

## School Newsletter

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Celebration assembly

Happy mother's day to the amazing mums and grannies in Harefield. In Monday's assembly, Mr Coren talked about Mothering Sunday and how we can show our gratitude to those that care for us. Well done to the pupils below for being caring to others in school this week.



Reception Chestnut Class	Bonnie and Zoleasha
Reception Maple Class	Elsie
Year 1 Ash Class	Sabrina
Year 1 Redwood Class	Liza
Year 2 Birch Class	Nye
Year 2 Elder Class	Olivia
Year 3 Iroko Class	Ellie
Year 3 Willow Class	Mahilini
Year 4 Juniper Class	Mason
Year 4 Spruce Class	Yasmina
Year 5 Sycamore Class	Seb
Year 5 Walnut Class	Subin
Year 6 Aspen Class	Laycee
Year 6 Beech Class	Georgia

### House points

Congratulations to the following pupils for earning the most house points this week.

Reception Chestnut Class	Nola and Martin
Reception Maple Class	Alex
Year 1 Ash Class	Selena
Year 1 Redwood Class	Alfred
Year 2 Birch Class	Archie
Year 2 Elder Class	Betsy-Rose
Year 3 Iroko Class	Riley
Year 3 Willow Class	Usman
Year 4 Juniper Class	Indi
Year 4 Spruce Class	Bella
Year 5 Sycamore Class	Frank and George
Year 5 Walnut Class	Scarlett
Year 6 Aspen Class	Darcey
Year 6 Beech Class	Ollie

Well done to the pupils in **Blue** house for earning the most house points this week.

**“Children settle quickly when they join the school in the early years. This is because leaders and teachers have clear expectations.”**  
Infant school Ofsted Inspection report

### Attendance

We are aiming to achieve an attendance of 96% this year. Well done to all the classes highlighted in green for achieving that target last week.

Year 1 Ash Class	99%
Year 3 Iroko Class	99%
Year 3 Willow Class	98%
Year 5 Sycamore Class	98%
Year 2 Elder Class	95%
Year 4 Juniper Class	95%
Year 4 Spruce Class	94%
Reception Chestnut Class	93%
Year 6 Aspen Class	92%
Year 5 Walnut Class	91%
Reception Maple Class	90%
Year 2 Birch Class	90%
Year 6 Beech Class	89%
Year 1 Redwood Class	83%

### Attendance Ladder



As well as attendance, punctuality is very important. If your child is late for school, they miss the important introduction part of the first lesson during which the teacher explains the key learning. Class doors open at 8.45am and close at 9am. Please ensure your child is in class by 9am.

### Teatime talk

We work with Voice21, a charity that supports schools to develop oracy. Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language and listening. Oracy skills set children up for success in school and life.



In order for children to develop their oracy, we need to provide them with lots of opportunities to practice their speaking and listening, which we do regularly in school. We will be sharing a discussion topic each week in the newsletter to also provide you with a chance to have an interesting discussion with your children and support their oracy at home. This week's discussion topic is:

'You should always tell the truth.'

"The school provides extensive opportunities for pupils to develop their talents and interests."

Junior school Ofsted Inspection report

### **Oracy across the curriculum**

Some of our school governors recently visited History and Science lessons across both schools to see how we are developing children's oracy skills.

"The kids were really engaged within the lessons and activities. It was impressive to see them debate using phrases like 'in my opinion...' and letting others talk/encourage each other to share their thoughts."

"Classes were calm and happy. Across both schools, the engagement was amazing-a real credit to the teachers. The children were able to disagree with each other respectfully and without feeling worried, giving their reasons, which showed a lot of confidence."

"Thank you to the staff for embracing oracy and the additional thought that goes into lesson planning. The results speak for themselves-pupils are able to share their ideas and listen to others brilliantly."

"The use of the oracy framework is clearly providing children with life skills around communicating. All the children I saw respectfully shared and listened to each other's ideas, even those that were less confident. As a parent I am worried about the effect of technology on the art of conversation, so am thrilled to see this in place at the schools as it will help my child with their confidence when speaking."

### **Year 4 Spruce class assembly**

Year 4 Spruce class performed a special assembly on Thursday linked to their recent history topic about Romans. Well done Spruce class for a great performance.



"My last visit to the school was 6 years ago and I can categorically say that the improvements that have been made are outstanding."  
School governor

### Egg-cellent new arrivals in Reception

Reception classes have been taking very good care of some eggs this month. Last week, they were really egg-cited when the chicks finally hatched.



### New school catering company

We are pleased to announce that when we are back at school after the Easter break, a new catering company, Nourish, will be providing school lunches. Nourish is a family run contract catering company that have a real passion for providing healthy, balanced and nutritious school meals. They recently won the Education award at the Contract Catering Awards 2025 and we are excited to be partnering with them. With a fresh approach to school lunches and a new drive behind providing the best meals, we are sure this will allow all children to get a hot and tasty school lunch. More information will be emailed out next week, including the new menu and details about the new ordering system (SchoolGrid).



“We learn about different feelings so we can regulate our emotions.”  
Year 2 pupil

### Red Nose Day

Thank you for your very kind donations towards Comic Relief's Red Nose Day. The Infant and Junior schools raised a combined £164 in total. That money will be passed onto Comic Relief to support people living incredibly tough lives, in the UK and around the world.



### Easter Bonnet Parade



Children can come to school dressed in non-uniform and wearing an Easter bonnet that they have made at home on the last day of the Spring Term, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Teachers will choose a winning bonnet from their class to receive an Easter Egg prize.

### Fundraising for Prostate Cancer Research

On Monday, Russell, from ITG Academy, who run our extra-curricular sports and activities, ran 130 laps of the Junior school playground supported by various classes joining for their daily mile, as part of his training for the upcoming Brighton Marathon on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. Russell will be raising money for Prostate Cancer Research. If you are able to donate, please click on the link below to the online donation page. Good luck Russell!



<https://2025brightonmarathonweekend.enthuse.com/pf/russell-fisher/post/12196458>

### Active April

This April, let's find ways to get moving and stay active and healthy.

Active April 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 1 Commit to being more active this month, starting today	 2 Spend as much time as possible outdoors today	 3 Listen to your body and be grateful for what it can do	 4 Eat healthy and natural food today and drink lots of water	 5 Turn a regular activity into a playful game today	 6 Do a body-scan meditation and really notice how your body feels	
 7 Get natural light early in the day. Dim the lights in the evening	 8 Give your body a boost by laughing or making someone laugh	 9 Turn your housework or chores into a fun form of exercise	 10 Have a day with less screen time and more movement	 11 Set yourself an exercise goal or sign up to an activity challenge	 12 Move as much as possible, even if you're stuck inside	 13 Make sleep a priority and go to bed in good time
 14 Relax your body & mind with yoga, tai chi or meditation	 15 Get active by singing today (even if you can't sing!)	 16 Go exploring around your local area and notice new things	 17 Be active outside. Plant some seeds and encourage growth	 18 Try out a new exercise, activity or dance class	 19 Spend less time sitting today. Get up and move more often	 20 Focus on 'eating a rainbow' of multi-coloured vegetables today
 21 Regularly pause to stretch and breathe during the day	 22 Enjoy moving to your favourite music. Really go for it	 23 Go out and do an errand for a loved one or neighbour	 24 Get active in nature. Feed the birds or go wildlife-spotting	 25 Have a 'no screens' night and take time to recharge yourself	 26 Take an extra break in your day and walk outside for 15 minutes	 27 Find a fun exercise to do while waiting for the kettle to boil
 28 Meet a friend outside for a walk and a chat	 29 Become an activist for a cause you really believe in	 30 Make time to run, swim, dance, cycle or stretch today				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS
Happier · Kinder · Together

“When I visited the Nursery and Reception classes it was inspirational to see how much learning can be achieved through play.”  
Chair of Governors

## Key dates for your diary

### April

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April: Infant Spring Concert at 9am and 2.30pm in the Infant School hall.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April: Year 3 Willow parent-teacher meetings after school.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Junior Spring Concert at 9am and 2.30pm in the Junior School hall.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Year 3 Willow parent-teacher meetings after school.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Last day of Spring term for Nursery pupils.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Year 3 Theatre trip to see Mrs Doubtfire.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April: Easter bonnet parade.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April: Last day of Spring term for Reception to Year 6 pupils-non uniform day.  
School finishes at 1pm.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April: Easter holidays.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: Teacher training day.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: First day of summer term for pupils.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April: Year 5 Sycamore trip to the Science Museum.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April: Year 5 Walnut trip to the Science Museum.

### May

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May: Year 3 Willow trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Year 3 Iroko trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May: Year 6 PGL residential school trip.

## Community news

### LAMDA singing and drama lessons

We offer weekly LAMDA singing and drama lessons at Ickenham URC Church on Wednesdays:

- **Mini Voices (ages 4-7):** 4:15-4:45pm
- **Little Voices (ages 7-11):** 4:45-5:30pm
- **Voices (ages 12+):** 5:30-6:15pm

Additionally, we're running a wonderful **Easter Theatre Week** at the same venue from April 14-17, 9am-3pm, with early drop-off and late pick-up available at no extra cost. More details can be found here: <https://littlevoices.org.uk/harrow-hillingdon/holidaytheatreweeks>

For more details or to sign up for a **free trial lesson**, families can visit our website here: <https://littlevoices.org.uk/harrow-hillingdon/>

"The teachers are kind and helpful."  
Year 3 pupil