



Message from our Co- Headteachers

As we break up for half-term we would like to reflect upon another fantastic start to our academic year. We are especially pleased to note how quickly our new early years' children have settled in and congratulations must go to all of our 'new' children and our wonderful early years' staff. Both of us attended the Hertfordshire Headteacher's Conference in Cambridge a couple of weeks ago and it is always useful to network with other headteachers, reflect upon the educational thinking of some excellent key-note speakers and always be striving to achieve the very best for our children and our school community. We will be actively participating in the Children in Need Day on Friday 13th November and there will be lots of exciting activities next half-term as we begin our build-up to Christmas. Our Year 1 class are particularly looking forward to their art exhibition in the school hall on Monday 16th November and we are proud of some of the new displays up around the school, including our Year 2 pop-art portraits, Year 3 Stone Age drawings, Year 4 observational drawings and paintings based on folds & crumples, Year 5 moodboards and Year 6 silhouettes. The children have all worked really hard so far this term and we hope you all enjoy a much deserved half-term break.

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 3rd & Thurs 5th November-

Saturday 7th November-

Friday 13th November-

Monday 16th November-

Friday 20th November-

Wednesday 25th November-

Friday 27th November-

Tuesday 1st December-

Wednesday 2nd December-

Friday 4th December-

Sunday 6th December-

Tuesday 8th December-

Thursday 10th December-

Tuesday 15th December-

Wednesday 16th December-

Friday 18th December-

Friday 18th December-

Parent Consultation Evening

**Skyswood invited as guests for St Albans City match
Children in Need.**

Year 1 Art Exhibition. Mark Making.

Year 3 Trip- Celtic Harmony

School Council. 1.15 p.m.

OCCASIONAL DAY

Advent Carol Service (Year 4)

KS1 Christmas Play. 1.30 p.m. & 6.30 p.m.

Year 6 Trip- Duxford

Elves Workshop

EYFS Christmas Nativity 10.30 a.m.

Lower Junior Christmas Play. 1.30 p.m. & 6.30 p.m

School Council. 1.15 p.m.

Christmas Dinner.

Upper Junior Carol Concert. 9.00 a.m.

END OF TERM.



Cross Country

Our cross country team enjoyed their second meet of the season, which took place at Fleetville last week. All twelve children finished in the top 50, with all six girls finishing in the top 25! Freddie came 8th in boys race, with Anna finishing 12th in the girls' race. Bella and Bonnie also finished in the top 20, with Rhian, Marley and Sydney hot on their heels! The boys' team were equally impressive, Lewis finished just outside the top ten, whilst Ruben, Sammy, William and Jeffrey all put in excellent runs despite being up against the Year 6 children. Well done to all of our cross country team and a big thank you to Miss Gray for her support in running our early morning club and supervising the team.



Dance Club Presentation

Our Year 2 Dance Club performed in a special assembly this week to showcase the dance routine, Call me Maybe, that they have been working on this term. The club is run by a very enthusiastic and effective group of Year 6 girls who have loved the opportunity to support some of our younger children. The girls created certificates, medals, and even progress reports for the pupils who attend. A lot of thought and creativity goes into the organisation of the club so a big "Well done" to our Year 6 dance teachers as well as our brilliant Year 2 members of Tuesday lunchtime Dance Club.



Skyswood invite to Clarence Park

St Albans City F.C. are in the process of re-launching their primary schools community programme and Skyswood have been invited to attend the St Albans City v Welling United match on Saturday 7th November at 3.00 p.m. All children will go free of charge (The usual charge is £5.00) but they must be accompanied by an adult. (At a discounted rate). The children will get to parade around the pitch at half-time and will be seated together in an allocated schools area. Welling United are currently lying second in the table, whilst St Albans City are just outside the play-off places but with three or four games in hand over the majority of play-off placed teams, so it should be an exciting match. More details will come out immediately after our half-term break.





Skyswood Primary & Nursery News

October 2026, Issue no 13.

Opening doors for life-long learning

Netball Updates

Congratulations to our netball team, who started their season in style with an excellent 6-1 victory away against Bernard's Heath in the October sunshine. Bella was selected as the player of the match, whilst Chloe R, Alice, Monty and Oliver shared the goals between them. The whole team played well and we would like to thank Mrs Lewis and Mrs Ede in training and supervising our team, who were clearly well prepared for their first fixture of the season.



Congratulations to Ruben and William

Congratulations to two of our Year 5 boys, Ruben and William, who were selected to represent the St Albans District U-10 team at the South-East England tournament on the Isle of Sheppey earlier this month. St Albans won the overall tournament, with Ruben in goal and William at the heart of defence. The team conceded only one goal in their five matches. Ruben was also selected to represent Stevenage Futsal in a prestigious international tournament in Cologne. The team drew against Bayer Leverkusen and beat a number of other sides before eventually losing to Cologne, who went on to win the overall competition.



Year 5 Moodboards

Year 5 have created some magnificent mood boards, using colours and textures to represent a particular mood or feeling. Here are a few wonderful examples that capture the wide range of moods and feelings used within their artwork.



Year 6 Silhouettes

Our Year 6 children have produced some amazing silhouettes through the process of screen printing. Using black sugar paper, the children cut out distinctive shapes on a set theme, choosing between Rainforests, Savannah or Oceans Deep as their specific theme. They then chose their colour scheme appropriate to the theme and each child created a couple of prints through the screen printing process. Their artwork features as a fantastic display in the school library and we have selected a few examples of their artwork for the newsletter. Can you pick out the theme for each of these pictures? And is there such a thing as a 'white' silhouette? The dictionary definition states that silhouettes are 'dark shapes or outlines' but would we call it a silhouette if it was a white shape on a dark background?



Children in Need



Our School Council have decided that they would like to promote this year's Children in Need, which takes place on Friday 13th November, only a couple of weeks after half-term. We are planning a Pudsey Treasure Hunt for early years and KS1 and a Pudsey Orienteering Trail for KS2 and know that our children will have lots of fun. The Orienteering Trail for our juniors is planned to take place in the open space that is regularly used for the Jersey Farm Park Runs, whilst the younger children will enjoy their treasure hunt within the confines of our school ground. More information will be sent to you all when we return from our half-term break.

Congratulations to Freddie and Max

Freddie H and Max G (Year 6) must be congratulated on their football achievements at the start of this year. Both boys are key players in the school team and Freddie has now been selected to play for the Norwich Academy, whilst Max has been selected to represent Ipswich. Despite being a passionate Ipswich Town fan, Mr Bridle assures us that he remains entirely neutral and is equally proud of both boys. Well done Freddie and Max, we are extremely proud of you!



Harvest Donations from Year 1

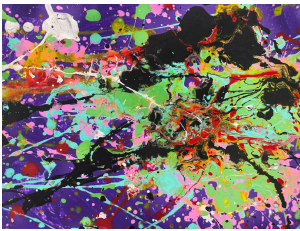


As part of the Year 1 R.R. curriculum, our children have been looking at how Christians celebrate Harvest Festival. The class have collected lots of food that they will be donating to a local food bank. It was a great opportunity for the class to reflect upon the importance of kindness and the pleasure of helping others within our local community.

Mark Making



**ART
EXHIBITION**



**Monday 16th November 2026
in The School Hall 3.20 p.m.**

Year 1

***Drawing, Painting, Printing, Mixed-Media,
Clay, and a study on Jackson Pollock!***

Steeplechase Champion Returns to Skyswood

Former pupil, Toby Pritchard, returned to Skyswood earlier this week as a special guest in Wednesday's assembly. Toby became English Youth Champion in the 1500 metres Steeplechase after winning the championships at Bedford in one of the fastest times ever recorded at youth level; 4 minutes and 14 seconds! Toby brought his medals along with his England running vest to show our children following a Question and Answer session and presentation on his progress from the Skyswood Cross Country team in Year 4 to becoming the English champion. Toby kindly stayed on after the assembly to have photos taken with members of our current cross-country team. It was an excellent assembly that gave valuable insights into the life and training regime of an international youth athlete.



Football Updates

Our girls' football team are the early pace-setters in their league after a 6-1 victory away at Maple and a 2-0 victory away at Bowmansgreen. Our boys year 5 team have also been in action, losing 5-1 against strong opponents, away at St Columba's. Our school 'B' team lost out 6-3 to Samuel Ryder and our Year 3 & 4 team were unlucky not to share the spoils after an evenly contested match at home to The Ryde School, from Hatfield. Despite a 3-1 defeat, Sammy scored an outstanding goal from a free-kick and the team came close to scoring further goals on several occasions. We have seen plenty of emerging talent from the lower juniors at the start of the school year and over sixty children have already represented the school at football this term!

St Mary's Church Visit

On Thursday 14th October, both Year 4 and Year 2 visited St Mary's Church, Marshalswick. The priest, A.J. welcomed the children and discussed the importance of building a community. Just like Skyswood, the church has key values such as respect, love and responsibilities. The children asked lots of questions and found out why A.J. first wanted to become a priest. They also found out that St Mary's Church was originally housed in a chicken shed in Kingshill Avenue.

Report written by Livi, Olivia C & Izzy.

Table Tennis Tournament

Seven of our upper juniors did themselves proud earlier this week, when representing Skyswood at our district table tennis tournament, held at Verulam School. Our boys team; Max B, Freddie H, Hugo and Max G, started off with a 3-1 victory against Wheatfields, lost out to strong opponents from Aboyne Lodge, drew with Garden Fields, enjoyed another 3-1 victory against Beech Hyde and finished off with a closely fought match against the eventual winners, from Maple. The girls; Chloe R, Vivi B and Corey, played double fixtures against Wheatfields and Garden Fields, enjoying some exciting matches despite finishing third in the group. Our magnificent seven continued to improve as the tournament developed and should all be extremely proud of their efforts.

Early Years Trundle

Nursery and Reception took part in the much anticipated Early Years Trundle. They demonstrated their speed and balance as they whizzed around the playground to the rapturous applause of their grownups. Much fun was had by all.

Who needs Brands Hatch when you can have Skyswood Infants' playground! Watch out Lewis Hamilton, we're right behind you!



More Netball Success

Our netballers enjoyed a second victory away to St John Fisher just before the holidays in a well-deserved 6-0 win. All the players did brilliantly across different positions and the team listened well to the team talks at the end of each quarter to improve each time. Special mention should go to Monty, our player of the match voted by the opposition. We look forward to more matches after the holidays and are excited to see how the team develop.

