



Message from our Co- Headteachers

Congratulations to all of our children on an excellent start to the new school year. Every single class has started the year with a great sense of purpose and a particular 'well done' to all of our new children in early years, who already appear very happy and settled. Thankyou to all of those parents who were able to attend our Co-Headship presentation earlier this month. The new leadership structure is already working well and, although we always treat data with an element of caution as it is only one piece of a much larger picture, we are obviously very proud to be Ofsted ranked in the top 250 schools nationally, and are delighted that our school is so popular within the local community. Our children do us proud and we value our strong partnership with parents, as well as the dedicated support of our local governing body. There are lots of exciting events coming up within the next term and our School Council will be leading a fund-raising day to support Children in Need on Friday 13th November. Further details will be sent out following our October School Council meeting. Our Eco-Committee are also delighted that they have been selected to take part in the Chiltern Chalk Stream Trout in the Classroom Project. There's certainly lots to look forward to as we find ourselves settled into another exciting and productive term.

R.J. Bridle

Head



Tilly takes over as Headteacher for the Day

It was a special day for Tilly, Year 4, on Monday, as she took on the reins of 'Headteacher for the Day' and made an instant impression with the children and staff. Tilly helped to lead the morning assembly, was introduced to a number of visitors, including the school nurse and two fantastic table-tennis coaches, as well as getting to know some of our nursery children in the afternoon. An absolute natural, Tilly clearly enjoyed her day in charge! The Headteacher for the Day concept is all thanks to FOSS, who set it up as a raffle on our annual summer fair. So, a massive congratulations to Tilly, who definitely shone in her role as Headteacher for the Day.



School Council 2026/27

Congratulations to the children who were voted onto this year's School Council. The boys' vote in Year 3 was a tie, so we have simply decided to offer an extra place on this year's School Council. Well done to all of the children who stood for election and a special congratulations to those who were elected. Every child's voice is important and each class will hold its own class council meetings prior to the monthly School Council meetings. All children then have the opportunity to put ideas forward and each individual class can agree which ideas they would like their representatives to promote when they attend the School Council meetings. At this month's meeting the School Council have shortlisted three potential themes for this year's Summer Fair, considered ideas to support Children in Need on Friday 13th November, and considered a range of ideas and suggestions that were put forward through class council discussions. We are proud of the impact of our pupil voice and confident that this will be yet another highly successful School Council team.

Wonderful Watercolours Assembly

Our children were treated to a special assembly earlier this month when local artist, Graham Skinner, visited to share a selection of his watercolour landscapes. Graham only discovered his passion for watercolour painting three years ago, after painting an apple from observation during a workshop at the Holiday from Home Club, which is set up over the summer holidays at St Mary's Church. Graham was 85 years old at the time but was quick to develop his new hobby and, having been a keen photographer since the age of ten, used some of his favourite photos as an inspiration for his watercolour painting. Our children really enjoyed the assembly and were particularly impressed by the fine pointilist style brushstroke that Graham applies to his trees, along with his beautiful use of colour, light and reflection.



Year 1: Emmy & Tomas
Year 2: Archie L & Rose
Year 3: Alex, Lily & Noah
Year 4: Oran & Sanna
Year 5: Elsie & Oliver
Year 6: Vivi B, Vivi C, Freddie G & Freddie H

Headteachers' Nominations:
Harrison & Imogen

Football Updates

Our school football teams have made an encouraging start to the season, with the B team performing well against St Columbas despite going down by five goals to 2, and then earning a 1-1 draw at Killigrew, with Ruben scoring and Monty performing superbly as keeper. Our girls were undefeated against St Helens in four pre-season matches, with our Year 6 team winning 3-2, our Year 4 team winning 2-0 and our teams from Years 3 and 5 both playing well in goal-less draws. This was also the result for our boys Year 4 B team against St Helens, whilst the A team lost 5-3 in a thrilling match, where Raffie scored twice and Lewis scored a brilliant solo goal for Skyswood.



Moving on to this week; our A team enjoyed their first competitive match of the season, drawing 1-1 with Abbey. Max G netted the all-important goal. Our team came close on several further occasions and are looking strong for the season.

Chilterns Chalk Stream Project



Our Eco-Committee are delighted to have been offered a special opportunity to take part in the Chilterns Chalk Stream Trout in the Classroom Project. The children will learn about wild brown trout, their lifecycle, and their need for clear, clean, fast-flowing water. The Eco-Committee will learn more about river and wetland wildlife, and the importance of looking after our environment. The programme aims to raise fish in conditions that are as close to nature as possible and our Eco-Committee will take responsibility for a hatchery system, breeding trout in a large tank with a water chiller that will replicate the cold water flow of the natural environment. Our Eco-Committee will carry out daily temperature checks and learn about how to look after the young trout until they are ready for release in a local chalk stream. This will undoubtedly be a special experience for the children when they ultimately make the river trip to release the trout that they have looked after. A big thank you to Miss Gray and Laura Silverstone (Chiltern Chalk Streams Project) for making this exciting venture possible.



Upper Juniors impress top Ping Pong Players!

Our Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed some special coaching sessions on Monday, delivered by top coach and former professional, Miles Ross, and current UK Youth Champion Kieran Walker. The coaches worked with all of our children in the upper juniors and, following a fabulous demonstration of high intensity table-tennis, provided expert advice on backhand, forehand, stance, appropriate grip, feet positioning and movement. The children took the advice on board and made rapid progress during their allocated coaching sessions. The day was rounded off with a Year 6 tournament, won by Max B Max defeated Freddie H in an entertaining final, following equally exciting semi-finals against Max K and Kodjo. There is clearly plenty of talent and potential within both classes and Mr Jones was keeping an eye out for some of the top boys and girls who may potentially represent the school in upcoming competitions. Miles Ross also talked to the children about the quality of equipment and how the school bats provide a good starting point but, for those children who enjoyed the session and are keen to pursue a bit more table-tennis, the value of investing in a decent bat. Well done to all of our upper junior children, you were a real credit to the school in terms of your engagement, enthusiasm, progress and skills level in each of the four coaching sessions that took place during the day.



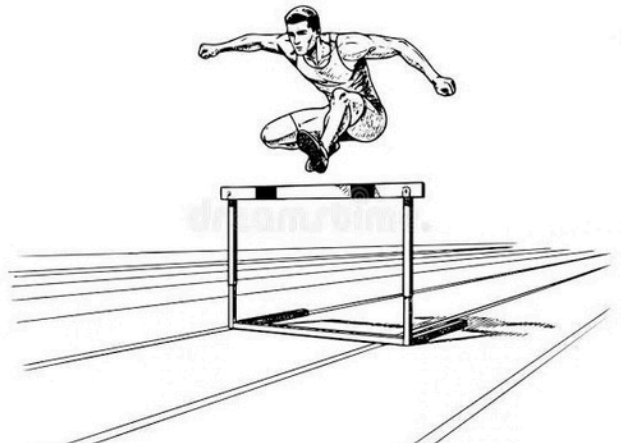
Congratulations to Leo

Congratulations to Leo on his brilliant 'Man of the Match' performance for The Welwyn Garden Galaxies last Saturday, shining in central midfield as his team stormed to a 6-2 victory. Leo was hugely proud of his Man of the Match Award, we're sure it will be the first of many!



We hope you all get the Picture!

With due regard to the revised edition of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2026) and current safeguarding requirements, we now have to exercise an additional level of caution and protection with any photographs that we add to newsletters or post on our school website. Schools are no longer advised to post photographs of children 'face on' and this means that we'll all be saying goodbye to the traditional sports photographs. We will, however, continue to share appropriate images (some of which might require a more creative or artistic approach). We therefore advise any parents to please take the same approach if you send us any photographs for our newsletters. We love to share your children's achievements, so if you wish to send any pictures of children receiving awards or celebrating out-of-school achievements then please be mindful of the current regulations and send a 'side-on' photo that you are comfortable for us to use.



Congratulations to Toby

We are delighted to share the news that one of our former pupils, Toby Pritchard, has proudly become the England Youth 1500 metres Steeplechase champion! Toby showed an early interest in running during his time at Skyswood and this was picked up by his class teacher, Miss McAlister, when he was in Year 4. Toby was a highly successful member of our cross-country team and so passionate about his running that Mr Oswin even organised early morning jogs along the beach when we took that particular Year 6 cohort away to Snowdonia. Well done Toby! And who knows... maybe a name to look out for in future Commonwealth Games or Olympics!



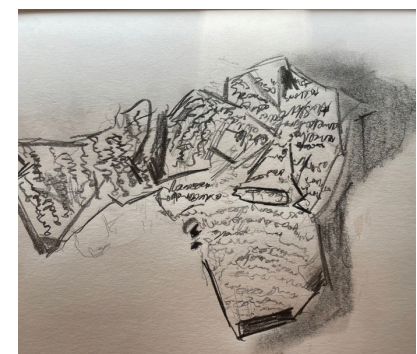
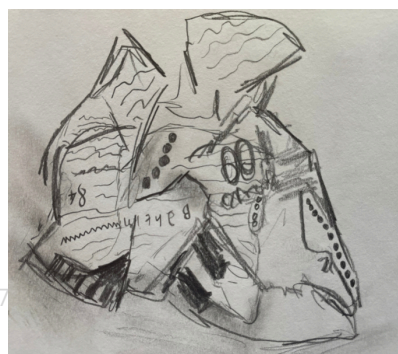
Year 1 Children make their Mark!

Our Year 1 class are enjoying their current art project on mark making and have experimented with sketching pencils and then moved on to working with a range of media. The children looked at recreating marks and patterns in paint, felt tip, pastel, charcoal and colouring pencils. Their work is on display in the school hall and the class are planning their art exhibition at the end of half-term in order to share their work on mark making with a wider audience. Here are a few of their mark making six-piece mixed media works;



Year 4 Folds and Crumples

Year 4 have put their observational drawing skills to the test with their sketches of crumpled newspapers. The children mapped out their compositions with careful consideration of proportion, tone, line direction and shape. Using soft sketching pencils, the class created some amazing drawings, some of which have been enlarged and framed for display in the school library. Well done Year 4, a fantastic effort!





Congratulations to Elliot

Congratulations to Elliot (Year 5) on his outstanding progress with swimming. Elliot has worked so hard with his swimming and has officially advanced from Stage 4 to Stage 5. Nominated as the Everyone Active Swimmer of the Month, Elliot was particularly praised for his dedication, focus and non-stop effort!

Congratulations to Sydney

Congratulations to Sydney (Year 5) on her selection for the St Albans District Football team. We are absolutely thrilled with the number of girls who attend football club or play football outside of school, and Sydney has excelled. She has made incredible progress and is now a key member of the school team as well as being chosen to play for the district. We wish Sydney every success and recognise that we have a few other girls who might get the chance to join her at district level if they continue to make such rapid progress when representing our school.



Cross Country Updates

For the first cross country meet of the season, both our girls' and boys' teams had three athletes finish in the top twenty. Anna finished second in the girls' race, with Rhian coming 9th and Bella 15th. In the boys' race, Freddie H came in fourth and Sammy and Lewis came in close together, in 15th and 17th place respectively. Well done to all of our cross country team, a great start to the season.

Congratulations to Thea and Anna

Congratulations to two of our fabulous swimmers who both completed an impressive 'double' whilst swimming for their respective swimming clubs last Sunday. Thea won medals in backstroke and freestyle whilst representing Verulam Swimming Club at Westminster Lodge as Anna was completing her double in breaststroke and freestyle for Hatfield Swimming Club at the Hatfield University. Well done to both of these Year 5 girls for their excellent achievements last weekend.

