Weekly newsletter

The Lea Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Tracey Berry

Moorland Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 4LE
Tel: 01582 767939
Email: admin@lea-pri.herts.sch.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Antibullying week started on Monday with Odd Socks day and we encouraged children to think about and respect our differences. Throughout the week there have been discussions and activities linked to antibullying and the theme this year of 'Break the Silence' and how to speak up if you think someone is being bullied or something is just not right. Explorers (Y6) led our Monday assembly to the whole school with great understanding.

The Castle workshop for Bumblebear (Y2) Class on Tuesday was brilliant! The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities but particularly the candle making that they were all so keen to tell me about. And whilst that was taking place Explorers (Y5) and Wonder (Y6) classes were at St George's to watch A Christmas Carol performed by, amongst others, some ex-Lea pupils which is always lovely to see.

Our Netball and Football teams have again been in winning form this week, please do read their reports below.

I would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Bourne who, single handedly, has put up our new play equipment shed on KS2 in the dark and rain this week. We shall be filling it up over the next few months with lots of fun things for the children to use at break and lunchtimes.



Parking around the school continues to be a problem. This week I have received complaints from residents and parents, who have brought to my attention, illegal and inconsiderate parking. St Albans and District Council now have a parking hotline 01727 845 283 and email address illegalparking@stalbans.gov.uk, you can find more information on their website Contact Us, Parking FAQs and Verge and Footway Information | St Albans City and District Council

So take care, you may be reported for illegal parking!

Tracey Berry

FUNDRAISING

If you would like to support our school, donations are always gratefully received and incredibly appreciated. We have an Amazon wishlist Amazon.co.uk and monetary donations can be made through Kindlink (please click on the Kindlink logo below). Donations can be a one off payment or a monthly donation.

kindlink

DATES FOR THE DIARY

November 2026

Mon 23	Maths week
Mon 23	Flu vaccinations
Tue 24	Van Cols (individual/sibling photos)
Tue 24	Y5/6 Netball v The Grove (A)
Wed 25	Y1/2 Vision Screening
Thur 26	Y5/6 Football v The Grove (A)
Mon 30	Jump Christmas visit
Mon 30	Y5/6 Netball v St Nicholas (H)

December 2026

Tue 1, 14:00 & 19:00	Y3/4 Christmas concert
Tue 1	Y5/6 Netball v Manland (A)
Tue 8, 9:30	Music assembly
Tue 8, 14:30	Reception Nativity
Tue 8,	Y5/6 Boys Football v Manland (A)
Wed 9, 9:00	Nursery Jingle and Mingle
Wed 9	Rotary Carol service
Wed 9	Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper day
Thur 10	Jump Christmas visit
Tue 15, 9:15 & 14:00	Y1/2 Christmas play
Wed 16	Y1-Y6 Panto
Wed 16	YN/YR Live Nativity
Fri 18, 13:15	End of Term

January 2027

Mon 4	**INSET Day**
Tue 5	Start of Term

February 2027

Wed 10, 15:40-19:00	Parent consultations
Thur 11, 15:40-19:00	Parent consultations
Mon 15—Fri 19	**Half term**

For a longer term view of key dates please visit our school website at **https://lea-pri.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/calendar**

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE



Our attendance target is 97%.

Total attendance for last week was 97.42%.

SCHOOL NEWS

Flu vaccinations The vaccination team will be attending on Monday 23rd November, for children who were absent for the first two sessions.

Van Cols Our school photographers will be here on Tuesday 24th November to take individual and sibling photographs.

Harpenden Lions Harpenden Lions Club CIO | Charity Harpenden Volunteering Good Causes
Thank you to the Harpenden Lions for their kind donation of books for our school, the children are already enjoying them!





Wreath Making workshop Please see the Wreath Making workshop poster below, this is being organised by one of our parents and she will kindly donate £5 to the PTA for every Lea parent/carer who books.

SPORTS REPORT

Y5/6 Netball On Tuesday 17th November, the Netballers played The Kings in a Netball friendly. The final score was 7-1 to The Kings. Our players were: Alyssa, Mabel, Esmee, Ayla, Isabella, Onni, Kira, Harriet, Haveena, Taila, Penelope, Sophie, Rea, Bella N and Zoe. It was challenging but a good game. The player who scored was Sophie and we all cheered and showed great sportsmanship even when the other team scored.

Match report written by: Alyssa, Esmee, Mabel and Harriet

Y5/6 Boys Football On Thursday 19th November, the A team played The Kings in a Football friendly. The final score was 7-0 to The Lea. The players were Julen, Harry, Jackson, Dan A, Dan M, Cris, Matty, Isiah and Lenny. The goal scorers were Harry X4, Isiah, Daniel and Julen. To improve for next time, we could pass it more. The star player was Julen.

Match Report writing by: Julen and Harry W

On Thursday 19th November, the B team played The Kings in a Football friendly. The final score was 2-1 to the Lea. The best moments were when we got the winning goal. To improve for next time is more communication and more passes. The star player was Ruben.

Match Report writing by: Theo

TEAM POINTS

Emerald were the winning teams this week. Well done!

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery **Hugo**

For sharing his amazing knowledge about the world around him and being engaged in our topic all week.

Reception **Leo**

For improving on his sitting and listening skills on the carpet.

Year 1 **Eleonora**

For fantastic reading during phonics and reading time.

Year 2 **The Whole Class**

For great behaviour and learning during our Castles workshop.

Year 3 **Sophie**

For having a positive growth mindset and creating a piece of writing consistently in the first person.

Year 4 **Jeet**

For working carefully to convert her notes into great writing.

Ishaan

For always contributing and working thoughtfully in maths.

Year 5 **Lenny**

For being resilient and trying hard in all lessons.

Year 6 **Daniel M**

For being an all-round superstar who always does the right thing, a true role model in Year 6.

Sports **Harriet (Year 6)**

For demonstrating some great goalkeeping during our Netball match.

AJ (Year 2)

For trying his best in all PE lessons.

OUR CLASS WORD OF THE WEEK

Nursery	Reception	Year 1
nocturnal	**acorn**	**unique**
Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
healthy	**tormentors**	**spontaneous**
Year 5	Year 6	
exhaustible	**cantankerous**	

Changes to Free School Meals Eligibility

From September 2026 the eligibility for free school meals (FSM) has changed. Children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive FSM. Check your child's FSM eligibility and additional benefits below.

Questions about FSM? Contact your child's school



	Targeted free school meals (T-FSM)	Expanded free school meals (E-FSM)	Universal Infant free school meals (UIFSM)
Benefits-based	✓	✓	✗
Eligibility Check for Pupils	In households in receipt of Universal Credit, with **annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.**	In households in receipt of Universal Credit, with **annual household earnings over £7,400.**	No eligibility checks are required for UIFSM *
The child will get Free Meals at School	✓	✓	✓
Registration required on Local Authority website	✓	✓	✗ **
Other benefits or entitlements for the child	Herts Card and HAPpy: Holiday Activity Programme	Herts Card	Must register for T-FSM or E-FSM to receive benefits **
Pupil Premium Funding for the child's school	✓	✗	✗

* All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2, in state-funded schools, regardless of household earnings, are entitled to UIFSM.

** If the household is in receipt of Universal Credit, then eligibility should be checked for T-FSM or E-FSM and a registration made.

Other households may also be entitled to FSM (if receiving income-related Employment and Support Allowance, the guaranteed element of Pension Credit, or families with no recourse to public funds). If this applies to you, please contact your child's school office for advice.

HAPpy: Holiday Activity programme

To access the HAPpy holiday programmes, children must now meet the new **Targeted FSM threshold**.

The FSM eligibility change means some children who previously accessed the HAPpy: Holiday Activity Programme will no longer be eligible to attend after Sept 2026.

Visit HAPpy

Herts Card

This card gives discounts to children from low income families for lots of activities and days out that they might not be able to access otherwise.

Visit Herts Card

Need Help to Manage the Cost of Living?

For help and advice please visit the Help to manage the cost of living page on the Hertfordshire County Council website.

Visit Cost of Living

Information applies to residents of Hertfordshire only | Source: UK Government | Published: Nov 2026 for HAPpy: Holiday Activity Programme

HARPENDEN CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Sunday 22nd November, 12 – 6pm

www.harpenden.gov.uk

Procession
Food & Drink
Fairground Rides
Activities
Christmas Lights

Music
Santa's Grotto
Young Enterprise
Christmas Market
Entertainment



Organised by

HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

Principal Sponsors

NeVes SOLICITORS

COTSWOLD COMPANY

St John Ambulance

HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

CHRISTMAS Emergency Services Open Day



In partnership with Harpenden Christmas Carnival

HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

Date: Sunday 22nd November 2026

Time: 1 - 5pm

Location: Harpenden Fire Station, Leyton Road, Harpenden





Fire Engine • Blood Bikes • Police Vehicles
St Johns Ambulance • Children's Activities
Crime Prevention Advice • Displays • Food & Drink Available


Wreath Making
WORKSHOP
Join us for a festive evening of
wreath making, prosecco and nibbles.
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 28TH
BATFORD
MEMORIAL HALL
7:30 – 10PM
SATURDAY
5TH DECEMBER
BATFORD
MEMORIAL HALL
7:30 – 10PM
£55
PER PERSON
£50
FOR RETURNING
CUSTOMERS
Contact Us
gjflorists@outlook.com
g_j_flowers
07493067612