



St Hilda's School
HARPENDEN
Caring, Curious & Confident

NEWSLETTER

Friday 27th March 2026 No. 139

*'Father in heaven, holy is your name, we'll say it every day, time and time again,
Father in heaven, you will always reign, let heaven come to earth, now and every day
The Lord's prayer, everywhere, words to lead, words to guide, words to light up our lives.'*

Dear Parents,

A moving service brought the end of a busy term to a moving conclusion this morning at our Easter Service. As always, the girls sang and read with evident energy and enthusiasm, as always showing a high level of commitment to all they do. The importance of Easter in the Christian calendar was noted in the telling of the greatest story ever told, and the musical highlight was the whole school singing a modern version of the Lord's prayer, the words of which are above. This has brought new meaning to a prayer that our pupils say every week.

I have really enjoyed getting back into the swing of things over the past few weeks. Apparently, it was very quiet whilst I was away, certainly all the busyness of school life has been saved up for the second half of term! With concerts, assemblies, productions, sport a plenty, and many opportunities to meet parents, it has been as full a five weeks as I can remember. Certainly, next term is always a busy one and I look forward to what is for me the most rewarding term of the academic year. Of course, it is our wonderful pupils that make our school community, and this newsletter is full of inspiring stories of hard work and achievement. Make sure you have a careful read of all the different class and subject news, which is amazing to see, from Puffins to Form VI. With so many fantastic photos, this is a feast of all St Hilda's has to offer.

Finally, Form VI have had an amazing term of success. All have achieved their first choice of school, with several achieving scholarships, 14 in all being awarded to Abbot's Hill, Berkhamsted, Habs, Queenswood, STAHS and St Albans School. I am so proud of you all. What a great way to end the term with the staff vs Form VI Netball this week, such terrific competition and team work. My brief spell as Goal Keeper was a highlight of this week.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and blessed Easter break.

With my warmest regards

Dan Sayers

Headmaster



Form VI and Staff joined for a fun afternoon of Netball combat, with Lanc emerging victorious.

PUFFINS (PRE – NURSERY)

The Puffins have enjoyed a super term of fun and learning following a wide range of different topics. We have spent lots of time outside despite the wintry weather and joined in with the Great British Bird Watch. We wrapped up warmly and explored the grounds and saw pigeons, robins, blackbirds and many more.



In our outdoor ChIL sessions we have been playing in our 'Garden Centre'. We have enjoyed visiting the café and buying plants and flowers. Recently we have begun to plant up our own garden. We have planted flowers and vegetables including carrots, sweetcorn, broccoli, Sweet Williams and Cosmos. We can't wait to eat our vegetables and see our beautiful flowers.



In our 'People Who Help Us' topic we joined the Nursery children and went to see a real fire engine that had arrived at school. We listened well to the fire fighters and looked at all the uniform they wear to keep them safe and equipment they use to rescue people. Before they left we all had a turn at holding the hose and squirting water across the field.

Towards the end of the term, we thought about people who are less fortunate than ourselves and joined in with fundraising activities for Comic Relief. We had so much fun with lots of red and spotty activities and felt proud of ourselves for helping to support this worthy cause.



We can't wait for the Summer Term with lots more fun to come.

KITTIWAKES (NURSERY)

This term the Kittiwakes class have enjoyed learning about 'People Who Help Us'. In our first half-term we learnt about teachers, vets, doctors, refuse collectors, dentists and fire fighters.

Highlights of this were our visit to the Wayside Dental Practice, where Amit taught us all about oral hygiene, an important part of the Early Years curriculum and a life skill. We learnt about the magic number '2'. We clean our teeth 2 times each day, for 2 minutes and we visit the dentist twice a year.



We had a very exciting visit from the fire service on the final day of the term. We learnt all about the important job that the brave fire fighters do. They showed us all the equipment that they keep in the fire appliance. There was a huge fan to blow smoke away. It nearly blew us onto the roof of the school! We all climbed into the cab and saw the protective clothing that the fire fighters wear. They had enormous boots with metal toecaps and hard helmets. Before they left, we all got to squirt the hose across the field and then they raced off flashing their lights and sounding the siren!



We have also taken some time to think about our school 'Values' and have learnt about showing 'Respect' to others and have thought about how we can develop our 'Independence' skills. We gave examples of these to our teachers and have added them to our 'Values Tree'.

Towards the end of the term, we decided to think about others who are not as fortunate as us, so we decided to have a spotty fun day raising money for Comic Relief. We enjoyed so many activities, including a spotty Welly Walk.

RECEPTION

Here in Reception Class we have had another fun packed and busy term. Our Topic this term has been 'Our Town' which has led us to having lots of interesting conversations and adventures in and around Harpenden.



We realised that Harpenden was a busy and bustling place with so many interesting places to go to. We then decided to investigate what people could do in their spare time to relax and have fun. We realised that there are many 'Green Spaces' in



Harpenden. These are places that are not built up where people can walk, run, play games or sport and enjoy nature. One Wednesday morning we put on our wellies and coats and set off to explore one of Harpenden's lovely green spaces. We invited Form III to join us to take Maisie (Mrs Johnstone's dog) for a walk along the Nickey Line. We had a super walk enjoying being outside in the fresh air, splashing in puddles, spotting wildlife and taking it in turns to hold Maisie's lead.

Our next adventure was after we had been talking about modes of transport used in Harpenden. Mr Collins very kindly drove us from school to Harpenden train station in the minibus. Once we reached the station we bought tickets and boarded the 9.52am train to St Albans! We alighted the train at St Albans and spent some time interviewing the station staff about their jobs, exploring the station and having a drink and snack before catching the 10.48am train from platform 4 back to Harpenden. We saw a few

parents from school on our travels as they were also catching the train but for them to go into London to their offices to work.

What a fun term it has been!



FORM I

What have enjoyed another busy term in Form One. Time is flying by!



In this half-term's Focused Show and Tell, we took time to think about jobs we might like to do when we are older. On our Future Careers Day, we enjoyed meeting Jen, a trainee paramedic who explained what she does each day. We loved dressing up in our role play clothes for the day and had a whole range of future workers, including Doctors, Vets, Chefs, Artists and many more. We can't wait to see if these predictions come true!

In Science, we continued our topic of Materials, carrying out some fun experiments. We explored ice and tested ways to make it melt faster. We explored puddles, and the water cycle, discovering what happens to puddles when the rain stops and the sun shines. We ended our topic with a super egg experiment, discovering which materials would protect real eggs from cracking when dropped from a height!



We loved taking part in our Class Assembly all about our learning in Form One. We showcased our singing, artwork, and drama by acting out the simple fairy tale which we wrote together, 'Form One and the Magic Pasta Pot!'

In Art, we took time to draw

beautiful Japanese vases, adding spring blossom and enjoyed giving them to our special Mums for Mother's Day.

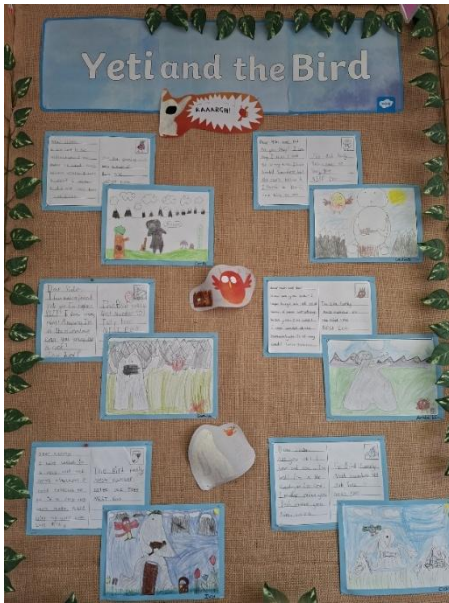


In History, we studied the amazing American Aviator, Amelia Earhart and loved learning about her brave solo non-stop journey across the Atlantic. We ventured out to learn more about aeroplanes and flight at the brilliant RAF Hendon Museum. We learnt so much in the Fantastic Flight workshop.



What a busy term! We are becoming more emotionally resilient, confident, and independent learners and can't wait for the Summer Term to continue our journey.

FORM II



In our English, we had lots of fun exploring the Himalayas with our friend, the Yeti! Poor Yeti had no friends, and we had to offer advice as to how to be a good friend and how to go about making friends when we are shy. We loved learning about the different settings in the story and gave some very helpful and sensible advice; advice that we found useful too!



We had a wonderful World Book Day in March. We all dressed up as a favourite book character and looked fabulous! Such a wide variety of costumes were on display. We enjoyed parading around the tennis court and looking at all of the other pupils' and staff costumes.



We enjoyed presenting our Class Assembly to parents at the end of the term. We shared all we had learnt about The Great Fire of London in our History lessons. We acted, sang our hearts out and displayed some fabulous collage work we completed in Art lessons, using recycled materials. They really were masterpieces!

We have also enjoyed exploring printing techniques in art. It was tricky using printing rollers and the special printing paint we used was very sticky! We managed to transfer our original animal sketches onto foam blocks. We thought carefully about colour and layout of our designs. It took lots of practise and lots of messy fingers! We are very proud of our finished decorative Kenyan patterns. We hope you like them too.

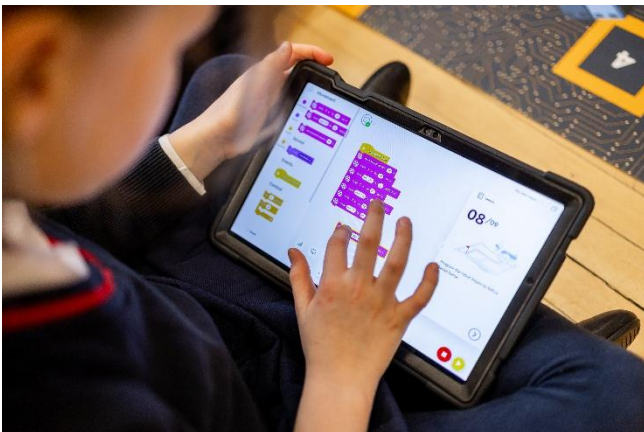


The girls have continued developing their recorder playing, and in particular, learning to recognise musical notation without the aid of the letter names. The girls enjoyed playing 'Hot Cross Buns' in their class concert and have been practising new songs from 'Recorder Karate' for which they are awarded coloured belts when they perform a piece well.

The girls have been learning many new songs in preparation for the Easter Service, and we also look forward to hearing the class concert at the beginning of the Summer Term.

FORM III

In maths this term we have focused on fractions and measurement. The girls have worked hard to use the correct terminology for each topic. We have had a large focus on reasoning and using the new language to explain how the answer was achieved (be it right or wrong!) and why they came to the answer they did. In English the girls have thoroughly enjoyed reading the book Fantastic Mr Fox. We used the story to learn about plot, speech, character roles and story planning. Having read the book together the girls then planned their own story with an introduction, problem, resolution and an ending. We also watched the film (with popcorn of course!) of Fantastic Mr Fox and compared the story line to that of the book.



We were fortunate to attend two workshops this term at school. One was a science-based workshop and the other a STEAM workshop. The girls thoroughly enjoyed both sessions learning about physics and forces and building and programming robots!



FORM IV

Form IV have had a truly fantastic term, and it has been an absolute pleasure to watch them grow and flourish across all areas of the curriculum. From fabulous assemblies to Forest School, they have worked incredibly hard, shown great enthusiasm for their learning, and made excellent progress in every subject.

In Science, the class thoroughly enjoyed exploring the fascinating topic of states of matter. They developed a strong understanding of solids, liquids, and gases, and especially loved investigating non-Newtonian fluids through hands-on experiments. The excitement in the classroom was clear as they observed how these unusual substances behaved!



English lessons have been equally impressive. The children wrote the most amazing stories, full of imagination, rich vocabulary, and carefully crafted plots. They took great pride in turning their work into beautifully presented books. It has been wonderful to see their confidence as writers grow, along with their ability to edit and improve their work independently. History has sparked tremendous interest among many members of the class. They have greatly enjoyed learning about the Anglo-Saxons and understanding how the Normans followed them in ruling the country.

In PE, the class have continued to build both their confidence and fitness levels. Their hockey skills are coming along very nicely, with noticeable improvements in teamwork, control, and game awareness. It's a pleasure to teach such a dedicated and inspiring class, and we look forward to seeing all they will achieve next term.



FORM V

Form V have had a wonderfully busy and productive term, demonstrating their enthusiasm and curiosity right across the curriculum. The Form V girls have been working incredibly hard in class and should feel very proud of all they have achieved this term.



Outside the classroom, they have loved spending time with their buddies, especially during their trip to the park this week, which they thoroughly enjoyed (despite the weather!) Other highlights have included dressing up for World Book Day, where creativity was on full display; demonstrating great problem-solving on Number Day; exploring and experimenting at their Fab Science workshop as well as their trip to Forest School, making the most of hands-on learning and the great outdoors. They have even managed to squeeze in a class concert which was a particular highlight!



We very much look forward to the events of the Summer Term!

FORM VI

It has been an exciting term for our Form VI pupils, marked by achievement, opportunity and a sense of momentum as they look ahead to the next stage of their education.

A particular highlight has been the arrival of senior school offers, with many pupils also securing impressive scholarship awards. This is an excellent reflection of their hard work, determination, and all-round commitment. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.



The term itself has been busy. From celebrating World Book Day in style by dressing as their favourite characters to sports events and concerts there has been no shortage of enriching experiences.

Our WWII Evacuee Day brought history vividly to life, while Magistrates Day offered a fascinating insight into the world of law and civic responsibility.



How can we forget their stellar performance of the show 'Yee-Ha'! Every member of Form VI shone in their respective roles and wowed the audience with their humour, talent and teamwork.



Alongside these events, the girls have approached their learning with maturity and resilience, and it has been a pleasure to see their confidence grow. With a much-anticipated residential trip still to come, there is certainly no slowing down yet!

Well done, Form VI, on a fantastic term so far; you continue to impress us all.

ART

We have created super bright artwork this term to brighten the rainy days. We have been experimenting with 3D pieces, printing, embroidery textiles and sculptures.



Form III and IV have enjoyed creating 3D organic objects inspired by their Still Life studies. Some very advanced work was produced as I'm sure you will agree.

Form V have been immersed in ancient Celtic culture exploring patterns and meaning in shape whilst learning about colour mixing to create their own unique and specific paint colours.



Form VI have been exploring and enjoying learning about portraiture and have excelled at studies of facial features, drawing hair and considering proportion. Exceptional work!

Clubs and workshops have been an enormous amount of fun. **Form I & II** have just completed the Shadow Theatre project where they created a show for the camera to illustrate the Edward Lear Classic; The Owl and the Pussy-Cat. In other clubs and workshops we have investigated Lino cutting and printing, textiles, The Greek Gods and weaving.



As we judge the Easter bonnet competition entries, we will be launching the ISA Minibeast competition which is open to all years. Challenge your creative making skills! Prizes to be won, look out for the entry details in the next newsletter and around school.

Wishing everyone a delightful Easter Holiday.
Ms Fairbairn

SPORTS

There have been many highlights this term, including the House Cross-country, Friday Night Lights, Lacrosse coaching, and the U10 and U9 ISA Netball Championships. From Nursery through to Form VI, we have seen enthusiasm, enjoyment and excitement. The girls are excellent at supporting each other on and off the pitch and they love to give everything a go.

Success comes from hard work, commitment and, sometimes, a little bit of luck! It goes without saying that sometimes in sport, no matter how hard you try, it doesn't always go your way. Our U11 A team, for example, experienced huge disappointment in their Regional Championships in February, when they were unexpectedly knocked out of the tournament. Nevertheless, the girls deserve a mention here, as they have been an exceptionally strong team and, in that tournament, had scored 43 goals over 8 matches.

The House events are moments when everyone comes together and there is always a great feeling of camaraderie across the years. The first event this year was the House cross-country, which took place in January on a beautiful sunny afternoon at Rothamsted Park. Forms III to VI walked up to the park together, with their House colours painted on their cheeks, the girls ran as hard as they could around the course, before returning to school with a great sense of pride and achievement. Other House events include the House Football, where cheerleaders came out in force with pompoms, and the House Netball, which was probably the most competitive of all.

Our netball teams have made excellent progress this year and it has been wonderful to see everyone taking part in a team. The U10As have been particularly successful this year, winning all their matches this term, as well as beating all the top schools at the U10 ISA netball festival. The U9 A team finished runners-up in their ISA tournament held at Abbot's Hill, which was a great result!

Several girls applied for Sports Scholarships to different schools, and congratulations must go to Zoë who gained a Sports Scholarship and Tennis Scholarship to Queenswood, Siena for her Sports Scholarship to St Albans School and Maisie for her Sports Scholarship to Abbot's Hill.

Lizzie competed at the National Cross-country championships and finished 31st out of 66 runners, which was an impressive performance.

We must also mention Zoë again, who was crowned the champion of the ISA Table Tennis tournament held earlier in the year. Anya was runner up, Izzo came 3rd and Stella won the Plate! Well done, Mrs Comer, for her excellent coaching.

The fixtures and events could not happen without the support of parents and staff, including Mr James and Mr Collins. So thank you for all your help with transport and support at matches.

We look forward to a Summer term filled with athletics, cricket, rounders and tennis!



DRAMA

It has been a wonderfully busy and creative term in the Performing Arts department, with pupils across all forms exploring storytelling, performance, and collaboration in a variety of imaginative ways.

Our Form I pupils have been discovering the joy of performance through poetry. They have been experimenting with rhythm, expression, and movement while bringing poems to life on stage. Alongside this, they have been exploring how poems can tell stories, using their voices and imaginations to create vivid characters and moments.

In Form II, pupils have been delving into stories with meaningful messages through the timeless tales of Aesop. By exploring a range of Aesop's fables, they have been considering the morals behind each story and how these lessons can be communicated clearly through performance. The pupils have enjoyed experimenting with character voices, narration, and simple staging to bring these classic tales to life.

Form III and Form IV have been collaborating on an exciting class project. Working together with a script, they have explored how to develop scenes using toys as additional characters, which has encouraged creative storytelling and inventive staging. Their work, titled "Fur and Feathers," has focused on animal characters and the relationships between them, allowing pupils to experiment with humour, movement, and ensemble performance.

Meanwhile, Form V have been tackling some important themes through drama. Using scenes inspired by The Cautionary Tale of Humpty Dumpty, they have been exploring issues of peer pressure and bullying. Through discussion, improvisation, and scripted work, pupils have considered the consequences of actions and how drama can be used to reflect on real-life situations.

Finally, our tremendously talented Year VI pupils have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their auditions and rehearsals for the much-anticipated Form VI production, Ye-Ha! If you were lucky enough to catch the performance a few weeks ago, you will know that it truly lived up to its reputation as the wildest musical in the West! The pupils demonstrated outstanding commitment, energy, and confidence on stage, and we are immensely proud of everything they achieved.

Well done to all our performers for such an enthusiastic and creative term.



MUSIC

This term, the Reception girls have had fun learning many new circle games and action songs which have developed their listening and singing skills. During the topic on dynamics, the girls took the lead and explored different ways of changing the volume! More recently the girls have been learning about changes in pitch and composed their own simple songs using hoops.

FI started the term with a deep dive into the world of descriptive music where they played a variety of percussion instruments to create synchronised sound effects to accompany a 'Tom and Jerry' cartoon. They have also been learning about tempo and how to respond to contrasting speeds within music.

FII have been exploring beat and rhythm through a topic about Africa. They enjoyed taking the lead in Call and Response songs and learned how to play the Djembe drums using 'bass', 'tone' and 'slap' and how drums are used as a communication tool.

FIII continued developing their recorder playing and in particular learning to recognise musical notation without the aid of the letter names. The girls enjoyed playing 'Hot Cross Buns' in their class concert and have been practising new pieces from the 'Recorder Karate' method for which they are awarded coloured belts when they perform each solo piece well. Alongside Form IV, the girls have also learned about pentatonic music with a focus on the music of China. They explored Chinese musical instruments, worked in small groups to compose and perform their own pentatonic pieces and even sang a two-part song in the class concert, which beautifully described the panda. They have worked hard to prepare songs for the Easter Service.



FV have explored music this term in support of their topic

"Keeping Healthy"; including syncopation skills, group compositions based on an ostinato theme and a comical song with actions about the skeleton. They have also had the opportunity to try playing the oboe, which will be offered as an instrumental lesson in the Summer term. Their recent class concert was a wonderful occasion where they displayed a variety of talents, confidence and poise. Parents enjoyed listening to a selection of instrumental and vocal solos as well as a well-timed Mother's Day song.

FVI worked incredibly hard to learn all the songs and solos for their "Ye Ha" production. It is fantastic to see what these young ladies can achieve! The girls have also revisited their ukelele skills and learned the 12 bar blues chords and an accompaniment for a 3-part song; supporting their learning around Spirituals and slavery. Despite a very busy term, the girls still had energy to perform vocal duets and instrumental solos to

the parents in their recent class concert.



In January, the Senior Choir enjoyed a day full of singing at Haileybury School, where they took part in the annual choral competition. Their confident and expressive performance was well rewarded when they received the 'runners up' trophy. They have continued to learn a variety of new songs in two parts as they prepare for the Easter service.

FOSH

It has been an action-packed second half of the Spring Term and we are looking forward to our final few events after the Easter Break before handing over the FoSH reins.

We are delighted to announce that Emma Green (Zinnia FVI, Heidi FIV & Maya Reception) will be taking over the Chair role from September 2026 and wish her the very best of luck. At the start of next term, we will be seeking volunteers for Form Rep roles along with committee positions including Treasurer. Please do let one of the current team or your form rep know if you would like to find out more.



Looking back quickly, last Friday's [Quiz Night](#) was a hugely entertaining and high-scoring contest. Congratulations to The 4midables for taking home the trophy and a huge thank you to all who helped with set up and packing away afterwards.



Easter Activity Day took place on a chilly Tuesday this week. Congratulations to our winners of Guess the Chicks in the Jar (EYFS – Freddie Summers / KS1 – Arabella Smith / KS2 – Freya Roberts-Sklar)

Looking ahead to the Summer Term, we have the following key events for your diaries;

Friday 15th May – Wine Tasting. Booking information is [enclosed](#). Note – the event is almost sold out so book soon.

Friday 5th June (approx. 4pm to 7.30pm) – FoSHathon. Further details will be circulated at the start of next term but please do keep the date free for this one-off fundraiser. Outgoing Chair, Dom, will be running a marathon to kick off the event! Parent sporting activities and BBQ planned too.

Thursday 11th June – Golf Day at Centurion. Booking information available [here](#). Same format to last year's highly successful event.

Saturday 20th June – Midsummer at The Manor. Further event information is included [here](#) and booking details will follow at the start of the Summer Term. We are looking forward to a send-off to remember!



Coming Up...

Term Dates 2026

Summer 2026	
Term Begins	Tuesday 21 st April 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 28 th May 2026
Term Ends	Friday 10 th July 2026

Autumn 2026	
Term Begins	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
Half Term	Monday 19 th October – Friday 30 th October 2026
Term Ends	Friday 11 th December 2026