



## PGL SCHOOL JOURNEY

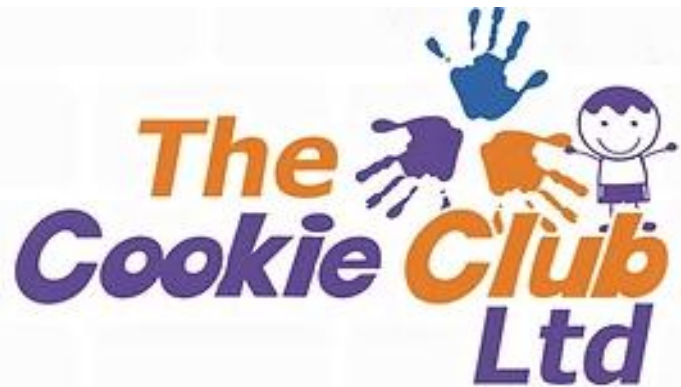
Children in Years 5 and 6 had the most wonderful weekend on the beautiful Suffolk Coast at PGL Bawdsey Manor. They took part in so many different activities, including giant swing, climbing, abseiling, raft building and a beautiful coastal walk, amongst others.

The children were an absolute pleasure to be with; fabulous behaviour, support for their friends and embracing all the opportunities given to them with open arms. An especially big thank you to all the staff who enabled the trip to happen by giving up their weekend. Thank you to all the parents who have taken the time to email in thanks to the staff team; your kind words and appreciation mean a lot to us!





On Tuesday, Class 4 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Natural History Museum in Tring. The children took part in a skeleton workshop and uncovered why animals have skeletons and the variety of forms among animals. In groups, they studied a range of vertebrate skeletons and predicted what species the real skeletons have come from. The workshop leader was really impressed with the children's knowledge and their use of scientific vocabulary. After the workshop, the children were able to explore the six galleries which exhibit 4,900 fascinating mounted specimens including the class's favourite – The Polar Bear.



## Exciting news! Wraparound Care from September, here at St Ippolyts

From September 2025, Cookie Club after school care will be operating onsite at our school. This is an exciting new development for St Ippolyts and means that, alongside our Early Bird Club, we are now offering full wraparound care.

We are delighted to be able to offer additional places for St Ippolyts children, whilst continuing our valuable partnership with Wymondley Primary School.



We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the Schools Games Mark in PLATINUM, the highest school games award possible! This is a fabulous achievement - well done to Mr Jefferies and all the children and adults who contribute to sports!



Cricket winners!  
Congratulations to the cricketers who played brilliantly & won the district tournament on Tuesday. Their win is especially impressive as they only arrived home from their exhausting weekend at PGL the night before!  
Well done team, we are very proud of your commitment and resilience!



# Staff update

Mrs Thain's last day with us will be Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June and we wish her love and best wishes as she departs for maternity leave. From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June until the end of term, Class 4 will be taught by a combination of Mrs Stewart and one of our regular supply teachers, Miss Eaton. Mrs Thain has kindly left a plan for the remaining few weeks of term to ensure a smooth transition. However, this means that Mrs Stewart will not be as readily available as she is currently, so if you need her for SEND matters, please be patient as you will not be able to get an instant response to emails or phone calls.

Mrs Bean is hoping to be able to work until the end of term before starting her maternity leave. We are all very much looking forward to meeting the St Ipps babies!

I am pleased to share that we have appointed Mrs Russell to join our teaching team from the autumn. Mrs Russell brings many years of experience with her, and I am sure will be a brilliant addition to the St Ippolyts School team.

## Understanding Mixed-Age Classes in Our School

In smaller primary schools like ours, mixed-age classes are a natural and necessary part of how we are organised. With fewer pupils in each year group, combining year groups into one class ensures that all children can be taught effectively within the resources available.

We understand that some parents may have questions about how the curriculum is managed in a mixed-age setting. Please be assured that teachers are highly skilled in planning lessons that meet the needs of every child, regardless of age. Each pupil is taught according to their individual stage of learning, not simply their year group. This allows children to be challenged appropriately and supported where needed.

The national curriculum is designed to be flexible and allows for creative planning across year groups. In our mixed-age classes, we ensure full curriculum coverage for both year groups over a two-year cycle. Our teaching staff work hard to ensure that all learning is carefully structured, engaging, and tailored to support progress for every pupil.

Mixed-age classes also offer many benefits. Younger children can be inspired by older peers, and older pupils often thrive when given opportunities to mentor and model positive behaviours and attitudes. This helps build a strong sense of community and collaboration in the classroom, through children building relationships with others who they may not have otherwise encountered.

If you have any questions about how your child's class is structured or how we support their individual learning needs, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher.

# End of term family picnic Save the date!



## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

On the afternoon of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July, the Year 6 Leavers will hold their traditional 'Leavers Service' in church. Year 6 parents are very warmly invited to attend – Miss Walker will email further details in due course.

After school on the same day, we would love everyone to join us on the school field for a celebratory family picnic – a chance to say goodbye to our leavers and spend some relaxed time together after a busy, successful year.

Please bring your own refreshments, picnic blankets, deckchairs, etc., and enjoy the opportunity to connect as a school family. Younger siblings, babies, grandparents, and all family members are very welcome. Just head to the field after school, pick a spot, and make yourself at home (you might want to avoid the sports pitches though, in case of an impromptu rounders match!)

# CLASS 1 CAKE DAY

## FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Dear Class 1 parents,

The PTA are holding a cake sale on 20<sup>th</sup> June to raise funds for school. This time it is the turn of Class 1 to each supply small cakes or biscuits to sell on the day. Please make sure that any tins, plates or containers are clearly named.

We would be very grateful if you could **donate 15 cakes for cake day**, to ensure that we have enough to go around & the children are not left disappointed. These cakes /biscuits can be either homemade or bought. You may want to plan some kitchen time to make or decorate the cakes with your child! **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CAKES MUST BE NUT-FREE.**

The cakes will be sold during the morning break to the whole of the school, any remaining cakes will be sold outside school at home time. We hope that you will be able to support us with this event, and we thank you in anticipation.

Thank you from The PTA

## Exciting Fridays Coming UP!

As you may know, there are some super fun things happening at school over the next few Fridays, and I'm here to tell you all about them!

First of all, the PTA are going to be selling ice lollies every Friday after school! They cost £1 each, and you can get them from outside the office. They're super yummy and perfect now that it's getting warmer.

Don't forget your pound!

Next is something really tasty - it's Class 1 Cake Day on Friday 20th June! In the morning, Class 1 are going to bring in 15 cakes each, and at break time, everyone in school can buy up to two cakes to eat! They only cost 25p each, which is a total bargain. If there are any cakes left, they will be sold after school too, so you might get a second chance.

And guess what? There's a non-uniform day coming up on Friday 27th June! But it's not just for fun - we're doing it to collect donations for the PTA Summer Fair. If you're in Classes 1, 2 or 3, please bring a new small toy for the Toy Tombola. If you're in Classes 4, 5 or 6, bring a bottle for the Bottle Tombola (like bubble bath or juice - not open ones!). Everything has to be new and unopened.

So get ready for ice lollies, cakes, and a day without uniform - all while helping out the school!

"Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, and dreams are forever."  
- Walt Disney.

# Summer Fair

## Non uniform day

**Children are invited to come in non-uniform on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June in exchange for PTA summer fair donations**

**Classes 1,2 and 3 to bring (new) small toys for our Toy Tombola stall** *(for example, pencils, pens, colouring books, keyrings, novelty items, puzzles, small craft kits, pocket games etc)*

**Classes 4,5 and 6 to bring bottles for our Bottle Tombola stall** *(for example, boozy bottles such as wine/fizz or spirits, bubble bath, soft drinks - basically anything in a bottle! New and unopened only)*

## Key to the Fair!

We are running a competition for a chance to win the Key to the Summer Fair. One lucky winner will get free entry to all the games, including the Bouncy castle and Obstacle course.

To enter, children need to bring £1 to school, in a named envelope between 23rd and 27th June. One entry per child.

## TOKENS

Tokens will be available to buy online in advance at a discounted rate, between 23rd to 29th June.

**50p = 1 TK**

**£5 = 10 TK**

**£10 = 22 TK - Save £1**

**£20 = 45 TK - Save £2.50**

Parents will then be able to collect their pre-bought tokens from the office from 30th June.

# PTA SUMMER DISCO

**Important, please read on, as this event has a new format for 2025**

**This year's Summer Disco takes place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June.**

As you are aware, this event must have a limit on numbers for safety reasons, and as the school has grown in size of the years, this has meant not everyone has been able to get a ticket. To resolve this issue and after much deliberation, the PTA have decided to make the summer disco for **Years 1- 6 children only**, meaning that all the older children should be able to get a ticket.

The disco has a **new time slot: 3.15pm – 5pm**, straight after school. The disco is on the same day as non-uniform day, so children can come to school wearing their clothes for the disco. If they want to bring any accessories or additional clothes for the disco, they can bring them in a carrier bag.

As the disco takes place straight after school, it will work a bit like Movie and Munch, with the children going to the hall as soon as school finishes. Those who are not attending the disco will be dismissed at hometime as usual at 3.15pm.

The usual tuck shop, hair styling, nail varnishing etc will be on offer. Children should bring their **pocket money for the disco in a clearly named purse**. The teachers will collect it all during morning registration for safekeeping during the day. Please do not send loose cash.

At the end of the disco at 5pm, children will be dismissed by the staff at their **usual hometime collection points**, so there is no need to come to the hall.

Bookings will open soon on Arbor. We will send an email when bookings are ready to open

**£5 per child to include a bottle of water**



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Dear All

May 2025

Your school is one of four primary schools in Hitchin that has signed up for a really exciting and creative project that we at Walsworth Road Baptist Church are arranging this summer term called "AHEAD". In short, "AHEAD" will be an exhibition of artwork expressing the personal insights of local children about things they are feeling and thinking, perhaps about finding their place in a competitive world, perhaps about the things that are coming up, whether a delight to look forward to, or indeed a daunting challenge to be faced.

All the children's pictures will be submitted through their schools, and must be submitted, please, by Wednesday 25 June. The artwork will be passed on to us at the church, where we will then host the exhibition open to all families and indeed to the general public – with free admission to all! - during the weekend of 5-6 July. As promised in the school assembly, every piece of artwork that complies with the instructions here will be included in the display. The "AHEAD" Exhibition will be open on Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm (and indeed forms part of our church's community open day, called One Fine Day!), and again on Sunday 2.00 - 5.00pm; refreshments will be available. The exhibition is also listed, we understand, in the Hitchin Festival programme guide this year.

As an extra incentive to take part, we are delighted that a panel of local artists will be reviewing all the pictures, and that prizes will be awarded for the best artwork created by children in each of Key Stage 1 & 2.

#### What you need to know:

You can use any form of picture-making using your own creativity (no A.I. please!), except that entries must be on **a sheet of A4 paper** (design can be Portrait or Landscape).

Please ensure your name, school and year group is written **on the back of your artwork**, so that we can contact you if you are a winner!

Please submit only one piece of artwork per person, please.

Hand in the artwork to your school **by Wednesday 25 June** – display in the exhibition cannot be guaranteed to entries received later than this.

Please come along to the Exhibition during the weekend 5-6 July to see all the artwork on display! And please note too, as we said in the assembly, we are unable to return the artwork after the exhibition.

Following a number of previous such exhibitions (since 2008, and most recently *Hitchin Hearts*), we are looking forward again to showing off all the artistic skills and talents of local children. So we are really grateful to the primary schools for their participation and encouragement in organising this, and to the children for taking part too, and indeed for your support at home too.

If you have any questions or concerns about this art project, please do get in touch with me rather than your school – see my contact details above.

Andrew J Henton Pusey  
Minister



Walsworth Road Baptist Church, Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP  
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