



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Dear Families,

### Neurodiversity Celebration



In assembly on Monday, I shared a brilliant video with the children all about Autism. The film, called Amazing Things Happen, can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezv85LMFx2E>. It's just over 5 minutes long and is a great way to help us all understand neurodiversity a little bit more. During our assembly, I mentioned the following names to the children – I wonder if they can tell you why we spoke about them...

Albert Einstein, Emma Watson, Alan Turing, Billie Eilish, Ingvar Kamprad and Greta Thunberg. Mrs Wilson, our Autism Leader at school, has put together a lot of work to help everyone understand how important it is to allow everyone to be themselves, and for us to understand how we can do things better to help those around us. Thank you to those who have bought bracelets (more than £200 has been raised so far!) - more are being created this weekend, as they were so popular we sold out! Thank you to Mrs Wilson and some of our own pupils who shared their feelings about school to help others understand more about Autism.

### Attendance – for week ending 15<sup>th</sup> March

RPeterPan	RRosen	1Anning	1Donaldson	2Attenborough	2Johnson	3Rashford
93.6%	86.2%	90%	95%	93.8%	95.7%	95%

3Wicks	4Queen	4Thunberg	5Boseman	5Southgate	6Malala	6Obama
90.4%	94.5%	93.2%	95%	96.4%	97.1%	94.8%



Muffin Madness update: unfortunately, attendance has been really poor this term, so, for the first time, we are not going to be celebrating Muffin Madness. There have been only 2 classes that have had 100% attendance for a single week during this whole term, so well done to 2A and 3R. Muffin Madness will be starting again next term, so let's get our children in to school every day!

This is a strong reminder to parents that, as per our Attendance Policy, we will be asking for medical evidence for absences before or after a holiday – failure to provide evidence will result in your child's absence being marked as unauthorised. If your child has more than 15 unauthorised sessions, you are at risk of a Penalty Notice fine from County.

### Voice in a Million 2024

On Wednesday, our Voice in a Million Choir from Years 4 to 6 had an amazing adventure at Wembley Arena in London. They've been learning songs and dances since October to join in with a choir of more than 5000, filling the floor and back of the arena! The children's singing was beautiful – bringing adults to tears – and their behaviour was impeccable. It was brilliant to see the children enjoying themselves so much. Thank you to Mrs Akahoho and Mrs Benedick for leading the club this year. Thank you to Mrs Norman, Miss Wheeler and some really supportive parents for joining the trip and making it feel really magical. Thank you also to Miss Wheeler for creating our unique banner for the Banner Parade – in the style of a Hollywood Star. Don't tell Miss Wheeler that I've already booked us in for 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – we've got to think of a new one for next year! ☺



## **Gymnastics update from Miss McNamara**

Children from Years 1, 3 and 5 went to Hertswood this week to take part in a Gymnastics Competition. They did extremely well and we are so proud of them. They were able to learn and perform their routines in front of other schools. We had two teams that came 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and one team that came 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Well done!

Faye also had the pleasure of attending a sports event specifically for those with visual disabilities. She had a fantastic day learning some new sports, including Goalball, which we hope to introduce into the school. Well done, Faye!

## **Change to PE days for the Summer Term**

Please take note of these PE days for the Summer term, as some year groups have changed days:

Reception – Fridays (same as before)

Year 1 - Tuesday (same as before)

Year 2 - Moving to Mondays

Year 3 - Moving to Wednesdays (*will also have swimming on Wednesdays, so come in PE kit & bring swimming kit*)

Year 4 - Wednesdays (same as this half term)

Year 5 - Fridays (same as this half term)

Year 6 - Moving to Fridays (*will also have swimming on Fridays, so come in PE kit & bring swimming kit*)

## **We need Governors!**

We are looking for a parent governor (with children in Nursery up to Year 3) to join us to help keep moving the school forward. We need people who are able to give some time to be able to attend meetings and visit the school during working time, to meet with staff and children to ensure we are doing all we can to help the children be successful. If you are interested or would like more information, please email the school office: [admin@summerswood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@summerswood.herts.sch.uk). Thank you!



## **Free School Meals**

If you believe your child may be entitled to free school meals due to certain benefits you may be receiving (even if they are currently in R-Y2), please complete the form that is attached to the newsletter email and bring it to the office for us to apply on your behalf. Alternatively, you may apply directly using the link in the attached letter.

## **End of Term**

We look forward to ending our Spring term with an Easter Bonnet competition on Monday, being managed by our PTA. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

I am sure all our families are looking forward to a lovely break over the Easter holidays – nursery have their last day on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, whilst the rest of the school finish at 1.30pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. There are no clubs on the last day of any term, so please ensure that children are collected promptly.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our families a happy festive time over Easter and Eid – and we look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Kind regards,

Sarah Kneller  
**Headteacher**

**Interesting fact:** 17<sup>th</sup> March 1973 is the date that the modern-day London Bridge was opened by the late Queen.

## Dates to Remember

Monday 25th March	<b>PTA Easter Bonnet Competition Day – see flyer</b>
Tuesday 26th March	<b>Last day of term - for Nursery Children only</b>
Wednesday 27th March	<b>Last day of Term - school finishes at 1.30pm</b>
Thursday 28th March	<b>INSET DAY – no children in school</b>
Monday 15th April	<b>Start of Summer Term 1</b>
Wednesday 17th April	<b>3W: rescheduled Parents' Evening – book on Arbor app</b>
Thursday 18th April	<b>3W: rescheduled Parents' Evening – book on Arbor app</b>
Friday 19th April	<b>Times Table Rock Star Day – more info to be sent by email 8.50-9.20am: Reception parents welcome directly to class 2.30-3pm: Years 1-6 parents welcome – come in via office</b>
Tuesday 30th April	<b>3.30pm: Y6 PGL parent information meeting – in 6Malala class</b>
Wednesday 1st May	<b>9am: 3W class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Monday 6th May	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Wednesday 22nd May	<b>9am: 2A class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Thursday 23rd May	<b>School finishes at normal times for Half Term</b>
Friday 24th May	<b>INSET Day – no children in school</b>
Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 3rd June	<b>Start of Summer Term 2</b>
Wednesday 12th June - Friday 14th June	<b>Y6 PGL residential trip</b>
Wednesday 12th June	<b>9am: 2J class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Wednesday 19th June	<b>9am: 1A &amp; 1D class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Wednesday 26th June	<b>9am: Y6 PGL assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Thursday 27th June	<b>9.10am: Nursery assembly – all parents/ carers welcome – DATE CHANGE</b>
Wednesday 3rd July	<b>9am: RP class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Friday 5th July	<b>#WOODFEST 2024</b>
Wednesday 10th July	<b>9am: RR class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Monday 22nd July	<b>Last day of term - for Nursery Children only</b>
Tuesday 23rd July	<b>Last day of Term - school finishes at 1.30pm</b>





Hertfordshire  
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# Want to ask the School Nurses a Question?

Come to our live  
Instagram Q&A on the  
10/04/2024 at 15:00



**@hct\_schoolnursing**