



**Value of the month – our value of the month is aspiration.**

Dear parents and guardians,

As we reach the end of the first half term, it is hard to believe we are already halfway through the school year! Aspiration, to us, aspiration is not just about dreaming big; it is about the steady, quiet work of turning "I can't" into "I can't yet." Whether it is mastering a complex concept in the classroom or picking up a new skill on the pitch, we are incredibly proud of the ambition our students are showing as they push past their comfort zones.

**Community & Celebration** - That sense of shared purpose and looking forward brings us to a very special highlight on our calendar. We are delighted to invite you to our **community Iftar event**, which will take place shortly after the half-term break. It promises to be a wonderful evening of reflection, connection, and breaking bread together as a school family. Invites have already gone out via ParentMail and how to respond, if you would like to attend. We cannot wait to celebrate this season of renewal with you all.

**Health & Safety First** - While we love seeing our students express their personalities, we need to address a growing health and safety concern regarding bag charms and keychains. While these trinkets may seem like harmless fun, they pose a significant risk within a busy school environment. Many of these charms are made of small, detachable parts or fragile materials that can easily break off. This creates a serious **choking hazard**, particularly for our younger students and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) who may explore objects through touch or taste. To ensure the physical safety of every child in our care, we must maintain a "bits-free" environment on school bags.

**Protecting Our Students and Staff: Nut-Free Policy** - Following our recent **ParentMail** communication, we would like to reinforce that we are a strictly **nut-free school**. We have several children across the school with severe, life-threatening nut allergies (anaphylaxis). Even the slightest contact with nut products—whether through shared snacks or residue on surfaces—can lead to a serious medical emergency. We also like to ensure our staff are also safe from exposure.

**Uniform Standards and Expectations** - Our school policy is designed to be **fair and consistent for all**. To maintain our sense of unity, we will be following up with families where we notice expectations are not being met. It is important that the policy has been applied equally across the entire school community so that no student feels singled out or exempt from the standards have been agreed upon.

- **Communication is Key:** If you are having trouble or have questions regarding uniform, please keep your child's class teacher informed.
- **Family Support:** Our Family Support team is always here to help. If there are specific circumstances or barriers preventing you from meeting the uniform requirements, please reach out to us directly so we can provide assistance.

**E-safety** – [Safer Internet Day](#) has been and gone, however e-safety is an everyday focus for educators and parents. The school's internet provider (LGfL) has a wonderful portal for parents called [ParentSafe](#). It has clear and concise information for parents about devices, the internet, TV, and streaming programmes, also advice around computer/console games.

**Parent Consultation Evening** – a reminder that upcoming event will be on the **24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2026** and booking for this event will be via ParentMail. It is a wonderful time to celebrate your child's successes; the skills they have developed and next steps in their learning journey.

## Updates from year groups:

- **Nursery & Reception** – produce a wonderful weekly newsletter with all the exciting information about what they are working on and how you can best support your child during the week.
- **Year 1** – With our core subjects, it has been a "wiggly" and wonderful fortnight in Year 1! We kicked off our English journey by diving into Julia Donaldson's [Superworm](#), using the story to practice our retelling skills and master the conjunction "**and**" to build longer sentences. We also became word detectives, investigating how the "**ed**" suffix changes verbs into the past tense, like how Superworm *squirmed* and *coiled* through his adventures. As we moved into week two, we transitioned from storytelling to scientific writing by exploring the **life cycle of a worm**. The children watched real-life footage of worms being born and learned how to structure an **explanation text** using titles, diagrams, and arrows. We spent the week carefully drafting our own life cycle reports—moving from the tiny egg stage to the adult worm—before "hunting for treasure" in our work to celebrate our best writing. The children have done a fantastic job balancing their creative storytelling with clear, informative science writing! In Maths, our Year 1 mathematicians have been tackling "Numbers to 20," moving beyond simple counting to become real-life problem solvers. We have focused heavily on the **part-whole model**, using Cuisenaire rods and "cherry models" to visualize how numbers are made. The children practiced identifying when they were looking for a missing **part** (subtraction) or the **whole** amount (addition), using the "think 10" strategy to help them bridge across 10. We then applied these skills to "real-world" stories—calculating how many cuddly toys Amira has after her birthday or how many cakes Katie has for her bake sale. It has been wonderful to see the children using mathematical language like *altogether*, *unknown*, and *difference* with such confidence!

With our foundation subjects - we also took some time to celebrate **Children's Mental Health Week** by focusing on our well-being and how to look after our 'big feelings'. To keep ourselves safe in the digital world, we marked **Safer Internet Day** by chatting about how to use **AI and voice assistants**. The children learned that while technology is clever, the best way to stay safe is to keep personal info private and always ask a grown-up for help!

- **Year 2** – With our core subjects, In English, we have been looking at the [Beegu](#) book, using it as a springboard to explore the features of explanation texts. Alongside their reading, the class explored a non-fiction text about stars and planets to learn how to use a dictionary and identify key features like subheadings, glossaries, and visual aids. In grammar and spelling, they have been busy learning how suffixes such as -ed, -ly, -ment, and -less change the meaning of root words. All of this learning culminated in a creative writing project where the children planned and wrote their own explanation texts about a made-up planet, possibly the home planet of Beegu, complete with labelled diagrams to explain its features. In maths, we have been looking at doubling and halving numbers. The children have looked for patterns to help them decide if a number can be halved equally or not and what to do when doubling a number bridge into a new ten.

With foundation subjects, the children have explored a wide range of topics across science, history, and the arts. In science, they learned about the importance of recycling and researched individuals who have developed new materials. Their history lessons focused on discovering significant people and identifying key historical events. In art, the children used the work of [Claude Monet](#) as inspiration to create and reflect on their own pieces. Physical education has been vibrant, with indoor sessions themed around the circus, where students practiced using facial expressions and movements to portray characters from a circus; outdoor PE focused on coordination and jumping skills. To support their personal development, PSHE lessons covered community safety, the concept of responsibility, and a special focus on [Mental Health Week](#) through a collaborative class jigsaw.

- **SEND** – please find the link to [FUN \(Families United Network\)](#) and their wide range of events for families and children who have additional needs or disability. They cover the whole of Bedfordshire and you can find all their holiday club news etc. on the website. Bookings are made via the links on their website. We would also signpost families of children with SEND to: Chums online workshops. These are designed as a starting point for families with children who have low level difficulties. They are one-off 2-hour sessions conducted virtually via Microsoft teams. Book via: [CHUMS-WORKSHOPS-JAN-26-2.pdf](#). [February Half Term at Kids in Action](#): Are you looking for a fun, supportive, and inclusive space this February Half Term? **Kids in Action SEND Holiday Club** is back and we cannot wait to welcome you. **Dates are Tuesday 17th & Thursday 19th February 10am–3pm**

**Family Support – ‘talk to them and not at them’** - When you are speaking to your child/children make sure that you are talking to them, not at them. Make eye contact, pause, and let them interject when they need to. Conversations are so precious, and children learn so much from their interactions with us. How we respond, and how we listen to them, teaches children how valuable their thoughts and opinions are. So, take your time when speaking to your child. Make these conversations matter.



[I CAN](#) - Is a wonderful organisation that provides wonderful resources for parents and family about how to support your child's language development. Click on the blue words to take you their website and parent section.

**Half term break plans** – if you are looking for ideas for the weekend, do look at the ‘what’s on’ page of [The Culture Trust - Luton](#). We would also like to signpost you to the [‘Children’s half term Festival’](#) which has everything from theatre, to circus skills, dance workshops, clay play and so much more. Please find attached a flyer offering a sporting opportunity with – Kixx Football Academy

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break and do enjoy all that you do with friends and family.

Hillborough Infant & Nursery School Team