



This half term we are focussing on: Honesty

William Ransom Weekly

Good Morning Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope your children had a wonderful summer and that you were all able to enjoy some of it with them.

It has been great seeing the children settling into life in their new classes and getting used to their new teachers, their new classroom and their new routines. It takes time to adapt to all of these changes, and the new expectations that come with them, but that is exactly what the next few weeks are all about and the staff team will be supporting every child in doing just that.

Another noticeable change, that you may have already heard about, is the introduction of a collaborative class marble reward system. All children can be awarded a marble for a variety of positive reasons and over time the target line will be reached, a class reward (which the children have decided on) will be randomly chosen and given and the process will start all over again. The aim of this is to inspire a deeper sense of community within each class (both in the classroom and outside of it), with that feeling that when one person achieves, we all achieve. It hopefully means that everyone in the class is happy for every marble-achieving child and gives the sense that we are all in it together and pushing for the same goal.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend ahead!

Mr Plunkett



Celebration of Sport in the WR Community

We want to celebrate all of the physical activity and sport that is taking place outside of school. So if your child is taking place in a sport, or physical activity outside of school, then please send in a photo of them in action for our Celebration of Sport in the WR Community display. We want to include a huge variety of physical activities, so whatever your personal achievement in whatever physical activity, we want to

celebrate it! Please email all photos to

sport@wransom.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your support!



Coming Up...

Tuesday

- NSPCC Assembly KS2

Wednesday

- NSPCC Assembly KS1

Friday

- Roald Dahl Day - Whole School

A full years date list will be included with next weeks newsletter

Roald Dahl Day at WR

On Friday 13th September, we will be celebrating Roald Dahl Day in school. If your child would like to be involved, they can come into school in their pyjamas (dressing gowns optional) for the day and each class will have a Roald Dahl themed activity. This is an optional dress down activity. If your child doesn't want to wear their PJs, they should come into school in uniform as usual. Roald Dahl Day raises money to provide specialist nurses and support for seriously ill children across the UK. If you would like to make a donation for this dress down day, please do so on Arbor. If you would like to find out more about this marvellous charity, follow this link

What We Do | Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity (roalddahlcharity.org)



Festival of Languages 2024

Preparations are underway for our Festival of Languages this year. Every year, we celebrate the European Day of Languages in school by inviting parents, grandparents, friends and relatives into school to share their knowledge about any other country and its language.

The feedback from the children is always fantastic. In the past, they have enjoyed Punjabi dancing lessons, French singing, Wolof chanting, snacks from Bangladesh, Mexico, Senegal, Italy, India and lots more. We would like to introduce the children to as many different languages and cultures as possible again this year and will therefore need your help. If you (or a family member or friend) can speak any foreign language (not just European) or if you have spent a great deal of time in a country and feel that you have information, songs, dances, stories that you could share with the children on Friday 27th September, please fill in the attached google form and I will get in touch with you.

<https://forms.gle/nuMYpDNZHPdSVrjB8>

Please don't be afraid to volunteer, we won't be expecting you to teach and class teachers will be with you at all times. I am happy to meet with you to discuss ideas and share what worked well last year.

Alternatively, I can give more information by phone or email. The parents/grandparents who helped last year were fantastic and I think they enjoyed the day as much as the children did!

Food From around the World - Thursday 10th October 3.30-4.30pm

This event was so popular last year with parents and children enjoying lots of different foods from a huge range of countries so we would like to repeat it! We have chosen Thursday 10th October 3.30-4.30pm.

We can only hold this event if we have chefs! Is this something you would be interested in doing? We could, of course, pay for ingredients. If so, please complete this form

<https://forms.gle/Lx9sBSNbOgQhC7em7>

If you have any questions about either of these events, please email
j.hall@wransom.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your support!
Mrs Hall



Current opening times for the Uniform Shed

Current opening times for the Uniform Shed
The Second Hand Uniform Shed will reopen following the summer break on Tuesday 10th September. The opening times have changed and are currently:

Mondays: 8:50am - 9:20am

Tuesdays: 8:50am - 9:20am

Wednesdays: 2:30pm - 3:00pm

Fridays: 8:20am - 9:20am

If you have any pre-loved uniform that you'd like to donate to the shed, please leave it in the donation box next to the uniform shed.



Smartphone Free Childhood pact coming soon!

Following conversations and events last term regarding concerns about smartphone and social media use among children, a group of parents/carers is continuing to co-ordinate efforts at William Ransom to help change the status quo around smartphone use.

In the coming weeks you'll be hearing more about alternatives to smartphones as well as the collaboration with other Hitchin schools to collectively reduce smartphone use among under-14s before the children currently at William Ransom reach secondary school.

There will also very soon be the opportunity to join the growing number of parents/carers nationally that are signing up to a pact to delay the age at which their child will have a smartphone - further info to follow.

To find out more about the national Smartphone Free Childhood movement - and the reasons why delaying smartphone use matters - visit <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

The Hitchin Family Support Workers support all of the Hitchin school Families, including every one of our WR Families, so if you think this could be of use to you, please contact the school office

Hitchin Partnership CIO Family Support Services

Registered Charity No: 1158637 | <http://hitchinpartnership.org/>

Providing a quality family support service with experienced and qualified Family Support Workers.



Hitchin Partnership Team provides a family support service to 26 schools in Hitchin and the surrounding villages. We work alongside families giving practical support and **user friendly parenting strategies**.

The team is experienced in supporting families where children have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and provides advice on friendship and bullying issues. This includes looking at **family routines**, addressing **attendance** and **challenging behaviour**.

Through the support of local community groups and fundraising we provide **practical help** in times of hardship and crisis. Our service prides itself on joined up working to ensure the whole family is supported to achieve the very best outcomes. This in turn helps **families build confidence** with parenting approaches, providing children with happier and healthier lives to **enable** them to **achieve** their best.

Our Services



Why a Family Support Worker?

Referrals to our support service come through your child's school and are only provided with parental consent. We can help with a number of things relating to your child and family life. This could be signposting the right services, attending appointments with you, help completing forms, concerns over debt or perhaps giving guidance on trying new routines to help at home.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Family Support | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EHM/TAF support | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bullying |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Routines | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperamental Teenagers |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Issues with friendships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationships |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mediation | |
| Behaviour & Attendance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysing family routines/lifestyles; enabling good homework/bedtime routines | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admissions support |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establishing strategies for pupil/staff and parents to undertake to provide consistency in approach | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transition/Appeals support |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protective Behaviours facilitators |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Experience with supporting Special Educational Needs |
| Emotional Wellbeing Support | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empowering children | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raising self-esteem and confidence | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reducing stress and anxieties | |
| Financial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support with family breakdown and relationships | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Looking at budgeting, debts, signposting for further help. | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signposting and support around debt and risk of eviction. | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sourcing essential household items or clothing. | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We are members of the Hitchin Food Provision Team | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorised agency for Foodbank. | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabling children to attend activity clubs during school holidays. | |

How to get support



Your child's school will discuss with you why they think a referral will be beneficial. If you are unsure at this stage, one of our team members could meet with you at your child's school. Once you have agreed to the referral and have consented to our intervention, one of our team members will call you to arrange an initial meeting. This could be held at our offices in Hitchin, at your child's school or in your home.

Together we would hope to:

- Promote family led approaches that are realistic and sustainable for you.
- Identify strengths, help to build upon self-esteem and confidence to sustain changes.
- Offer regular meetings together to review progress and barriers.
- Work alongside you as a professional friend.

Debbie Robins

Partnership Manager

07817 715023

debbie.robins@maryexton.herts.sch.uk

Irene Bamberough

Senior Family Support Worker

Margaret Brannigan

Family Support Worker

Karen Vincent

Family Support Worker

Lead School – Mary Exton Primary School

Angharad Patterson and Tracy Clements – Co Headteachers

head@maryexton.herts.sch.uk

Hitchin Partnership Schools



See website for signposting, local information, training and school holiday activity summary.

<http://hitchinpartnership.org/>

Parent & Carer Support TALKING ASD & ADHD Workshops Autumn 2024



Workshops are FREE to parents and carers living in [Hertfordshire](#) of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

[Eventbrite Page](#)

THE TEENAGE YEARS



- Teenage brain development and how it affects a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Reducing conflict by learning how to respond effectively to difficult situations.
- Strengthening your parent/child relationship.
- How to agree appropriate boundaries and teach risk assessment.
- Adapting our parenting approach to help our teens become independent adults.

Monday 25th November 7.30-9.15pm

Workshop SL690 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-the-teenage-years-690-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-915749771217?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

RESPONDING to ANGER



- The difference between healthy & unhealthy anger.
- The pattern that anger takes and how to spot the non-verbal signs early.
- Our own and our children's triggers.
- Techniques that stop angry and aggressive behaviour escalating and when to use them.
- How to respond to our child in meltdown, keeping ourselves, our child and siblings safe.

Monday 4th November 7.30-9.15pm

Workshop SL688 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-responding-to-anger688-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-915702028417?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

TECH USE



- What you can do to keep your child safe online.
- Helping your child to switch their device off.
- What you can do to support any difficulties with behaviour when your child is playing.
- The effect of using their devices as a reward or consequence.
- Managing difficult conversations with confidence.
- Teaching your child to develop their own methods of regulating device use and staying safe.

Thursday 21st November 9.30-11.15am

Workshop SL689 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-tech-use689-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-915726882757?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

SCHOOL AVOIDANCE



- What is Emotionally Based School Avoidance and is this what your child is experiencing?
- Common causes and triggers of school avoidance.
- How EBSA is affecting you and your family.
- Practical steps you can take to support your child and look after yourself.
- How to work with your school in your child's best interests.

Wednesday 23rd October 9.30-11.15am

Workshop SL687 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-school-avoidance687-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-915127068697?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

Follow on:



Contact via:

info@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



TALKING FAMILIES



6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 0-12 sharing tips on:

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self-esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries.
- Responding to tantrums and difficult feelings in children.
- Developing a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future.

Tuesdays 9.00-10.00am

17th Sep - 1st Oct

FULLY BOOKED

Online Course ID 678

Tuesdays 7.00-9.00pm

5th Nov - 10th Dec

Venue: To be confirmed

STEVENAGE Course ID 679

Thursdays 8.00-10.30pm

19th Sep - 3rd Oct

FULLY BOOKED

Online Course ID 680

TALKING ANXIETY in FAMILIES



6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of under 12's, supporting you to:

- Understand why young people and adults get anxious.
- Develop strategies to handle anxiety in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anxiety.
- Reduce stress and tension.
- Encourage resilient behaviour.

Tuesdays 9.45-11.30am

5th Nov - 10th Dec

Online Course ID 677

TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS



A 6-week group for parents and carers of children with any additional need from 2-25. Your child does not need a diagnosis to join.

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict.
- Improve emotional regulation.
- Explore sensory needs.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage different needs in your family.

Mondays 8.00-9.00am

16th Sep - 1st Oct

FULLY BOOKED

Course ID 675

Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am

6th Nov - 11th Dec

Venue: To be confirmed

ST ALBANS Course ID 676

Booking essential. Please Quote the Course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, please contact Supporting Links on: **07512 709556** or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund. Information taken on booking will be used to process your booking, check your eligibility, identify any access needs and will be stored in accordance with our GDPR policy which is available on request.



ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP DAY

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

09.30 - 15.30

Jubilee Hall STAHS

ARE YOU AGED 7 TO 11? DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

St Albans High School is hosting an Orchestra Workshop Day on Sunday 29 September 2024 to give young musicians in the local area the opportunity to come together and enjoy a day of music making. The day is free to attend and is open to any child in Year 3-6 who plays an orchestral instrument (minimum standard of Grade 1 applies).

Instruments included in the workshop are as follows:

FLUTE OBOE CLARINET BASSOON SAXOPHONE VIOLIN
VIOLA CELLO DOUBLE BASS GUITAR HARP FRENCH HORN
TRUMPET TROMBONE EUPHONIUM PERCUSSION

If your child plays an instrument that isn't listed above, please contact us.

The day will run from 09.30-15.30 with an informal concert at 15.00 (families are welcome to attend the concert). The day comprises a variety of musical games, instrument-specific training sessions and orchestral and performance workshops. Sessions will be led by Julian Smith, Acting Director of Music at STAHS, and assisted by our highly experienced specialist music staff.

Lunch and snacks will be provided by STAHS. Note that we have a no nut policy at the school. Please ensure instruments are clearly labelled with your child's name and school.

To register your interest, please complete the form at this [link](#) by Friday 13 September.



[@stahsmusic](#)

musicevents@stahs.org.uk

St Albans High School
1-3 Townsend Avenue
St Albans
AL1 3SJ

Reminders...

WR Mobile Phone and Smartwatch Policy

The school position is, and continues to be, that phones and smartwatches should not be being brought into school. The exception to this is when a child requires their phone for use before they arrive at school, or after they leave school. When this is the case, phones must be handed into the school office before school starts or as soon as the child enters the school building.



They can be collected at 3:20pm. Smartwatches should not be worn into school. If they are seen in school, the child will be asked to hand the watch into the school office, to be collected at 3:20pm. This is due to the camera and recording functionality, that exist on many, which is not permitted at school.

Vomiting and Diarrhoea

A reminder that children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick/had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Headlice

Unfortunately, your child may come into contact with headlice. For further information on what this might look like and what to do about it [please click here](#).



Please Look After Our Neighbours

With 422 children now in the school, we realise that picking up and dropping off are going to be very busy times outside the school. But please make sure that you are parking sensibly and responsibly and being courteous to our neighbours.

Taking Care Around Railways

We wanted to share the following links to two assembly videos focussed on railway safety with you all. With the school being in close proximity to a railway track and station, we are aware that some of our children are of an age where they might be independently exploring their local community and we want everyone to be as safe as possible. You can access the KS1 video by [clicking here](#) and the KS2 video by [clicking here](#).



Crossing Wymondley Road

As you are all aware, Lollipop Kate has now retired and the role is currently being advertised. [Please click here if you are interested in finding out more](#). In the meantime, please continue to remind your children to take extra care and be extra cautious when using the crossing on Wymondley Road.



WILLIAM RANSOM
WRAP-AROUND CLUB

BREAKFAST CLUB

From 7:30am - £6.00
Breakfast served until 8.15 only

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

Until 5:00 pm - £9.50 per session
Until 5:30 pm - £11.00 per session
Until 6.00 pm - £13.00 per session



MON Multi-Activity TUE Summer Sports WED Dodgeball THU Inflatables FRI FRIDAY Friday Fun Day



At our after school club, children will start the session with the activity listed above or by having time in our chill and care area where they will have access to a variety of play activities. (Activities may be subject to change). After tea, there will be further opportunities for indoor or outdoor games and play activities or quiet time if they prefer.

To register please go to

risingstars.magicbooking.co.uk

If you need to contact us please email
williamransom@risingstars-wraparound.co.uk 07919 330254
or for admin queries: info@risingstars-wraparound.co.uk 01462 790152

On registering your child for a place on our course Rising Stars will collect certain information about you/your child which will include your names, email address, telephone number, child's date of birth, gender and school. We will not share this information with any third party for marketing purposes.

Allergy Awareness To Protect Every Child

We need everyone to do all they can to protect every child in the school. Some of our children have known allergies, others are being diagnosed and there will be some who have allergies that have yet to come to light.

Children bringing snacks in for breaktimes should only be bringing in fruit. Please ensure that your child is not bringing in nut based snacks.

Please also note we are unable to have in school, or hand out, birthday sweets/cakes. This is for everyone's safety. Thank you for your support.

School Uniform

Please can all parents please ensure that children are attending school wearing the correct school uniform. If there are difficulties in doing that, please approach a member of the School Office or a member of the leadership team and we will happily discuss this further with you.

