



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have already had a very busy start to our final half term of the academic year. The children have been taking part in a wide range of activities to enhance their time in school! Before you read on to enjoy the content, I want to highlight some of our key expectations. I would like to respectfully ask that you support us by complying with expectations, we have a mutual responsibility as a community to keep each other safe.

### **Diarrhoea and vomiting**

Now and again, we get a 'bug' passing around a class with symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting. We ask that all our parents follow [the NHS guidance](#) and don't return your child to school until they've at least two days (48 hours) from their last 'episode'. This helps us prevent the bug spreading more widely, impacting more people, including staff.

### **Parking**

We have had complaints this week about inconsiderate parking by parents from our neighbours. Please note, our school grounds are private property and parents should not follow in staff to gain access. If there is a legitimate reason for a parent needing to enter our car park in their car, we are happy to consider your request.

### **Parental Supervision, play equipment, scooters and bikes**

Parents are responsible for their children on the playground until 8:40 when we ring the bell to open the classrooms. Thank you for supporting the children to wheel their bikes and scooters on to the playground. We ask that you do this to prevent accidents. We have some fantastic play equipment at Eastbury Farm and the children all get an opportunity to use it during the school day. For the same reason we ask children not to scoot and cycle on the playground, please do not let your children play on the play equipment before the school day starts.

## **D-DAY80th Anniversary**



We were delighted to be asked by Batchworth Community Council to take part in the D-Day 80 commemoration that they held on Eastbury Recreation ground. Mrs Leveridge kindly prepared our school choir to sing a medley of songs as part of the commemoration. The singing was very much enjoyed by everyone and received many positive comments. The evening ended with a sunset ceremony, the lowering of the flag and the lighting of a beacon – something that happened all over the country. Alisha and Amelie, two of our year 5.6 pupils, read a poem specially written for the day - prior to the solemn part of the commemoration. They read beautifully and with great clarity. Many

were moved to hear to story of D-Day summed up in a poem.





We paid our own tribute to D-Day 80 by learning more about the significance of the day in assembly and in class. Children in Cedar made their own poppies as an act of remembrance. Maple class learned about and made their own landing craft. Landing craft were used to transport thousands of men and equipment across the channel on D-Day.



## Cathedral Outreach Project

We were extremely fortunate to have been invited by Hertfordshire Music Service to take part in the Cathedral Outreach Project. For the last six weeks all our year 3.4 children have been rehearsed by our 'animateur' Rufus Frowde. The project culminated in a wonderful concert held at



St Albans Cathedral where the children performed with the choristers of the Abbey and another Hertfordshire school. The audience were blown away by the quality of the singing and the joy that the children showed as they performed. This was a unique opportunity and unlikely to be

offered to us again for many years. Thank you to all the children who took up the opportunity, to parents who supported and to all of the year 3.4 staff who helped rehearse the children and came along to enjoy the performance.



Mr Frowde is keen to get everyone singing and our lucky key stage one children, invited to the final rehearsal, also got the opportunity to join in with the singing!

## Chess news

Pupils from Eastbury Farm Chess breakfast club took part in a chess tournament on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Playing with other local schools the pupils came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 16 teams





Year 2 pupil Reece is also a chess player and has been really keen to bring chess on to our key stage one playground. Reece was finally able to make this happen at the start of this half term using three outdoor chess boards kindly donated by Reece's mum. As well as enabling children to play, Reece, along with Arjun a keen key stage two chess player, has begun teaching children how to play chess. This is a really popular lunchtime activity, and we plan to take chess on to the key stage two playground before our summer term is over.

**ICode GLOBAL HACKATHON 2024**  
World's Largest Coding Competition for kids

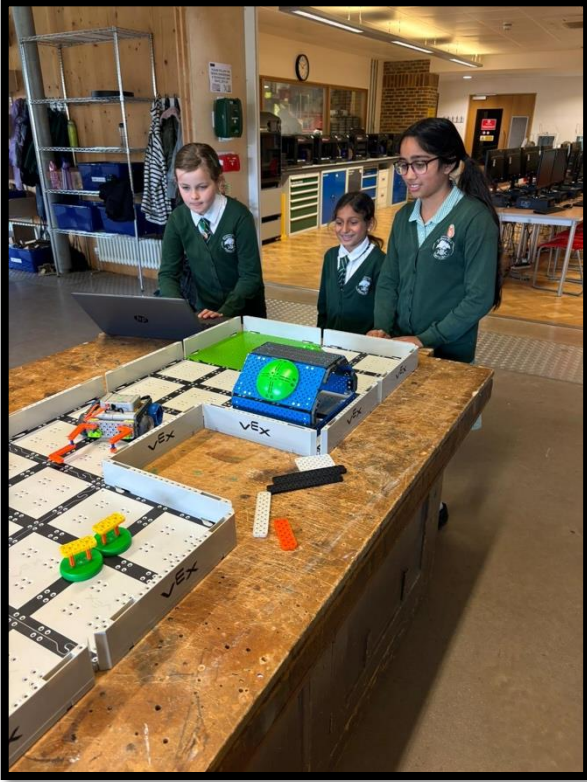
**Participate in the World's Largest Coding Competition**

ICode Foundation is a global organization that enables K12 students to benchmark their coding skills with their peers globally.

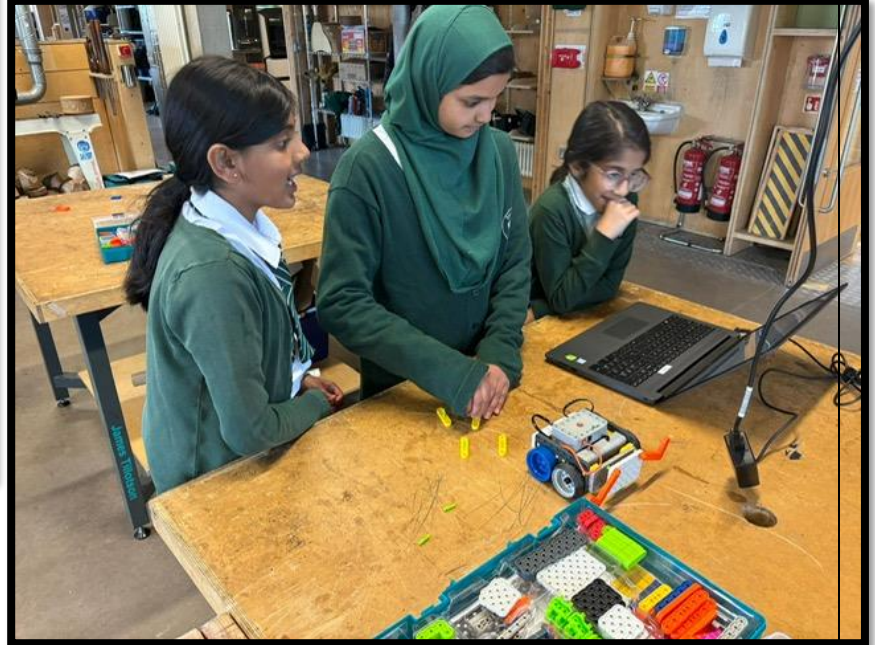
## Computing news

We are delighted to share some exciting news - thanks to Ms Lawrence, our computing teacher, we have been selected to participate in the ICode Global Hackathon 2024. This presents an incredible opportunity for students to benchmark and showcase their coding skills on a global scale. The ICode Global Hackathon is recognised as the world's largest coding competition for school age students.

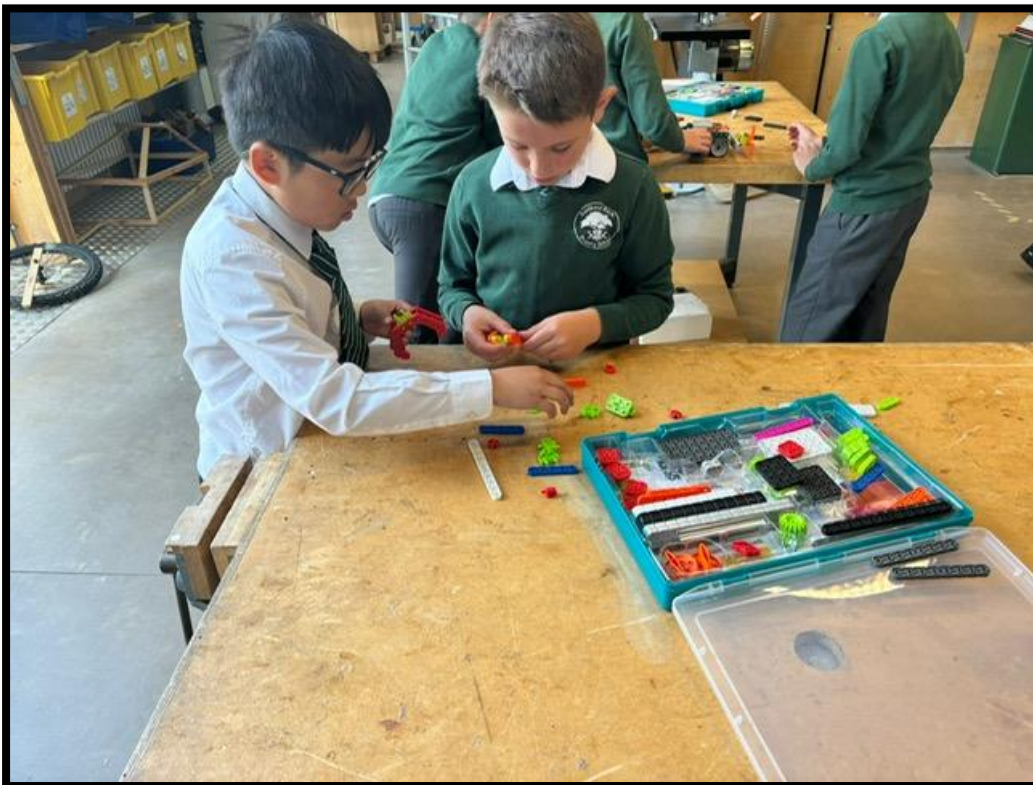
The link to register is <https://ncl.icode.org/uk/student/2685>



Our year 5 children have been lucky enough to experience a fantastic STEM opportunity at Merchant Taylors School over the last couple of weeks. The children have taken part in a robotics workshop where they have built and programmed their own robot at the school. Like the Cathedral Outreach Project,



opportunities that develop children's wider skills are something we will always take up on the children's behalf.



## Celebrating our community out of school



Layla took part in a football tournament and is very proud of her football tournament medal she was given, as are we, Layla



Aliza recently took part in netball and football tournaments and is proudly holding the trophies from the two finals which Aliza's team won! Well done Aliza!



What a collection of rosettes and trophies Dolly-Rae brought in to school the other week. Riding her own horse, Dolly-Rae regularly competes, and she chose these two rosettes out of her collection to share, along with a photograph of her competing. Great job Dolly-Rae!

## Making a difference



Olivia



Layla, Aaliya

Thank you to all our families who carried out the holiday homework of filling a bag with litter as part of the global #just1bag2020 campaign. As well as making a difference to the local environment, each bag earned five house points making a difference to the house point totals. It was lovely to see children wearing gloves and/ or using litter pickers to help keep themselves safe. Please continue to send your photos in and remember that children should be supervised by an adult when collecting litter just to stay safe.



Natan, Alicia, Alice



Navin, Emmy



Reece



Sia



Raeya

## Sensory Garden

Every class is taking some responsibility for looking after our sensory garden. A rota is in place for each class to keep the plants watered. If you haven't had a look at the garden – please do, it is thriving.

Below are children from Maple, watering the plants and spotting minibeasts.



Children from Larch are checking that the froglets can still climb out of the pond.



## Sports News



Our year 6 children were extremely active a couple of weeks ago, using the power of the legs to walk to Bushey Cricket Club, the children then competed with other local schools in a cricket tournament. With five teams of eight children, two of our teams won their respective competitions. One of the winning teams qualified for the district final however due to the PGL school journey we weren't able to attend. For many children it was the first time they had ever played a cricket match. Mr Davies reports that there was some excellent teamwork on show.



We believe that our newly formed girls football team played the first ever Eastbury Farm girl's football match. Despite losing 5-0, the girls played well, and Mr Davies reports it was definitely a closer game than the scoreline suggests. Bromet School, our opposition, had played a few games already this year and were a strong team, but it was a very encouraging first match from our team.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Elm	Oak	Pine	Chestnut	Willow	Spruce	Sycamore	Maple	Cedar B	Larch	Cedar A	Total
99.1%	99.1%	98.6%	97.1%	96.8%	95.2%	95.0%	92.3%	91.8%	89.7%	87.8%	95%

A mixed picture of attendance this week. We do have a sickness bug in a couple of classes, and this has had an impact on attendance.

Thank you to the vast majority of families who get their children to school on time. Our late marks last week were from nine children whose combined lateness totalled three hours and 45 minutes of lost learning.

## Pupil premium/ free school meals

Following the email, we sent out last week, we are really pleased to say that several of our families have had a go at applying for free school meals and have been successful. Although currently all infant children receive a universal free school meal, they will not when they move into the junior part of the school. Please don't wait till your child is in KS2 to apply. Being entitled to free school meals brings lots of other support. It also provides additional income for school and is used in accordance with our pupil premium strategy which is published on our website.

Qualifying for income related free school meals also brings about other forms of support\* such as:

- Supermarket vouchers in the school holidays (£60 for the summer holidays)
- Access to free holiday camps
- Discounted school uniform
- Discounted school clubs
- Free milk
- Free school lunches

\*Currently and always subject to change

We are more than happy to do the application for parents. We need a national insurance number and your date of birth. As we are a Hertfordshire School, you would make your application through Hertfordshire, regardless of where you live. Apply here [Free School Meal application](#)

## Class lists and reports

Class lists and reports will be coming home with children at the end of the month. As many parents know, we have high pupil mobility at Eastbury Farm, some of this is due to the number of service families and some due to families moving in and out of the area for a range of other reasons. At times this means that some of our classes do not 'balance' in the way that works best for all the children. This year we have reviewed our year 2 and year 4 class lists and have made some changes. At all times, the children's interests are at the heart of any decisions we have made. A great deal of time and thought has gone into any decisions that have been made and we are confident that any changes made benefit all children.

Wishing all our families a good week ahead

Best wishes

Miss Ormonde