Camp Primary and Nursery School St Albans
Bringing learning to life

Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5PG Tel: 01727 851056 Email: admin@camp.herts.sch.uk www.camp.herts.sch.uk

17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a very busy half term, full of curiosity, creativity and plenty of *Bringing Learning to Life*! From forming all of our leadership committees and preparing to celebrate Harvest to creating beautiful artwork, Year 4's trip to Verulamium and the fascinating science work happening across the school, there's been so much to celebrate. I hope you enjoy this little snapshot of what the children have been learning, along with some useful updates and dates for the term ahead.

We are pleased to be able to share the **new school menu** from Herts Catering, which will be served in school after half term. This is available on the school website here.

Please remember if you are interested in music lessons for your child, please sign up through **Herts Music Service** who provide music teaching for school aged children across Hertfordshire.

As one of our **Parent governors** is coming to the end of their term, we will soon be sending out information for anyone who may wish to find out more or nominate themselves for the role.

School Security and Martyn's Law
You may have heard about new government guidance known as *Martyn's Law*, which aims to help all public places, including schools, be well prepared for emergencies. We want to reassure parents that our school already has clear safety plans in place and regularly reviews them in line with local and national guidance. While staff practise these procedures, pupils are not involved in lockdown drills; they are just aware that if the fire bell goes off, we go outside and if a whistle blows repeatedly that we come inside. This is simply part of our ongoing commitment to keeping everyone in our school safe.

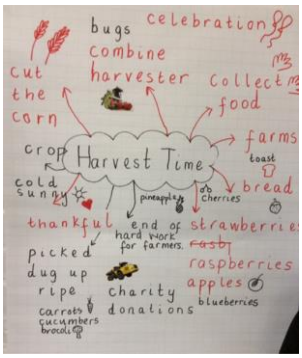
Please remember to check your child's **photo consents** on Arbor – you may not have completed these, or you may have changed your mind about them. We are unable to share photos of your child in the school newsletter unless you have given consent for the 'unnamed external-facing media' category, as our newsletters are uploaded to the school website. If you are having any problems finding or updating your preferences please try using the Arbor website rather than the app. We would also ask that you check medical information and all contact details e.g. phone numbers and addresses, are up to date.

From Monday 3rd November (after half term) School Council representatives will be selling **poppies** for Remembrance Sunday and some other items supporting the Poppy Appeal in the playground every morning and afternoon.

Nursery
The children have had a very busy half-term settling into the routines of the Nursery. They have been working hard to remember how to line up and where things belong in the classroom. The children have been exploring our outside area and making lots of new friends in the process.

Reception
What a fantastic week we've had in Reception, diving into the autumn theme of **Harvest** and becoming budding mathematicians by exploring **measurement**! The children have been engaged, hands-on, and full of energy as they learned new concepts and skills.

Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5PG Tel: 01727 851056 Fax: 01727 855959 www.camp.herts.sch.uk



Our topic this week has been all about where our food comes from and the amazing job farmers do during **Harvest time**. We learned two super new songs! The children loved the lively rhythm of **'Big Red Combine Harvester,'** which got us all moving, and they sang beautifully when learning **'Under the Harvest Moon.'** These songs helped us understand the machines and seasons connected to farming. We discussed different fruits and vegetables that are ready to pick and how the farmer's hard work brings food to our tables. We saw some great drawings of pumpkins!

Year 1

Last week Year 1 celebrated Apple Day in class by learning about the life cycle of an apple, baking yummy apple muffins and making bird feeders which they learnt are important for birds in the winter because there is less food available.

Year 2

Alongside all of our busy learning in Maths and English, we have been enjoying looking for minibeasts outside as part of our Science learning. We have been learning all about microhabitats and how different minibeasts enjoy different living conditions.
In Art we are enjoying being inspired by Monet! We read a story about how he loved to get up early and capture the morning light - all the impressionist painters painted outside in nature. People at the time thought this was very odd as before then, everyone just painted indoors in studios. We couldn't quite manage to get up as early as Monet, but inspired by his story, we followed his lead - taking just our brushes and palettes outside to paint our lovely outside area, mixing our colours and dabbing our art with quick brushstrokes just like Monet did to show the changing light and weather.

Year 3

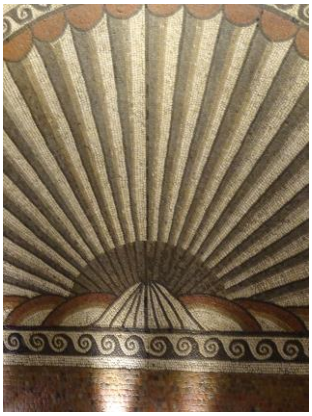
ART: Stone Age Cave Paintings.
In Year 3 we looked at the **Lascaux Cave Paintings** located in France. They were discovered by children in 1940. The Lascaux cave is approximately 17,000 years old, with its famous animal paintings dating to the Upper Palaeolithic period. We learned how to draw animals using shapes during art and then we drew our own bison similar to those in the Lascaux Cave. We also re-created **Cuevas De Las Manos (Cave of the Hands)** in Argentina making our own hand prints. Most cave paintings in the **Stone Age** were of animals or hunters. A cave could be full of many paintings by many different painters just like ours. Many hand stencils have also been discovered. They used natural materials like charcoal and broken-down stone mixed with water or egg and bones to paint with. We used charcoal, water colour pastels and paint to create our images.

Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5PG Tel: 01727 851056 Fax: 01727 855959 www.camp.herts.sch.uk

Year 4

In Year 4, we have had such a busy half term. We have been amazing in our History topic this term and learned lots about Romans and their time in Britain. We have looked at why the Romans invaded Britain, Boudicca's revolt and more recently Roman towns including Verulamium. The children were fantastic this afternoon on our trip showing our golden rules at every opportunity. It was so lovely to see their learning being brought to life and their excitement at seeing Roman artefacts and understanding them as primary sources. The Year 4s have learnt so much today and hopefully will be able to share their love of History with their families and continue their curiosity about Roman history in St Albans.

Bonnie: my favourite part of the trip was seeing the mosaic and seeing the Roman things
Delilah: my favourite bit was looking at the Roman wall because it's really cool to look at something from thousands of years ago that's still there. I also liked pulling out the drawers to see the artefacts.
Lena - May: I thought it was really fun was drawing a mosaic in my booklet and also eating lunch.
Sara: my favourite bit was when I got to see the bones and skeleton.
Rhian: I really liked our Roman shopping workshop because we got to dress up in fun costumes.
Lily: I really loved all of it.



Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have been enjoying their History, learning all about life in Ancient Greece, circuits and team challenges in PE, investigating forces in Science, working with numbers up to 1,000,000 in Maths and writing about mythical creatures in English. We are excited to share all of this learning with parents in our assembly next week.

In Art, our focus has been on mark making and sketching techniques. We looked at different ways to add shading and tone to our sketches using techniques such as cross hatching and stippling. We have looked at different artists' work such as Van Gogh and how his paintings and drawings are made up of lots of tiny marks. One activity we really enjoyed was recreating one half of some animal pictures by artist Olga Gamynina. Here are some examples of our work.

Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5PG Tel: 01727 851056 Fax: 01727 855959 www.camp.herts.sch.uk

Year 6

History – Early Islamic Civilisation

In history, Year 6 have been learning about the influence and development of the Early Islamic Civilisation. Whilst we did not have a real image of the city of Baghdad to study during its Golden Age, we used different sources of historical evidence to find out about this round city and why it was able to expand so quickly. From different clues, we drew our own sketches of what the city might have looked like, labelling the key buildings and features.

Art – Animal collages

In art we have been creating animal collages. First of all, on one piece of paper we drew colourful pictures and images using oil pastels and on a second sheet of paper used sharpies to draw black and white patterns. Then, which caused a shock to some of the class, we ripped up the pictures and turned them into a collage. We then had to decide which animal to create and used oil pastels and paint to draw and colour their eyes, mouth and nose. Finally, we stuck these pieces onto the collage and added some final touches with paint to make some wonderful pictures of cats, dogs, birds and even dinosaurs!

Celebrating Creativity at Hertfordshire Art Competition!

As you may remember from our last newsletter, a number of students entered the Countryside Charity's annual Hertfordshire Children's Art Competition; the theme was '*My Adventures in the Countryside*'. Mabel-Rose, now in Year 1 was announced as the **winner for the EYFS age group**. What an achievement!

Mabel-Rose attended the awards ceremony held at the beautiful Knebworth Barns, with Ms Sultan and her proud parents and grandparents, who were all there to cheer her on. It was a joyful day full of creativity and celebration. Congratulations to Mabel-Rose for this fantastic accomplishment — we can't wait to see what amazing art she, and the other children at Camp, create next!

Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5PG Tel: 01727 851056 Fax: 01727 855959 www.camp.herts.sch.uk

Dates for your diary

OCTOBER	
Wed 22nd	Year 5 class assembly 9:15am
Wed 22nd & Thurs 23rd	Parent consultations
Mon 27th – Fri 31st	Half term – school closed
NOVEMBER	
Wed 5th	School photographs
DECEMBER	
Mon 8th	Christmas music concerts KS1 9:10am & KS2 9:40am

St Albans Abbey Advent Service for the choir will be on Wednesday 3rd December 10-11am. More information will be sent out to choir parents soon.

Inset & occasional days for 2025/26:
Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th January 2026
Monday 23rd February 2026
Friday 26th June 2026
Thursday 23rd July 2026

Best wishes
Sharon Barton & Rachel Rowe
Head Teachers