Camp Primary and Nursery School St Albans

Bringing learning to life

Heads' Newsletter

6th March 2026

Welcome

Although this half term is one of the shortest of the year, it has been just as busy as ever, with a wide range of activities and opportunities for our pupils to enjoy. Since our last newsletter there has been plenty happening across the school, from the Eco Committee planting saplings on the school grounds to sporting events such as the girls' basketball competition at Oaklands. Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Chiltern Open Air Museum, while some of our Year 5 pupils challenged themselves in a maths competition. Everyone from Nursery to Year 6 took part in our recent writing-based theme week which produced some wonderful outcomes, including thoughtful poetry and some stunning collaborative artwork. We also marked World Book Day in our pyjamas and celebrated the launch of the School Council's new tuck shop. It has been lovely to see pupils so engaged in such a wide range of experiences that help to bring their learning to life!

Ramadan food bank

During Ramadan school has teamed up with London Colney Islamic Centre to take part in a food bank donation project. The donations will be collected weekly and will help support families who may struggle to afford basic food items to break their fast.

Each class has their own donation box. As most of the donations will be going to Muslim families, we kindly ask that all food items are vegetarian or halal certified. If you are unsure about any items or have questions about what can be donated, please feel free to speak to Miss Begum.

Staffing update

At the end of this term we will be saying a fond farewell to our Office Manager, Mrs Helen Kearns, who will be retiring after nearly 23 years as a valued member of our staff team at Camp. Some of you may remember that Helen first joined the school as a Teaching Assistant working in Nursery, later supporting children across other classes before moving out of the classroom to work as an Administrator and then Office Manager. Over the years she has made a wonderful contribution to our school community and has been a friendly and supportive presence for pupils, families and staff alike. We are very grateful for all that she has given to the school and thank her for her dedication and care during her time with us.

We are pleased to be able to share with you that we have appointed Amanda Spohr as our new Office Manager. Amanda will be joining us before the Easter holidays to spend some time working alongside Helen and the rest of the office team, and becoming familiar with the role before Helen leaves at the end of term.

Head bump notes on Arbor

We are beginning to trial our Arbor bump note system. Some first aid incidents will begin to be recorded and sent home via email at the end of the day. All head bumps will still get a phone call home.

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Vision loss awareness assembly

On Monday, we had a fascinating assembly by Herts Vision Loss. They spoke to us about how people with a visual impairment navigate the world and the technology they use to support them.

After our interesting assembly Year 4 borrowed some white canes and practised walking with them. It was very tricky and made us all slow down. Then, Miss Charnock taught them how to sight-guide. They learnt how to approach someone who may be visually impaired and in need of support and how to ask if they would like help. Next, they learnt how to describe the different ground textures and directions. They then tested their new skill on a blind-folded pair.

Parking

A polite reminder to all our families to please park safely and considerately when dropping off and collecting children from school, including during Breakfast Club and After School Club times.

To help keep everyone safe and ensure access for local residents, please do not park on double yellow lines, zig-zag road markings, or across driveways. Thank you for your support in helping us keep the school community safe.

Year 3 & 4 trip

On Wednesday, Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a lovely day at Chiltern Open Air Museum to further their History learning.

Here's what the children had to say:

'We dug for Anglo Saxon stuff in rubber'

'I really enjoyed the first workshop because we acted out an Anglo-Saxon burial.' - Lily

'I especially enjoyed writing my name in Anglo-Saxon runes.' -Sophia

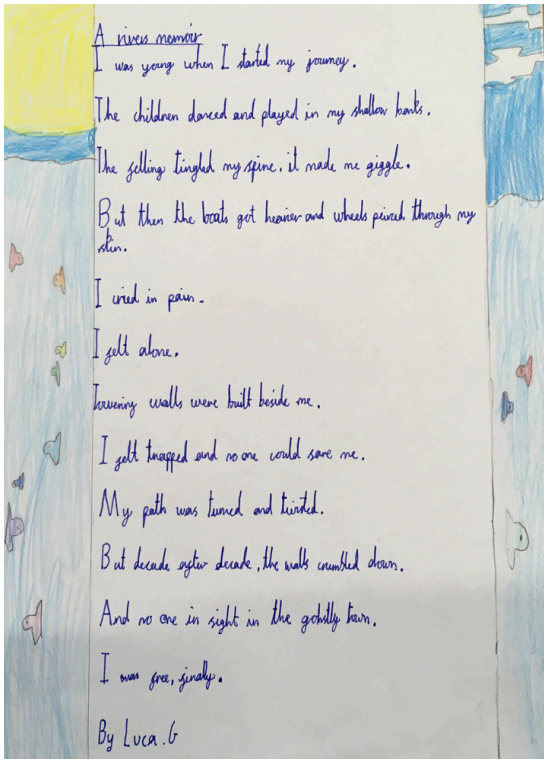
'I enjoyed being with my friends.' - Bella

Miss Charnock & Year 4

World book day

On Thursday 5th March, everyone in school celebrated World Book Day. Children and staff came to school in their pyjamas ready for cosy story sessions throughout the day. Our librarians introduced the day with an assembly sharing their favourite books and encouraging children in school to complete quizzes about books they enjoy and their reading preferences. Children then took part in book related activities in their classes but also paired up to read books with another class. The older children in school (years 3 - 6) had chosen a book earlier in the week and had been preparing and practising reading their story ready for them to share it with a reading buddy in Nursery to Year 2. It was lovely to see the children enjoying their reading together.

Miss Rowlatt, English Subject Leader



A rivers memoir

I was young when I started my journey.

The children danced and played in my shallow banks.

The pebbles tingled my spine, it made me giggle.

But then the boats got heavier and wheels pierced through my skin.

I cried in pain.

I felt alone.

Towering walls were built beside me.

I felt trapped and no one could save me.

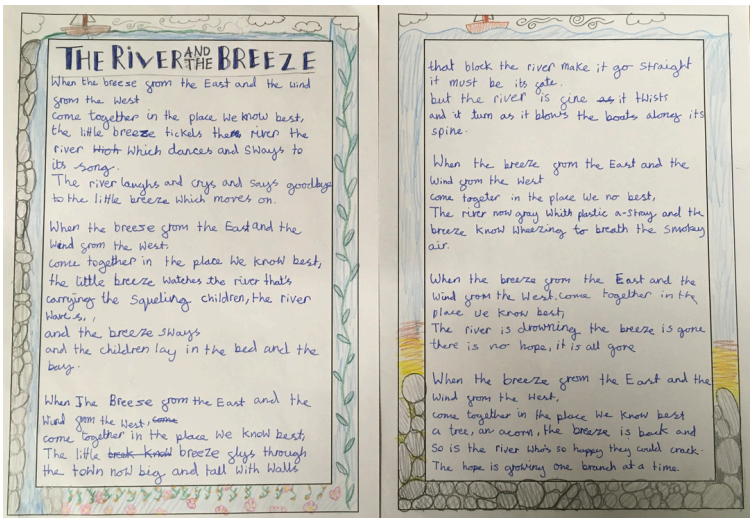
My path was turned and twisted.

But decade after decade, the walls crumbled down.

And no one in sight in the gothilly town.

I was free, finally.

By Luca.G



THE RIVER AND THE BREEZE

When the breeze from the East and the wind from the West
come together in the place we know best,
the little breeze tickels the river
the river Hiah Which dances and SWays to
its song.
The river laughs and cries and says goodbye
to the little breeze which moves on.

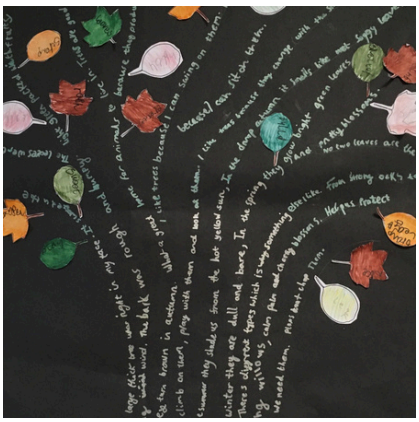
When the breeze from the East and the
Wind from the West
come together in the place we know best,
the little breeze watches the river that's
carrying the Squelling children, the river
wants,
and the breeze sways
and the children lay in the bed and the
bays.

When the Breese from the East and the
Wind from the West, come
come together in the place we know best,
The little ~~break knows~~ breeze slys through
the town now big and tall With Walls
that block the river make it go straight
it must be its fate.
but the river is fine as it twist
and it turn as it blows the boats alongs its
spine.

When the breeze from the East and the
Wind from the West
come togeter in the place we no best,
The river now gray Whith plastic a-strays and the
breeze know Wheezing to breath the Smokey
air.

When the breeze from the East and the
Wind from the West, come together in the
place we know best,
The river is drowning the breeze is gone
there is no hope, it is all gone

When the breeze from the East and the
Wind from the West,
come together in the place we know best
a tree, an acorn, the breeze is back and
So is the river who's so happy they could crack.
The hope is growing one branch at a time.



Theme week

We started this half term with a whole school theme week. Every class in the school used the book The Tree and the River as a focus in their English, Art and even some maths sessions across the week. The Tree and the River is a wordless picture book that tells the story of the relationship between humans and the natural world and the impact humans can have over time. The children used the book as inspiration to write poems throughout the week. At the end of the week, we had an assembly to celebrate all of the learning, where children in each class shared their poem and some of the work they had been doing. We even planted a tree for us to see it grow and change over the coming years.

If you look at the window at the front of the building, you will see a stunning piece of collaborative art organised by Ms Sultan and Mr Wootton where every child has contributed towards painting the beautiful tree and its colourful leaves.

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Fire engine visit

On Monday, as part of their History learning, Year 2 had a visit from the Fire & Rescue Service, where they got to meet Firefighters, go inside a fire engine and use some of the equipment, including the fire hoses.

"I liked going in and seeing all the special things that they used" - Sofia-Rosa

"I liked it when I got to use the hose" - Roise

"I enjoyed spraying water and going in the fire truck" - AC

Mrs Browne & Year 2

Dates for your diary

MARCH

Thurs 12th - Year 5 Class Assembly 9:10am
Thurs 19th - Music concerts 9am & 9:40am
Tues 24th - Year 4 Performance 9:15am
Wed 25th - Choir concert at Alban Arena 6:45pm
Thurs 26th - Nursery End of term
Thurs 26th - Year 4 Performance 6pm
Thurs 27th - End of term 1:30pm

APRIL

Mon 13th - Start of summer term

MAY

Mon 4th - Bank holiday (school closed)
Mon 25th - Fri 29th - Half term

JUNE

Fri 26th - INSET (school closed)

JULY

Tues 21st - Nursery end of term
Wed 22nd - End of term 1:30pm finish

Please note that the return to school in both September 2026 and September 2027 will be on 2nd September. In both years, 1st September will be an INSET day, and school will be closed to pupils.

Year 5 Basketball event

Last week ten of our Year 5 girls headed over to Oaklands College for an inspiring morning on the court with the Oaklands Wolves women's team.

The energy in the sports hall was electric! Our girls had the fantastic opportunity to meet professional players and hear first-hand stories about how they started their journeys in the sport. From dribbling drills to shooting practice, the girls worked incredibly hard and showed great teamwork throughout the session. We finished the morning with a few fun matches where the girls were able to put their new skills to use.

It was a morning filled with fun, high-fives, and plenty of inspiration. A huge well done to all the girls involved for representing our school so brilliantly!

Andi Yoxall

Year 5 Maths Challenge

Last week, Sadie, Younes, Phoebe L and Amy in Year 5 took part in the 2026 HFL Education Year 5 Maths Challenge. They had to work as a team and complete lots of different maths puzzles and problems drawing on their maths learning from Year 4 and Year 5. They worked brilliantly together and scored 132 points!

The children said that *"The maths challenge was a really fun experience that tested our maths skills and our teamwork"* and *"although we didn't make it to the final, the challenge overall was very enjoyable"*.

Miss Rowlatt & Year 5

Kind regards,
Sharon Barton & Rachel Rowe
Head Teachers