



Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Families,

End of Term

It has been a lovely final week of term with delicious Christmas meals and sing-a-longs from Nursery, Reception and the Key Stage 2 children during their Carol's by Twilight. Thank you for your positive response to these activities. Thanks to our staff team for putting these events together and to our kitchen team for cooking so many festive meals.

Following the information I shared in last week's newsletter regarding the tragic deaths of two students, I wanted to share a statement from the director of public health in Hertfordshire:

I am extremely sorry to hear about the very sad deaths of two children in your school. I recognise that these events must be having a profound impact on the whole school community. It is normal in circumstances like these to feel worried and concerned and to ask whether anything could have been done to prevent this from happening. Although it is unusual to have two children dying in one school in a short space of time, it is not unprecedented. I understand that the children had different types of cancer. I'd like to reassure parents that there is nothing to suggest that these cancers are connected and there isn't anything in the school environment linked to these deaths.
Sarah Perman, Director of Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council

As the holidays commence, please remember that it is important to take care of yourselves and your children. If your child is struggling with the difficult news remember you can look at the Child Bereavement website here: <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/supporting-bereaved-children-and-young-people>. Cruse Bereavement Support also have a telephone number for any support or discussions over the winter break this is 0808 808 1677.

Attendance

Attendance Week ending 13th December

RPeterPan	RRosen	1Anning	1Donaldson	2Attenborough	2Johnson	3Rashford
96.5%	90.7%	94.9%	98.8%	98%	98.5%	96%

3Wicks	4Queen	4Thunberg	5Boseman	5Southgate	6Malala	6Obama
96%	93.9%	94.8%	93%	95.1%	97.3%	97.3%

Sadly, none of the classes won our muffin madness challenge this term as only a handful of classes achieved 1 x 100% week each! We are hoping for a more positive start to Spring Term, where we see a big increase in overall attendance levels. We look forward to seeing your children on 7th January, refreshed after a nice Winter break-on time and ready to learn.

Parental Behaviour Expectations

As we work together to support your children in achieving their best, I want to take a moment to emphasise the importance of positive and respectful communication between families and our staff. We are all here with the shared goal of helping the children thrive. We ask all parents and guardians to communicate courteously, both verbally and in writing, with staff members. Maintaining respect and understanding ensures that we can focus our energy on the children and their development. Please be aware that parents who are unable to meet these expectations may face sanctions, such as:

POLITE NOTICE

At these premises we operate a Zero Tolerance Policy. Swearing, threats or any act of violence will NOT be tolerated. Anyone giving verbal abuse to members of staff will be asked to leave immediately

Think before you act

- Collecting children from an alternative space.
- Being banned from entering the school site.
- Receiving restricted responses to emails.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

PE days from January 2025

Year 1 - Tuesday (same as Autumn Term)

Year 2 - Tuesday (same as Autumn Term)

Year 3W - Monday (same as Autumn Term)

Year 3R - Thursday (changed)

Year 4 - Friday (changed)

Year 5 - Wednesday (changed)

Year 6 - Friday (same as Autumn Term)

Year 4 swimming will commence on the first week back. They will be swimming on Weds 8th January.

World Mental Health Day



For world mental health day we asked children, staff and parents how you make time for yourselves. This week's great idea is a lovely simple one:

"Have a bath!"

Farewell!

This week we say 'Farewell' to Mrs Sherlock one of our Reception Class Teachers as she begins her maternity leave. We can't wait to share her good news with you all in the coming months. We wish Mrs Sherlock all the best on this exciting adventure.



On behalf of the Summerswood team I'd like to wish everyone a positive break – Happy Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy New Year – whatever you celebrate or however you spend your break – enjoy yourselves.

Kind regards,

S Kneller

Sarah Kneller
Headteacher

Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Friday 20 th December 2024	Packed Lunch day for all children
Friday 20 th December 2024	Last day of Term - School finishes at 1.30pm
Monday 6 th January 2025	INSET DAY- No pupils in School
Tuesday 7 th January 2025	Start of Spring Term 1
Friday 14 th February 2025	School finishes at Normal times for Half Term
Monday 17 th February-Friday 21 st February	Half Term
Monday 24 th February 2025	Start of Spring Term 2
Tuesday 1 st April 2025	Class and Year 6 individual photographs for Autograph books
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	Last Day of Term for Nursery
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Last Day of Term- School finishes at 1.30pm
Friday 4 th April 2025	INSET DAY- No pupils in School
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Start of Summer Term 1
Monday 5 th May 2025	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 23 rd May 2025	School finishes at normal times for Half Term
Monday 26 th May- Friday 30 th May	Half Term
Monday 2 nd June 2025	INSET DAY- No pupils in school
Tuesday 22 nd July	Last day of Term for Nursery
Wednesday 23 rd July 2024	Last Day of Term- School finishes at 1.30pm



One way in which Hertfordshire provides support to families of children and young people with SEND across the county is through their Delivering Special Provision Locally groups (DSPLs).

There are 9 DSPL areas. The reason for having different area groups means that the groups can cater support more to what their area needs, within the small budget they have, giving a more focused approach to providing support that is local and accessible for families. DSPLs provide support to both local settings and families and work in partnership with a number of local services.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep parents informed regarding support and events that are available within DSPL 6.

We would like to wish you all a happy and restful Christmas break. If you have any queries or questions or would like to add any information to the newsletter, please email cheryl.mence@thewroxham.net

The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer

The Local Offer lets parents and young people know what special educational needs and disabilities services are available in Hertfordshire, and who can access them.

Click on the links below to access the “Local Offer” website and “New to SEND” sections, and catch up on current news and views on SEND in Hertfordshire

**[The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer](#)
[New to SEND? Learn more](#)**

Neurodiversity Support Offer

The Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Neurodiversity Support offer for parents/carers, professionals and young people in Hertfordshire can be found on the link [Neurodiversity Support \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/neurodiversity-support)

The HCC and ICB offer consists of various resources including group courses, webinars and a live web chat for young people as well as the support hub and digital webinars for parent/carers.

A [Neurodiversity Handbook](#) has been produced, which offers lots of resources, support and signposting for parents and carers.

Please also look at the Neurodiversity directory [Neurodiversity Service Directory \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#) for further avenues of support.

New RESOURCES

- **The special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) community directory** is a resource that brings together and promotes groups and organisations that offer activities and support for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND and their families.
- Right click on the link [SEND Community Activities Directory](#), to help find activities available for families and young people with SEND. Please share this signposting tool with SENCOs and staff supporting families in your school.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

DEC | 20TH | 4-11YRS @4.15-5.45
11+ YRS@ 6.00-7.30

Potential Kids Hub

GINGER BREAD DECORATING, CRAFTS, SCAVENGER HUNT, GAMES AND A GIFT FOR EACH CHID!

£6 PER CHILD



POTENTIALKIDS.ORG/EVENTS

THE GALLERIA
HATFIELD



FASD Webinar Dr Cassie Jackson

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders



- Date & Time: Tuesday 14th January 2025, 10am
- 1pm Audience: Schools, Social Workers, Foster Carers, Adoptive Parents, Special Guardians, CS Professionals
- Venue: Online via MS Teams

Dr Cassie Jackson is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist. She is Director at the Psychology Clinic of East Anglia and works alongside Dr Raja Mukherjee at the National FASD Clinic.

The webinar will include a thorough exploration of what FASD is, how it is diagnosed, and the neurodevelopmental profile associated with it.

Cassie will additionally provide information about teaching, behavioural and therapeutics strategies that are most effective for children with FASD and discuss the interplay between FASD and trauma presentation

To book your free place please email virtualschool@herfordshire.gov.uk



Nessie supports vulnerable children and young people with complex mental health needs who are struggling to access support.

They are commissioned to support parents/carers and assured by the DfE to provide Mental Health Leads training.

Nessie is a voluntary sector therapy organisation that focuses on helping children and young people (0 – 25 years) thrive. Please use the link below to access the NESSIE website

<https://nessieined.com/hertfordshire-parents>

DSPL 6 SEND Local Parent Support Groups and Local Coffee Mornings

Our DSPL 6 / Local Schools Partnership (LSP) Family Support workers run regular parent support groups for families of children with SEND and dates for January 2025– July 2025 will be advertised shortly.

The team also run half termly online SEND parent surgeries, dates and booking links to be advertised in the New Year.

Karen Follows and Claire Dales, Family Support Team will also be running SEND coffee mornings across our local schools in the New Year. Please watch this space for dates and also your child's school newsletters.

If you would like to join the DSPL 6 / Local Schools Partnership (LSP) parent mailing list, please email sendHSP@mountgrace.herts.sch.uk

Parenting SEN children when separated online programme



A 6-session programme, specifically tailored to help separated parents navigate the complexities of co-parenting and provide the best possible support for their SEND child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance co-parenting skills, support children's development and build a strong foundation for the future.



Who should attend?

- Separated parents raising children with SEND.
- Parents seeking guidance, support, and strategies for co-parenting SEN children more consistently.
- Parents wanting to create a positive and supportive environment for their child's development.



Three courses will be delivered by MS Teams, from 7pm to 9pm, over 6 sessions, on the following dates:

- Thursdays: 11, 18 & 25 January and 1, 8 & 15 February 2024
- Mondays: 29 January, 5, 12 & 26 February and 4 & 11 March 2024
- Mondays & Wednesday: 29, 31 January & 5, 7, 12, 14 February 2024

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email services@familylives.org.uk or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8699

SCAN ME



We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk

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SURVIVING THE SENSORY OVERLOAD



 **SUNSHINE SUPPORT**
Award winning SEND Advocacy & Training
www.sunshine-support.org.uk

**YOUR
CHRISTMAS
YOUR
WAY!**

We're shouting from the rooftops for you to enjoy **YOUR CHRISTMAS, YOUR WAY** this year and today we're talking sensory survival! 🌟🎄

As lovely as the festive season might be, it's also a continual **SENSORY OVERLOAD** which can make it difficult. 😞

Be aware of what might be triggering to the sensory needs of your child – there's music, smells, multiple voices, changes in routine, bright decorations everywhere and this strange looking man who apparently will come into your house while you are asleep. Christmas is a bombardment on the senses!

★ Here's our top tips for sensory survival: ★

♥ Keep background music to a minimum or not at all. 🎵❌

♥ Always plan for somewhere you can retreat to that's a Christmas free zone, this is especially important to consider when out and about and when visiting family. 🏠

♥ Give your child good warning about where you are going and what you will be doing, including as many visual aids as possible. 🗺️

Family Lives Spring Term Programme 2025

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 22 January to 5 March 7.00pm to 9.00pm

A programme to help parents be more effective at getting their children to cooperate and listen to them

Bringing Up Confident SEN Children (6 weeks) Online group

Monday 3 February to 17 March 9.30am to 11.30am

A programme to help parents gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school

Sorting Out Arguments in your Family (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 5 February to 19 March 9.30am to 11.30am

A programme aimed at helping sort out arguments between parents and their children and between brothers and sisters

Getting on with Your Pre Teen/Teenager (6 weeks) Online group

Thursday 27 February to 3 April 9.30am to 11.30am

A programme to help parents understand and get on better with their teenage children. Maybe there is an FFA/CIN/CP in place and need more support

Dads Together (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 26 February to 2 April 7.00pm to 9.00pm

A programme to support dads in learning how to change the way you communicate with your child, respond better and feel more in control

For more information, please contact Louise on

0204 522 8700 or email

services@familylives.org.uk.

Please scan our QR code for our referral form.



Scan Me!

The NHS-funded service enables children and adults to get convenient access to advice and treatment where appropriate for seven common conditions, without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment. Accessing the service may mean that children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service. There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

The service supports with the following conditions for people in the age groups specified below:

- **Earache** (aged 1 to 17 years)
- **Impetigo** (aged 1 year and over)
- **Infected insect bites and stings** (aged 1 year and over)
- **Sore throats** (aged 5 years and over)
- **Sinusitis** (aged 12 years and over)
- **Uncomplicated urinary tract infections** (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)
- **Shingles** (aged 18 years and over)

The person will see a pharmacist in a private consultation room. The pharmacist will provide advice and, if clinically appropriate, offer to supply treatment for the condition*. If treatment is provided, an electronic message will be sent to the person's GP surgery so their health record can be updated.

Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the person to their GP surgery or other healthcare professional, as appropriate.

With the ever-increasing pressures on the NHS, particularly during these busy winter months, it is important to us, as a community pharmacy, that we do all we can to provide support.

Therefore, we would really like your help in driving awareness of this fantastic service to your parents and carers and to encourage them to think **Pharmacy First**.

To support you with this, we have created the below paragraph you could use in your regular communications, to highlight the service to parents and carers:

NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

<u>Common condition</u>	<u>Patient eligibility</u>
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first) as well as at <https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first>.

Community Pharmacy England, who represent community pharmacy owners in England, have created a suite of resources for use by schools; you can use any that would suit your methods of communication with parents/carers to raise awareness of this important service. Resources include:

- ✓ Downloadable posters which can be displayed in reception/waiting areas or staff rooms.
- ✓ Downloadable flyers which could be included in school bags or left in reception/waiting area.
- ✓ Digital screen options which could be played if you have a digital screen in your reception/waiting area.

- ✓ Template news stories that could be included on your school website or in newsletters; and
- ✓ Template letter to email out to parents/carers highlighting the Pharmacy First service.

All these resources are available at cpe.org.uk/infopharmacyservices