounds remain safe, tidy and welcoming for all our children.

On behalf of the governing board, we are excited for the year ahead and look forward to seeing more excellent outcomes from all of our pupils. We are incredibly proud of our school community and are committed to supporting our staff and children to ensure Aycliffe Drive continues to thrive.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support it really does make a difference.

With best wishes for a great start to the term,

Steve Preston

Chair of Governors

Being Safe Online

At our school, we recognise that the internet is an important part of children's lives, offering many opportunities for learning, creativity and communication. However, it is equally important that we work together to ensure our children know how to stay safe when using the internet, online games and digital devices.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of the importance of talking regularly with your children about online safety.

How can you help keep your child safe online?

- **Talk openly:** Encourage your child to share what they do online, which games they play and who they communicate with. Make sure they know they can come to you if something worries or upsets them.
- **Keep personal information private:** Remind children never to share their full name, address, school, passwords or other personal details with people they meet online.
- **Be careful who they speak to:** Explain that people online are not always who they say they are. Children should never agree to meet someone they have met online.

- **Check age ratings:** Many social media platforms, apps and games have minimum age requirements. Check that the content and platforms your child uses are appropriate for their age.
- **Use parental controls:** Make use of parental controls, privacy settings and content filters on devices, apps and gaming platforms.
- **Encourage healthy screen habits:** Set clear boundaries around screen time, particularly at bedtime, and make time for offline activities, reading, exercise and family time.
- **Think before sharing:** Help children understand that photographs, messages and comments can have lasting consequences. Encourage them to be kind and respectful online, just as they would be in person.

Upcoming UK social media restrictions for under-16s

The Government has announced plans to prevent social media companies from providing their services to children under the age of 16. These changes are expected to come into effect in **spring 2027**, subject to the introduction of the relevant regulations.

The restrictions are expected to cover platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, YouTube and X, although the final details of the rules will be confirmed by the Government. Messaging services such as WhatsApp is not currently intended to be included in the ban, however, children under the age of 13 must not be using this app or be part of any group chats.

This means that parental permission alone will not allow a child under 16 to use a social media service covered by the new restrictions. The changes are intended to strengthen children's protection online and help reduce their exposure to harmful content and potentially unsafe interactions.

Although these changes are still to come, we encourage families to begin having age-appropriate conversations with their children now. This is an opportunity to help them understand the importance of online safety, responsible digital behaviour and maintaining a healthy balance between online and offline activities.

You can find further information in the Government's [guidance on new rules to protect children online](#).

Working together to keep children safe

Online safety is a shared responsibility between school, parents and carers. By working together, maintaining open communication and setting clear boundaries, we can help our children develop the knowledge and confidence they need to navigate the digital world safely.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our children safe, both in school and beyond.

School Information



Parent Consultations - Monday 2nd November

On Monday 2nd November, parents are invited to a 10-minute meeting with your child's class teacher. We encourage all parents to book an appointment, even if you have no concerns regarding your child/ren. These appointments will ensure parents are aware of what level your child is working at and for the teacher to discuss progress being made.

Bookings opened on Arbor Monday 12th October at 12.00pm and will close on Friday 23rd October at 12.00pm. Parents are required to download the Arbor app to book appointments. If you have any issues booking, please contact the school office to book on your behalf.

Parent Teacher meetings for children with SEN

Parents of children who have been identified as having SEN are invited to attend a 15 minute meeting with their child's class teacher during the week of 9th November. Please see allocated dates and times for each class below. Please note, there has been some changes.

Bookings will open on Arbor from Monday 19th October at 12.00pm and close on Wednesday 4th November at 12.00pm.

Monday 9th November 1.00pm-3.00pm - Chestnut, Hawthorn and Maple

Tuesday 10th November 1.00pm - 3.00pm - Birch, Laurel and Oak

Tuesday 10th November 3.15pm-4.15pm - All classes

Wednesday 11th November 1.00pm - 3.00pm - Sycamore, Willow and Redwood

Thursday 12th November 1.00pm - 2.15pm - Ash and Elm

Thursday 12th November 2.15pm-3.00pm - Nursery

Year 6's - Application for Secondary School

Please can all year 6 parents apply for a secondary school place for their children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016. All the information you need is available on the Hertfordshire County website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. The deadline to apply is 31 October 2026. Allocations will be sent to parents on 1 March 2027. We have previously sent out a 'Moving On' booklet which has further information, if you need another copy of this please contact the school office.

Application for leave of absence forms - Online only

All application for leave forms must be submitted online. Forms can be typed straight onto by parents and returned to admin@aycliffedrive.herts.sch.uk. We will be unable to accept any paper forms. Please find the application for leave form on our website - [Aycliffe Drive Primary School - Attendance](#)

Amazon Wishlist

Please take a look at the books we currently desperately need on our Amazon Wishlist. Any donations of these would be greatly appreciated, new or if you already have these at home in good condition that you no longer need.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/29SVDG2EPKGBK?ref=abls_nvfly_yl

Thank you for your support in this!

Key Dates



**Key Dates - Please keep an eye as these dates as they are updated throughout the term.
Further information for events will be shared closer to the time.**

16/10 - Flu Vaccinations - Reception - Year 6

23/10 - INSET Day - pupils not in school

26-30/10 - October half term

31/10 - Deadline to apply for secondary school

02/11 - INSET Day - Parent Consultations

9/11 Parent Teacher SEN meetings 1.00pm-3.00pm - Chestnut, Hawthorn and Maple

10/11 Parent Teacher SEN meetings 1.00pm - 3.00pm - Birch, Laurel and Oak

10/11 Parent Teacher SEN meetings 3.15pm-4.15pm - All classes

11/11 Parent Teacher SEN meetings 1.00pm - 3.00pm - Sycamore, Willow and Redwood

12/11 Parent Teacher SEN meetings 1.00pm - 2.15pm - Ash and Elm

12/11 Parent Teacher SEN meetings 2.15pm-3.00pm - Nursery

13/11 - World Kindness Day

13/11 - Deadline to return Christmas Card Designs/orders

16/11 - Anti-bullying week

16/11 - Wear odd sock/pink for Anti-bullying week

26/11 - Flu Mop-up session

27/11 - Occasional Day

09/12 - Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

09/12 - Nursery performance to parents at 9.00am

11/12 - KS1 pantomime trip

18/12 - School closes at 1.30pm

Forest School Dates

Reception Group 3 - 15/10 AM

Nursery (all children) - 16/10

Birch - 19/10 PM

Reception Group 1 - 22/10 AM

Reception Group 2 - 05/11 AM

Nursery (all children) - 06/11

Sycamore - 09/11 PM

Reception Group 3 - 12/11 AM

Nursery (all children) - 13/11

Chestnut - 16/11 PM

Reception Group 1 - 19/11 AM

Nursery (all children) - 20/11

Birch - 23/11 PM

Reception Group 2 - 26/11 AM

Sycamore - 30/11 PM

Reception Group 3 - 03/12 AM

Nursery (all children) - 04/12

Chestnut - 07/12 - PM

Nursery (all children) - 11/12

Star Awards and Kindness Catchers

2026-2027

Kindness Catcher Awards

Elm: Sofia

Birch: Evie, Ruby

Sycamore: Forest, Rayan

Laurel: Harper, Jude, Benjamin

Hawthorn: Elliott

Oak: Bruce

Redwood: Zuzia, Caleb

Star Awards

Nursery: Ema J

Ash: Delia

Elm: Nancy

Birch: Evie, Luca

Sycamore: Ardian, Elsie

Chestnut: Edward, Richelle

Laurel: Tudor, Amara

Willow: Fabio, Arlo

Hawthorn: Angelino, Raielle

Maple: Alessia, Bethany

Oak: Rayyan, Bruce

Redwood: Lily-Mae, Chloe

Achievements outside of school

Stefan from Chestnut recently passed Level 3 of his swimming lessons, and now he is moving on to Level 4. A huge well done to Stefan and good luck in level 4!

Arthur from Sycamore was awarded 'Player of the Match' by Hemel Aces in their first friendly match of the session and he has also recently passed his Kickboxing grading with 'Streetwise Martial Arts' achieving an 'A' grade and Blue belt. These a massive achievements, well done Arthur!

If your child has acomplised an achievement outside of school, for example, passed a dance exam,



Mia's Club



Mia's Club launched at our school after the Easter holidays in response to feedback from parents who were looking for afterschool childcare. The children who attend the club have given fantastic feedback and many have even asked to come on additional days. During the sessions, children have the opportunity to complete homework, enjoy creative activities, have a snack, and spend time playing with their friends in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

If you would like your child to attend Mia's Club or would like to find out more, please contact Mia at miacub2019@gmail.com.



KS1

Birch

What a fantastic start to the autumn term we have had in Birch Class!

In English, we have enjoyed exploring a range of exciting texts, including *Someone Just Like You* by Helen Docherty, *Puffin Peter* by Petr Horáček, and most recently the poem *Purple Is*. The children have loved becoming authors themselves, creating their own endings to stories and writing their own poems. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and confidence grow.

In maths, we have been focusing on place value, exploring tens and ones in a variety of practical ways. We have enjoyed using Base 10 equipment, cubes and tens frames to deepen our understanding and support our learning. The children have also worked hard on their counting skills, which we practise in every maths lesson. In PE, we have been developing our running skills and learning how to run safely by keeping our heads up and looking where we are going.

In Art, we have been exploring different types of lines and creating observational drawings. The children have particularly enjoyed expressing their creativity and developing their skills as young artists.

In computing, we have been identifying different types of technology in the world around us and learning about the various parts of a computer and laptop. We have enjoyed discovering how technology helps us in our everyday lives. We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into the new term.

Sycamore

It has been a busy and exciting time in Sycamore class. We have been exploring lots of new ideas, developing our skills and learning together across the curriculum. Here is a little look at what we have been up to!

We have been enjoying reading *Puffin Peter* and exploring the characters and events in the story. We have drawn and labelled the characters, created our own story maps to help us remember the key events and used our imaginations to write alternative endings. We have also been practising reading our work aloud to our friends and adults, developing our confidence, expression and speaking skills. It has been wonderful to see everyone sharing their ideas and celebrating each other's writing!

In maths, we have been exploring positional language, using words to describe where objects are and how they are positioned. We have also been developing our understanding of place value and learning to use a wider range of mathematical vocabulary to explain our thinking. We are becoming more confident mathematicians as we practise using new words and explaining how we solve problems.

Our science learning has involved investigating different materials. We have been identifying everyday objects and thinking carefully about what they are made from. We have explored materials such as wood, plastic, metal, glass and fabric, making observations and discussing their different properties.

We have been experimenting with a variety of drawing materials, including chalks, wax crayons and pencils. We have explored how each material feels and works, noticing the different marks, lines and textures they create. This has helped us develop our drawing skills and express our creativity in different ways.

We have been learning about different types of maps and thinking about how maps help us find our way around. We explored our school grounds, looking carefully at the features around us, before creating our own sketch maps. We have been developing our observation skills and learning how to represent places using drawings and simple maps.

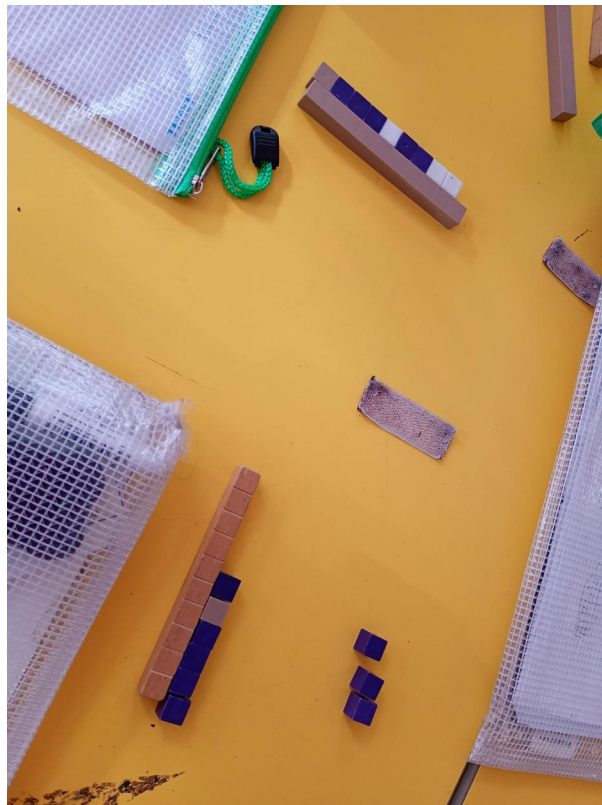
In PSHE, we have been thinking about how we learn well together in our classroom. We have discussed our rights and responsibilities, including how we can be kind, respectful, helpful and good listeners. We have explored what makes our classroom a happy and safe place to learn, where everyone feels valued and able to share their ideas.

Chestnut

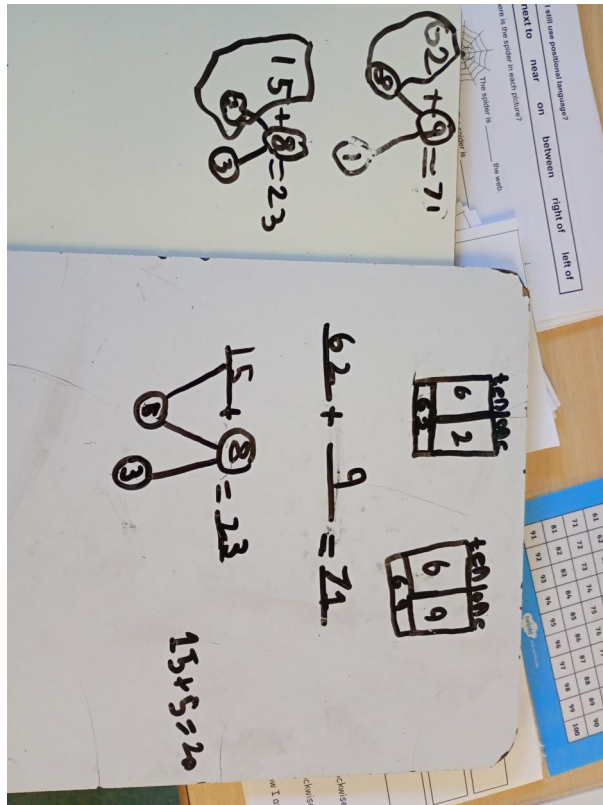
In Art, we have been exploring a range of drawing materials, including colouring pencils, charcoal and wax crayons. We experimented with different ways of creating shades and texture by using both the tip and the side of each material. Using a variety of lines and marks, we learned how to represent movement in water by creating waves and sea scenes. We then added sea creatures to our artwork.

In Maths, we have been using Base Ten equipment and plastic coins to develop our understanding of place value and number. We have been practising regrouping forwards and backwards, exchanging ones for tens and tens for ones using practical, hands-on resources. We have represented a variety of numbers in different ways, helping us to build a strong foundation in counting, number recognition and place value.

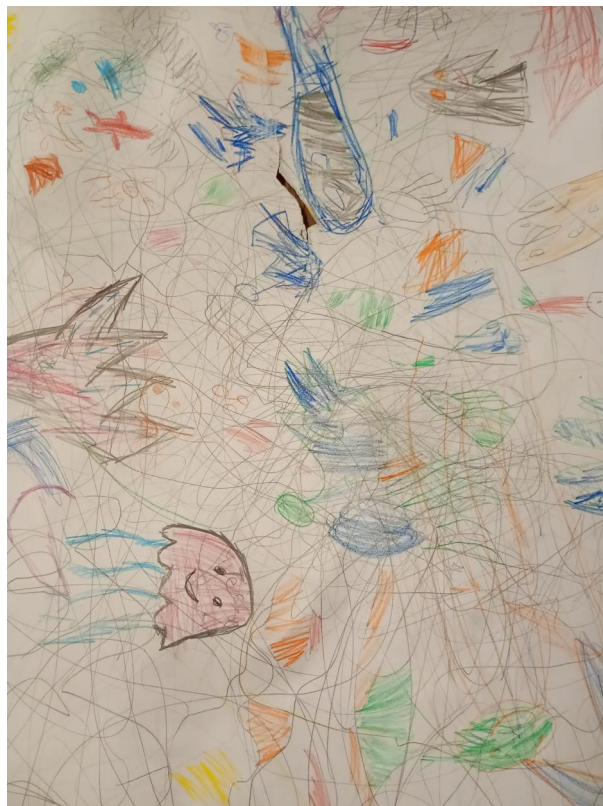
In English, we have been enjoying a range of engaging texts, including *Someone Just Like You* and *Puffin Peter*. Through these stories, the children have been developing their comprehension and storytelling skills by learning how to sequence key events and retell the stories in a variety of ways. They have practised retelling orally, creating illustrations to represent important parts of the narrative, and writing about the events in the correct order.



3 - Chestnut



4 - Chestnut



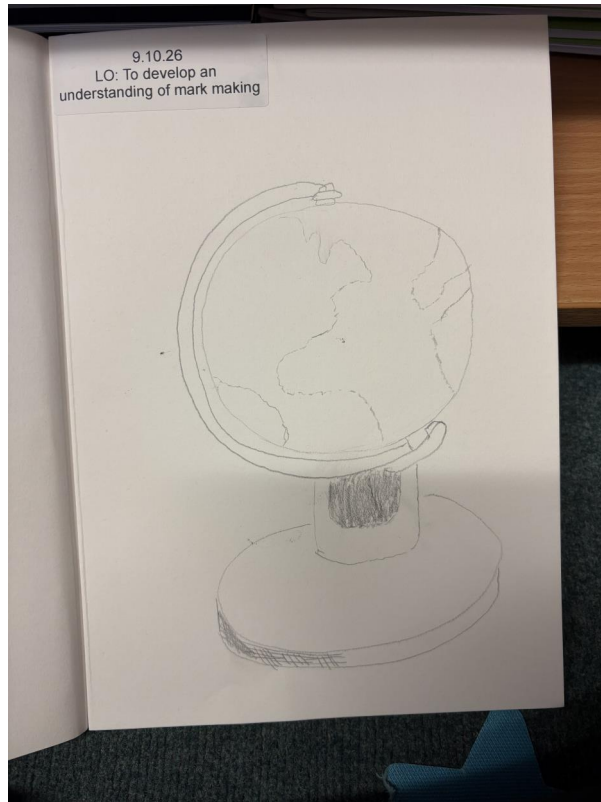
5 - Chestnut



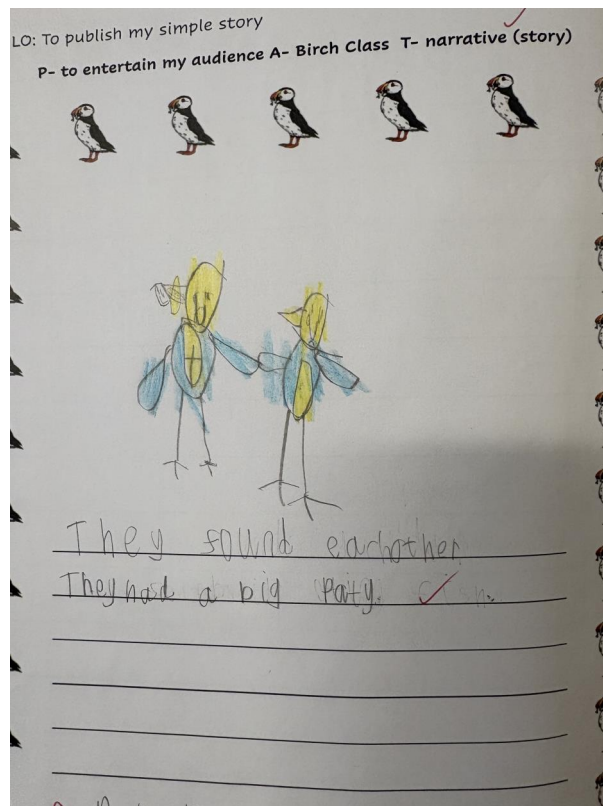
6 - Chestnut



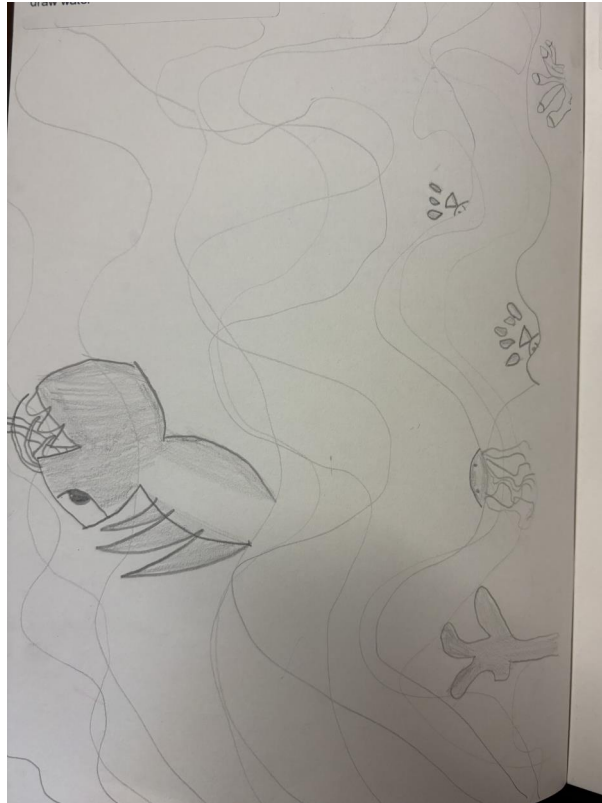
7 - Chestnut



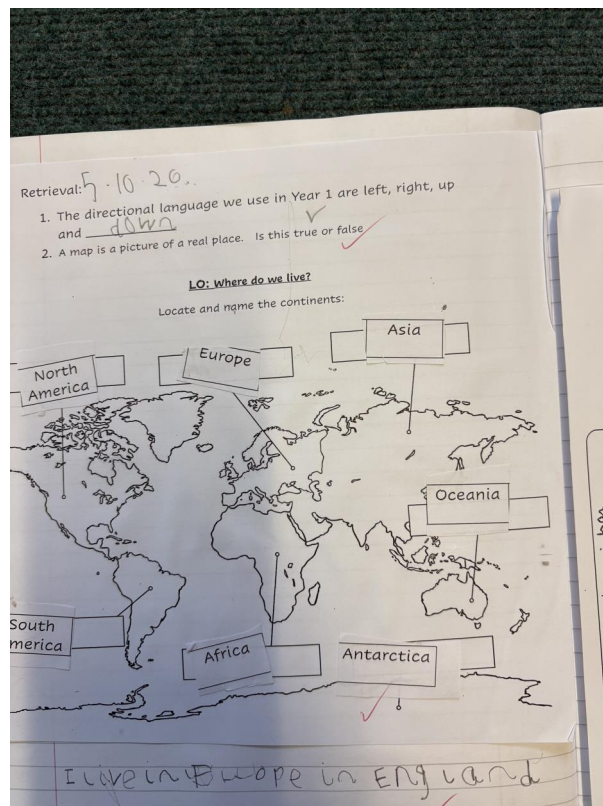
8 - Birch



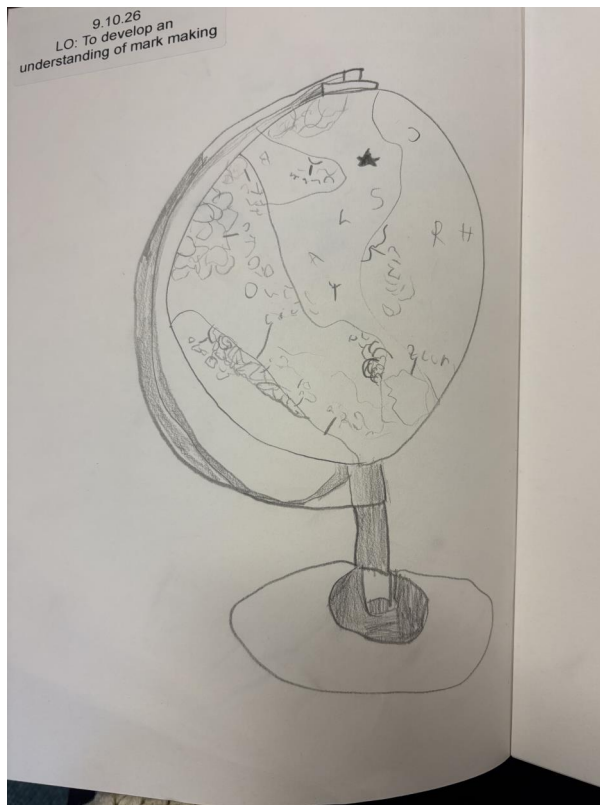
9 - Birch



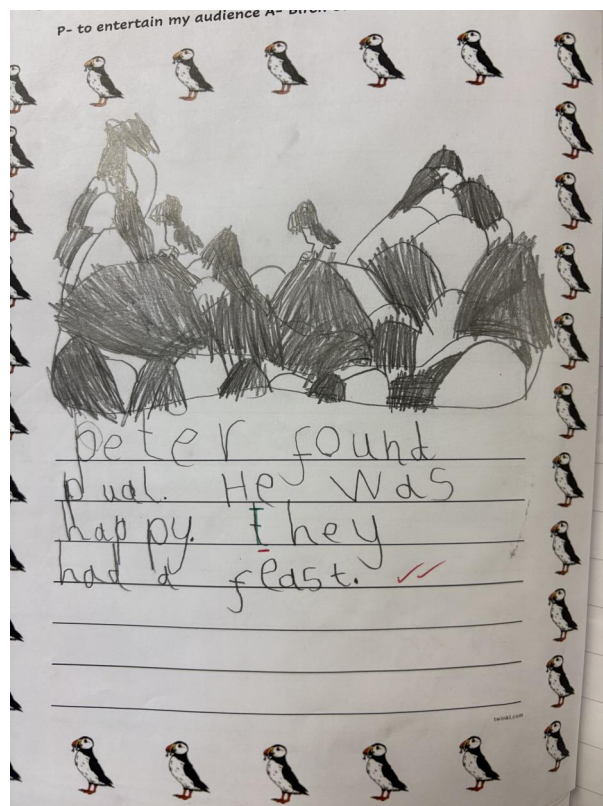
10 - Birch



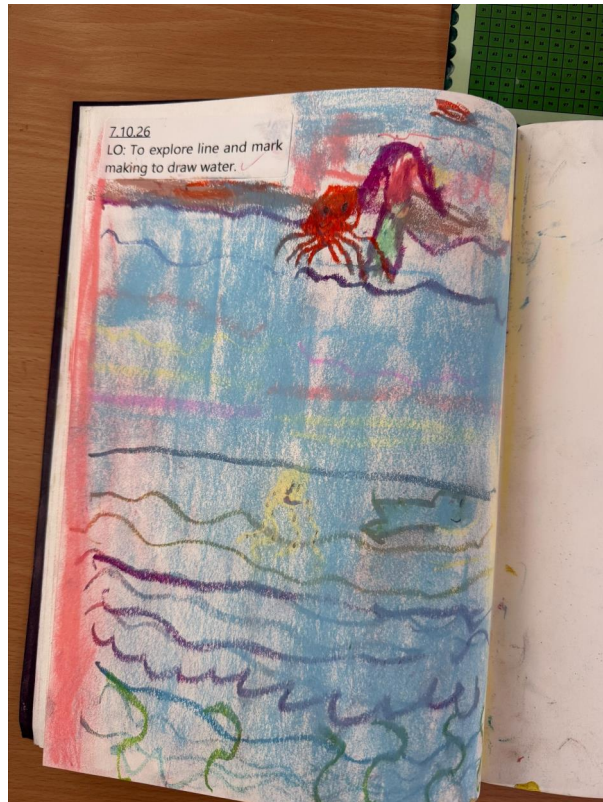
11 - Birch



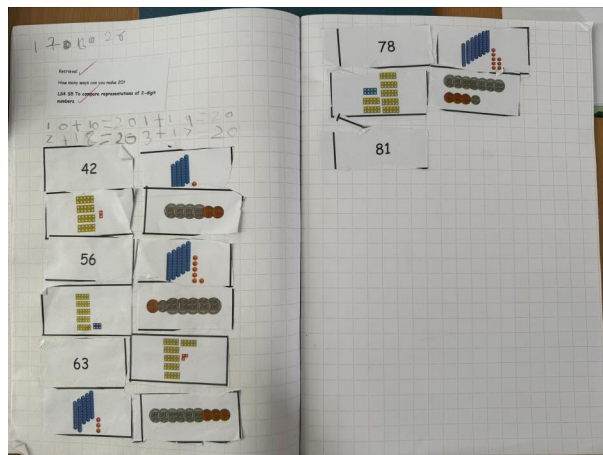
12 - Birch



13 - Birch



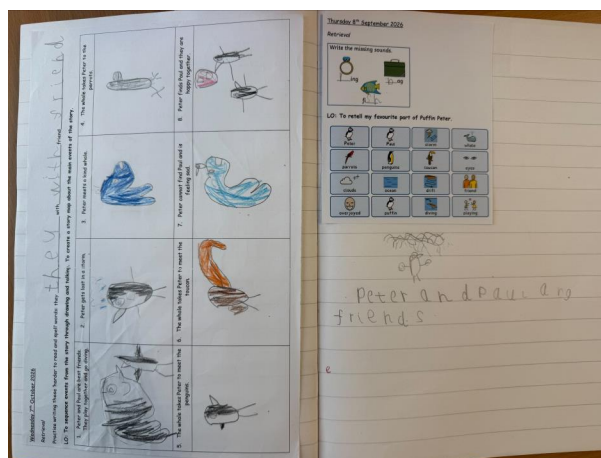
14 - Sycamore



15 - Sycamore



16 - Sycamore



17 - Sycamore

LKS2

Laurel

Laurel Class have settled into the new school year incredibly well and should be extremely proud of themselves!

In English, we have been exploring poetry through *The Magic Box* by Kit Wright. To inspire our own writing, we went on a nature walk around the school grounds, using our senses to explore the signs of autumn. The children enjoyed observing, listening, touching, and describing what they experienced in nature. We will now use these ideas to create our own poems inspired by *The Magic Box*.

In PE, we have been developing our netball skills. We began by learning the different types of passes, how to shoot effectively, and how to pivot correctly. The children have worked hard to develop these skills and have now started applying them in small-sided games. They have loved playing as part of a team and have shown fantastic sportsmanship, encouraging one another and demonstrating respect after each game.

We are incredibly proud of how well Laurel Class have settled in and look forward to seeing their confidence and enthusiasm continue to grow throughout the term.

Willow

We've had a busy few weeks in Willow Class, with plenty of opportunities to take our learning beyond the classroom and develop our skills across a range of subjects.

In Geography, we headed out on a fieldwork trip along Aycliffe Drive to investigate our local area. The children explored how different areas of land are used and looked carefully at the features of our local environment. We carried out traffic surveys, recording the different types of vehicles passing by, and made observations about the buildings, roads and green spaces around us. It was a useful opportunity to practice our geographical skills outside the classroom and think more carefully about the area in which we live and go to school.

In Art, we've been developing our sketching skills, focusing particularly on careful observation and attention to detail. The children have been studying bulbs, looking closely at their shapes, textures and features before attempting to capture these in their drawings. We've also been putting our imaginations to work, designing some rather unusual and fantastical plants inspired by the work of artist Yellena James. We've been looking at how she uses organic shapes, patterns and intricate details to create imaginative, plant-like forms. This has given the children a chance to combine their developing drawing techniques with their own creative ideas.

In English, we've been exploring poetry through our work on *The Magic Box* by Kit Wright. We've been thinking about how poets use language to create images in the reader's mind and how poetry can describe things in unexpected ways. The children have been exploring imaginative descriptions and considering what they might put inside their own magical boxes. We've had some interesting suggestions, and we'll be developing these ideas further as we continue the unit.

Meanwhile, our Year 3 children enjoyed a visit to Ashley Cooper for a target games workshop. This gave them the opportunity to try a range of activities, practice their aiming and throwing skills, and develop their accuracy and control. The children enjoyed taking part in the different challenges and had a chance to practice teamwork and sportsmanship along the way.

Hawthorn

We have had a busy and exciting first half term of the year!

During English, we have been exploring poetry based on two poems; 'Words are Ours' by Michael Rosen and 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. The children have been looking at the features found in free verse poetry. We went on a nature walk around the school grounds to inspire our class poem about nature and autumn. The children have then planned their own poem about a topic of their choice.

In geography, we have been learning about Hemel Hempstead's local geography. As part of understanding the local geography, we conducted four surveys - traffic, people, land use and furniture. During these surveys we went outside of school to tally up what we could see. We concluded that there were not many people walking as our survey took place during the school day when most people would be at work. By the shops, there were more people as this was a commercial area. We also understood what the land is used for around our school - commercial, residential, recreational and transport.

Thursday
 walk to the my
 K's Saturday Mrs
 Shop

Feeding on	☹️	🐦	🐦	🐦
I was born in the stars	I was born in the stars	I was born in the stars	I was born in the stars	I was born in the stars
I was born in the stars	I was born in the stars	I was born in the stars	I was born in the stars	I was born in the stars



19 - Laurel



20 - Hawthorn



21 - Hawthorn



22 - Hawthorn

LO: To use careful observation to add detail to



LO: To use line, shape and tone in imaginative
8.10.26 drawing.



Morning light

23 - Willow



Fashio Caterpillar

24 - Willow



25 - Willow



26 - Willow



27 - Willow



28 - Willow

UKS2

Maple

Science – Forces

In Science, the children have been learning about different types of forces and how they affect the world around us. They have explored forces such as gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance, developing their understanding of how these forces act on objects.

Through practical investigations and discussions, the children have been making predictions, observing results and using scientific vocabulary to explain their findings.

PE – Netball

In PE, the children have been developing their netball skills. They have been practising different types of passes, improving their footwork and learning how to move into space to support their teammates. The children have also been developing their understanding of the rules of the game, including attacking and defending strategies. It has been wonderful to see their teamwork, communication and sportsmanship improve as they work together and build their confidence on the court.

English and Drama – Mystery and Suspense

In English, the children have been producing some excellent mystery and suspense stories, using their creativity and imagination to engage the reader. They have been developing their descriptive writing skills by carefully choosing vocabulary, creating atmospheric settings, introducing intriguing characters and building tension towards exciting cliff-hanger endings. Alongside their writing, the children have been exploring suspense through drama, using facial expressions, body language, movement and dialogue to bring their characters and stories to life. Their enthusiasm and creativity have been fantastic, and it has been lovely to see them experimenting with different ways to keep an audience on the edge of their seats!

Oak

Oak Class have had a fantastic few weeks filled with creative writing, scientific investigations and memorable learning experiences.

In English, we have been exploring non-chronological reports. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the features of this text type and researching different aspects of space. To put their new skills into practice, they used their imagination to create their own fictional planets before writing detailed non-chronological reports. We were impressed by the creativity on display, from planets made entirely of crystals to worlds inhabited by unusual creatures. The children worked hard to include headings, subheadings, technical vocabulary and interesting facts to engage their readers.

In Science, we investigated air resistance through a fun practical experiment. The children designed and made their own parachutes before testing them to see how effectively they slowed down a falling object. We discussed how air resistance acts against gravity and considered which parachute designs worked best. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork and scientific thinking as they carried out their tests and evaluated their results.

Our Year 6 pupils also had the opportunity to take part in a valuable **Safety Day** at the local fire station. Throughout the day, they attended a range of workshops led by professionals from the emergency services. The children learned important information about personal safety, making responsible choices and knowing what to do in emergency situations. They

listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions and represented the school brilliantly. It was a highly informative and enjoyable experience that will help them as they prepare for the transition to secondary school.

Redwood

In Year 6 Redwood class as part of our science learning on air resistance, we are conducting an investigation into the conditions that allow parachutes to experience the most and least air resistance. In maths we have been looking at place value and dividing and multiplying numbers (including decimals with up to 3 decimal places) by 10, 100 and 1000. In English we have finished stories set in 'spooky setting' inspired by the short stories of Kevin Crossley-Holland in *Short Too!* These included lots of features to excite (and scare!) the reader such as fronted adverbials, varied sentence structure and adventurous adjectives. In Geography we have looked at lines of longitude and latitude to understand how they help us to find the locations of places, time zones and climates. We went on a trip to the local Fire Station to learn about safety related to the emergency services.



29 - Maple



30 - Maple



31 - Maple



32 - Maple



33 - Maple



34 - Redwood

Safeguarding



Safeguarding Team

Our safeguarding team is:

- Miss Fitzsimmons - Assistant Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead (Child Protection)
- Mrs Atkinson - Headteacher & Safeguarding Lead (Overall school safeguarding)
- Mrs Long - Assistant Headteacher & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead & Designated Teacher for Children who are Looked After.
- Miss Rumph - Mental Health Lead & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead & Prevent Duty Lead

All members of the Designated Safeguarding Team complete Level 3 training. If you have any concerns regarding the safety of a child please speak to one of the members of the team.

Ms Robson is our attendance lead, and will be in contact with you if concerns arise over your child's attendance. Remember there are new regulations on school attendance, which came into effect as of 1st September 2024.

Aycliffe Drive Primary School is part of Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass is a national Police and education early intervention safeguarding partnership which supports children and young people who experience Domestic Violence and Abuse, and which is in place in every Police force in England and Wales.

External Flyers

School Nursing Primary School Newsletter - <https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/7BK1-CJ6/hct-school-nursing-a26>



A festive Halloween flyer for Church Farm, Ardeley. The flyer features a green and orange color scheme with a black border decorated with white bats. At the top, there are four small photographs: a child in a pumpkin costume, a table with pumpkins, a carved jack-o'-lantern, and a group of children in costumes. The main title 'Halloween at church farm' is in a playful, bold font, with a small bee illustration. To the right, a circular badge says 'Visit Church Farm Ardeley A real working farm!' with a tractor icon. Below the title, there are two columns of activities, each preceded by a star icon. To the right of these columns is a section titled 'Additional Activities' with a list of options. At the bottom, there are three more photographs: a child with a pumpkin, a tractor, and a child in a costume. The footer includes the text 'CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY A Free Range Experience' flanked by two bats.

Halloween at church farm

Visit **Church Farm Ardeley**
A real working farm!

- * Spooky Farm Trail to see the farm animals & Halloween Décor
- * Big Bale Play
- * Tractors & Digger Ride-Ons
- * Creepy Fairy Woodland Play
- * Spooky Photo Opportunities
- * Spot the Pumpkin & sweet treat prizes
- * Scarecrow Trail
- * Find the Spooky Fairy Doors
- * Find your unique Witch and Halloween name
- * Spooktacular Costume Stickers for the best dressed boys, girls & dogs
- * Halloween Activity Pack, 'I've Been to Church Farm' Sticker
- * Puzzles and Colouring-in fun
- * Farm Sensory Trail

Additional Activities

- Pumpkin Picking & Carving
- Trick or Treating in our Spooky Wood (4-6pm)
- Horrid Hay Tractor & Trailer Rides
- Eerie Egg Collecting
- Ghoulish Goat Walking

Book online www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience



coram family lives

Dads Together

Sign up to our 6-week online group

Are you a dad and feel like you are constantly nagging at your child to get what you need?

The sessions will cover:

- Exploring what helpful discipline is.
- Recognising the triggers and responding more effectively.
- Learning new parenting tools to challenge children's behaviour
- How to negotiate and implement effective boundaries and family agreements
- How to hold boundaries and gain co-operation



Wednesday 4th November
to 9th December 2026

7.00pm to 9.00pm

Online via MS Teams

To book your place, call **Lesley** on **0204 522 8701**, email services@coramfamilylives.org.uk or scan our QR code to use our online referral form



Scan Me!

We build better family lives together

www.coramfamilylives.org.uk

 @coramfamilyLivesHertsandBeds

Funded by
Hertfordshire
County Council



Coram Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No. 1077722.
Registered address: Coram Family Lives, Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ




OCTOBER HALF-TERM SPORTS COURSES

Join us for some Halloween fun - this half term we have FOOTBALL & MULTI SPORTS courses for children in Years 1 to 6 to enjoy

- 26th and 27th Oct – Holtsmere End School – Multi Sports - Hemel
- 28th and 29th Oct – Coates Way School – Football - Watford
- 28th and 29th Oct – Victoria School – Multi Sports - Berkhamsted
- 28th and 29th Oct – Chartridge School – Multi Sports - Chartridge
- 29th and 30th Oct – St. Mary's School – Multi Sports - Aylesbury
- 29th and 30th Oct – Bushey Manor School – Multi Sports - Bushey



COURSE DETAILS

- 9 am - 3 pm
- £25 for 1-day or £47 for 2-days
- All courses offer early drop off 8.30am - 9am (£5 per day)
- Indoor facilities available in the event of bad weather
- Multi sports camps will include Basketball, Football, Hockey & Dodgeball
- Children can attend as many days as they wish. Anybody who attend two or more days will receive a prize of a Puma Wallet



Game On

Sports Coaching 

BOOK NOW

www.gameonsportscouching.co.uk



LAUREATE ACADEMY
LIBERTAS PER CULTUM

FIREWORK NIGHT

Join us for fireworks, food stalls and free face painting for a fantastic family evening. ✨

Thursday 22nd October
5:00 - 7:00pm.

Adults: £4
Children: £2

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets!



35 - We are happy to share that families from Aycliffe Drive can receive 50% tickets by using the code: AYCLIFFE50

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/laureate-academy-firework-night-tickets-2002622075537>



coram family lives

Parent Alienation Workshop

A parenting workshop designed to support separated/divorced parents and protect parent-child relationships

The workshop will cover:

- Increase understanding parental alienation
- Recognising common patterns and behaviours in ourselves and others
- Exploring the emotional impact on children and parents
- Develop communication and de-escalation skills
- Maintain parent-child bond during reduced contact
- Improve confidence with professionals

Dates and times

Friday 27th November 2026, 9.30am to 11.30am
OR
Thursday 3rd December 2026, 7pm to 9pm

The workshops will be online via MS TEAMS

To book your place, call Louise on **0204 522 8700**, email services@coramfamilylives.org.uk or scan our QR code to use our online referral form



We build better family lives together

www.coramfamilylives.org.uk

@CoramfamilyLivesHertsandBeds

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council

Hertfordshire

Coram Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No.1077722. Registered address: Coram Family Lives, Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ



Anxiety and Attendance Helping children feel more confident about coming to school	
Date	Tuesday 10 th November 2026
Time	10 – 11.30 am The session will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person in The Myatt Room at Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, HP3 8ER
Is your child struggling to attend school?	
Join us for a free workshop for parents and carers where we will explore practical ways to understand and support children experiencing anxiety around school attendance: • Understanding anxiety and the signs to look out for • Strategies to manage anxiety and build resilience • Understanding your child's responses and behaviour	
	

For more details and to book, please email:

jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk

Please include contact details, name of child's school and whether you would like to attend online or in person

Tel: 01442 401222 Ext: 5