



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Summerswood Families,

### **Change to gate opening times**

Please note that due to a change in assembly times, the Arundel drive and Elmwood Avenue gates may now open slightly later at around 3.05pm on Monday and Friday afternoons. Thank you for remaining patient and supporting calm collection times.

### **Harvest Hampers**

What a fantastic display of Harvest Hampers we put together this year for our Summerswood Harvest Week. The judges from Gratitude had a real challenge picking the winners.

**The winners were:**

**Early years winners: Reception Peter Pan**

**Year 1, 2 & 3 winners: 3W**

**Year 4, 5 & 6 winners: 4T**

**Highly Commended: 6M**

The judges commented on how colourful, creative and bright the hampers were. They especially liked the scarecrows and acorns with the children's faces.

We managed to fill Gratitude's van to the top with our generous donations, so well done to all in our Summerswood community for showing such fabulous generosity towards our local community.



## Year 2 Topic



Year 2 have loved learning about their new topic, Borehamwood! They used atlases to name the countries of the United Kingdom and made colourful flags to represent each one. Using Bee-Bots, they practised their directional language in fun, hands-on ways, and even became filmmakers,

## Children in need

The children and staff are all invited to come in to school in their own clothes/ which can be Children in Need themed if they choose (yellow/spotty) next Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, in exchange for a £1 donation to this year's children in need campaign. We will be setting some fun challenges around this year's theme which is **25**.

You can find out more about the charity's brilliant work, here

[We're there for you- BBC Children in Need](#)



## Anti-Bullying week 2025



Next week, 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November, we will be taking part in and supporting Anti-Bullying Week. This year's theme is 'Power for Good.'

Throughout the week, the children will be taking part in a variety of activities that will aim to cover some of the following aspects:

- **To be able to define bullying.**
- **To understand how bullying can make others feel.**
- **To be able to explore ways we can use our power for good.**
- **To understand that everyone has a role in helping to stop bullying.**

Here is a link to the Anti-bullying Alliance website, which will take you to the Parent and Carer Pack – this will help you bring Anti-Bullying Week to life at home. The resources will help you start the conversation about bullying, no matter the age of your child, and give you other ideas about anti-bullying at home.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/parents-and-carers>

To start the week off in a positive way, children and adults may wear odd socks to school on Monday (no charge). This is to celebrate what makes us all unique - we look forward to seeing some funky socks!

### **Phonics Morning**

A big thank you to all of the parents and carers that attended this week's phonics coffee morning. We hope that you found the information useful and look forward to seeing many of you in the upcoming phonics sessions



### **Netball**



On Tuesday, we had Barnfield School visit us for a netball match. Children in year 5 and 6 played brilliantly despite only having two training sessions. They showed determination, respect and sportsmanship. A big well done. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for Netball at Summerswood.

Miss McNamara and Miss McIlree are very proud!

### **SENCO**

Our SENCO Mrs Crabtree is taking a planned period of leave and we welcome Mr Taylor to support with SEND needs across the school until she returns in January. If you have any further questions then please get in touch with Miss Mitchell or email [admin@summerswood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@summerswood.herts.sch.uk)

### **Attendance- Week ending 24th October**

<b>Reception Rosen</b>	<b>94.7%</b>	<b>3 Rashford</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Reception Peter Pan</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>4 Thunberg</b>	<b>92.5%</b>
<b>1 Anning</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>4 Queen</b>	<b>96.1%</b>
<b>1 Donaldson</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>5 Southgate</b>	<b>98.5%</b>
<b>2 Attenborough</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>5 Boseman</b>	<b>98.4%</b>
<b>2 Johnson</b>	<b>86.7%</b>	<b>6 Malala</b>	<b>97.6%</b>
<b>3 Wicks</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>6 Obama</b>	<b>94.5%</b>

Some great attendance figures this week!

Please remember that you must let us know when your child is going to be absent from school as early as possible in the morning, and no later than 9.15am. If we do not receive a reason for absence, this will be marked as unauthorised and as per current government policy, if unauthorised absence reaches 5 or more days in any 10-week period then you could be liable to receive a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority.

If you have any questions or queries about attendance then please do contact the school office or email [attendance@summerswood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@summerswood.herts.sch.uk)

### **Donations**

If any of our families have any pre-loved construction toys such as lego, Duplo or wooden building blocks, these would be very gratefully received. Please bring any donations to the school office. Thank you kindly in advance

### **Christmas Fair- Friday 12th December**



Would you like to run your own stall at our Christmas Fair? We're inviting families to take part and be part of the festive fun!

Stalls cost **£10 each**, and all funds raised from stall hire will go directly to our **PTA** to support school projects and activities.

If you'd like more information or to book a stall, please email us at [friends@summerswood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:friends@summerswood.herts.sch.uk).

We can't wait to see our school community come together for some Christmas cheer!

### **Well done!**

A big congratulations to Isaac Julian in 6O who was a finalist in a Local Art Competition with this lovely piece of work. Good job Isaac!



### **World Mental Health Day**

This year, on world mental health day, we asked pupils, staff and families “Why is it important to ask for help when you need it”. Over the coming weeks, we will share some of the brilliant answers we received. This week we have:

**“To get things clear in your mind and to feel lighter”**

Kind Regards,

Miss Kathryn Mitchell



# Friends of Summerswood Christmas Hamper Raffle

**Roll up, roll up... it's your chance to win!**

Help us raise money whilst having the opportunity of winning a prize yourself!

## **Dress Down Day Thursday 27th November**

Send your child in with a luxury gift (such as a bottle of wine, a box of mince pies or chocolates, a tin of biscuits, a bottle of bubble bath) or make a £2 donation on School Gateway.

***Please only donate unopened luxury items within  
sell-by date end January 26.***

*We will then turn your generous donations into incredible hampers,  
just in time for Christmas!*

## **Hamper Raffle draw date: Thursday 18th December**

Tickets are £1 each, purchase via School Gateway between Tuesday 2nd December- Wed 17th Dec. (Purchase as many tickets as you like).



## Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Odd Socks day- no donation required
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Parents evening Reception- Year 6 <b>4pm-7pm</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Parents evening Reception- Year 6 <b>3.30pm- 6.30pm</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Individual and Sibling Group Photographs
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Year 5 Viking museum <b>3pm-3.30pm</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2025	"Mop up session" for pupils who missed flu vaccination
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Whole School dress down day—Donation for Christmas Raffle
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	INSET DAY – No pupils in school
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	Occasional Day- No pupils in school
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Reception Trip to the Post box to deliver Letters to Santa
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Friends of Summerswood- The Great Summerswood Christmas bake off
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Christmas Fair
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Friends of Summerswood- Christmas Jumper day
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Reception Rosen Class- Christmas Sing-along
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Christmas Raffle
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Last Day of term for Nursery only
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Last day of Term - School finishes at 1.30pm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December -Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January (inclusive)	Half Term
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	INSET DAY – No pupils in school
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Start of Spring Term 1
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Disco- Friendship- time TBC
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	School finishes at normal times for Half Term
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February (inclusive)	Half Term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Start of Spring Term 2
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Last day of Term for Nursery
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Last day of Term - School finishes at 1.30pm
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March-Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April (Inclusive)	Half Term
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	INSET DAY – No pupils in School
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Start of Summer Term 1
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	School finishes at normal times for Half Term
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May (inclusive)	Half Term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026	Start of Summer Term 2
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Disco- Summer Ball- time TBC
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	INSET DAY – No pupils in school
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026	Last day of Term for Nursery
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026</b>	<b>Last day of Term - School finishes at 1.30pm</b>

Just Talk Music week 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November

**Overview** The Just Talk Herts Music campaign aims to increase awareness and understanding of the role music plays in improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people across Hertfordshire. The most recent Just Talk survey showed that music is one of the top resources that young people use to help cope with their mental health. Parents, carers, and professionals can use music as a tool to support the young people around them. This campaign aims to normalise conversations about mental health, provide tools for self-care, and signpost individuals to relevant support services.

Running from 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025 across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok, this campaign encourages open discussions, highlights coping strategies, and promotes access to essential mental health resources.

Messaging will aim to inspire young people, parents/carers and schools in Hertfordshire to talk about mental health and well-being and use music as a tool to express themselves. Just Talk will be promoting music services across Hertfordshire that young people can sign up to for classes, access to studio spaces and more. There is a particular focus on the partnership with Electric Umbrella – a charity that empowers learning disabled and neurodivergent people through creativity and connection.

#### For parents/carers:

- We all have mental health, just like we all have physical health and it is normal for it to peak and dip throughout our lives
- It's OK to not be OK
- Support is available and it can really help (for both your child and you)
- You're more likely to get better quickly if you seek help early
- There are many activities you can do to help improve your mental health and ability to cope in stressful times. (5WTW)
- Improving communication as a family about feelings, what each other need in time of struggle and an openness to receiving help can improve all round family wellbeing
- Mental health issues are common in both adults and children, but the earlier we can learn about ourselves, our feelings and how to support our wellbeing, the better outcomes for all.
- If your child needs support, details of different types of help can be found on the Just Talk website [www.justtalkherts.org](http://www.justtalkherts.org) or by following us on social media @justtalk herts
- The Just Talk website [www.justtalkherts.org](http://www.justtalkherts.org) contains useful self help information and tools as well as details of the different types of help and support available for children, young people and their parents/carers.
- Music can be a great tool to support mental wellbeing



# Dads Together

Sign up to our free 6-week online group

Do you feel you are constantly nagging at your child to get what you need?

Join our free dads together 6-week online group to help increase your confidence in parenting and improve communication and listening skills

- Wednesday 12th, 19th, 26th November & 3rd, 10th, 17th December 2025
- 7.00pm to 9.00pm
- Online via MS Teams

To book your place, call Louise on 0204 522 8700, email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk) or scan our QR code to use our online referral form



Scan Me!

We build better family lives together

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

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# Autumn term workshops 2025



**Reducing Conflict: Tuesday 11 November, 9.30am to 11.30am**

This workshop explores different types of conflict. It will provide support in understanding the causes and impact of parental and family conflict on children and gives practical steps and strategies.

**Anxiety around ADHD: Wednesday 26 November, 7pm to 9pm**

A workshop to help parents/carers understand what ADHD is, why it makes sense for a child to be anxious if they have ADHD and strategies to help support you and your child

**Its a Dad's Life: Tuesday 2 December, 7pm to 9pm**

This workshop aims to empower dads with the knowledge and skills to develop deeper connections with their children

**Sibling Rivalry: Wednesday 3 December, 7pm to 9pm**

This workshop aims to provide parents with strategies and tools to effectively foster positive relationships, promote co-operation and manage conflict between children

**Navigating the Storm (for parents of teens): Tuesday 9 December, 7pm to 9pm**

A workshop designed to provide effective strategies for parents in managing challenging teenage behaviour

To book your place:

- Call Louise on 0204 522 8700
- Scan our QR code to use our online referral form



Scan Me!

We build better family lives together

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

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<https://www.supportingminds.co.uk/mindsonline>

## 1 Hour, Bitesize Workshops, Online Answering common parenting questions

### How do I get my child to eat better?

No matter how restrictive your child's diet is  
Thursday, 4th December 2025, 10-11am

### What is going on in my teenager's head?

How & why adolescent development affects teen behaviour  
Thursday, 15th January 2026, 7-8pm

### Why does my child give up so easily?

Build resilience and encourage them to have a go, or keep trying  
Monday, 19th January 2026, 7-8pm

### How do I get my child to listen to me?

Encouraging your child to listen to you and talk to you  
Thursday, 29th January 2026, 7-8pm

### How can my child learn to manage their feelings?

Teaching emotional regulation to young people  
Monday, 23rd March 2026, 10-11am

### How do I talk to my teen or preteen about?

Having difficult conversations about sex, drugs & social media  
Wednesday, 25th March 2026, 7-8pm

Recordings will be available to parents who attend or on request.

Book your place here

## 1.75hr Online Workshops

for Parents of Children with ASD or ADHD

### Responding to Anger

Help your child manage angry feelings and behaviour  
Thursday, 22nd January 2026, 7.30-9.15pm

### The Teenage Years

Support your neurodivergent teenager  
Monday, 20th January 2026, 7.30-9.15pm

### Sibling Struggles

Juggling the different needs in your family  
Tuesday, 24th February, 7.30-9.15pm

### Tech Use

Managing your child's use of tech  
Tuesday, 24th March, 9.30-11.15am

Recordings will be available to parents who attend or on request.

Book your place here

Please see the webside to book the workshops:

[Supporting Links Home](#)