

Friday 9 January 2026  
Headteacher: Miss J Wellbelove



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Welcome back to the new term. We wish you all a happy and healthy 2026. It is good to be back into routines after the break. Please ensure your child is wrapped up warm in the cold weather ahead. We are all looking forward to the term ahead.

### Planetarium Visit—Y5

The University of Hertfordshire visited Year 5 with their inflatable planetarium. The children were taken on an outer space journey through the solar system and were able to see (up close) the planets, the sun and star constellations. Lots of questions were asked and it was a fantastic end to our Autumn science learning on space.



### Pirate Day

Year 3 had a fantastic pirate day on Monday 15 December. They made hats, sang a sea shanty, practiced the five A's in pirate grammar and played a game called 'Captains Coming'.



### KS2 Carol Service—18.12.25

We rounded off the year with the KS2 carol service, led by Oak Class. Their rendition of South Hill's 12 days of Christmas was entertaining. The Choir sang beautifully and it was a lovely community occasion.



### SPaG—Owls Class

This week in Year 2, we learned how to join ideas using conjunctions such as **and**, **but**, and **or** to make sentences longer and more interesting. The children practised using these conjunctions in their own sentences and enjoyed spotting them in different texts. When reading at home, please encourage your child to look for these conjunctions in their reading.



### Class News—Maple

This week, in English, we have started a new book called 'Krindlekrax' which follows the story of Ruskin Splinter as he tries to become the hero of Lizard Street! Our class have absolutely loved the book so far and we have already become huge Ruskin fans and are desperate for him to overcome his problems and succeed. We are excited to continue reading the book and for this to inspire us to write our own story about 'an unlikely hero'.



### 2026—The Year of Reading

At our school, we value reading as an essential life skill that builds knowledge, enriches vocabulary and inspires imagination. Throughout the year, we will host events to celebrate reading, including National Storytelling Week in late January. We are also delighted to welcome author and former South Hill pupil MG Leonard, who will speak to Years 2–6 on Monday 9th February.



Attached is a *Book Drop* newsletter from the Open University and Authorfy, offering parents ideas to encourage reading for pleasure at home.

### No Smoking—Vaping or E-Cigarettes

A reminder that the school is a no smoking zone. This includes Vapes and e-cigarettes anywhere on the school grounds including the car park and playgrounds. We also ask that there is no smoking around the school gate.



### Is My Child Too Sick for School?

Unsure if you should send your child to school due to illness? Please follow the link [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#) a quick guide from the NHS answering the most frequently asked questions.



### Y4 Swimming Resumes

Swimming for Year 4 will resume for the spring term on Friday 16 January. Please remember to bring your swimming kits into school.



### Harvest Donations—Salvation Army

Our Harvest collection in October was amazing and we have received a thank you letter from the Salvation Army. "Thank you for your generous contributions to our food bank at Harvest time. Please pass on our thanks to all of the families who donated food and toiletries. We are unable to provide this service without help and support from the community".



### Royal British Legion—Poppy Appeal

Another fantastic display from South Hill with regards to the sale of poppies in 2025. "A very big thank you for helping to collect a staggering £267.78 which has been added to the grand total of £30,000 collected from Hemel Hempstead".



### Lunch and After School Clubs

Clubs commence next week, please make sure that you have booked your child's place.



### Start of the School Day

A reminder that the school day begins at 8.40am. The doors remain open until 8.50am. Anyone arriving after 8.50am will be marked as late and a parent or carer will need to sign their child in the late book at the school office. Children arriving after 9.20am will receive an unauthorised absence mark for the morning session. The day is less daunting for children who arrive on time with their peers.



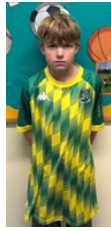
Your sincerely,  
Miss J Wellbelove  
Headteacher



## Sport, Health & Wellbeing

### Boys Football—18.12.25

On Thursday 18th December, the Boys Lions played against Yewtree primary school. The weather made the day extremely difficult and a great challenge of resilience for the boys. The result was 9-0 with player of the match Frankie from Silverbirch. Well done boys.



### Y2 PE Lesson

Year 2 Owls had an indoor PE lesson to work on different activities that involved teamwork and concentration. They had to build the tallest tower, flick a cup and land it on the opposite side and bounce a ball into their cup. They thoroughly enjoyed the activities and worked very well in their teams!



### House Points

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| Gade     | 6775 |
| Lea      | 4900 |
| Colne    | 3850 |
| Bulborne | 5700 |

### Star of the Autumn term

|              |        |   |
|--------------|--------|---|
| Wrens        | Otilie | ★ |
| Robins       | Aadam  | ★ |
| Goldfinches  | Felix  | ★ |
| Sparrows     | Yahya  | ★ |
| Owls         | Maya   | ★ |
| Kingfishers  | Maya   | ★ |
| Ash          | Grace  | ★ |
| Beech        | Ada    | ★ |
| Holly        | Yusha  | ★ |
| Maple        | Ezra   | ★ |
| Oak          | Nicole | ★ |
| Silver Birch | Aru    | ★ |
| Sycamore     | Azka   | ★ |
| Hazel        | Ellie  | ★ |

### January 2026

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Monday 12th   | ♦ YV Choir practice 3.15-4.15pm  |
| Thursday 15th | ♦ School Census<br>♦ YV Choir practice 3.15-4.15pm   |
| Friday 16th   | ♦ Y4 Swimming<br>♦ Boys A Team football—home against Greenway School   |
| Monday 19th   | ♦ YV Choir practice 3.15-4.15pm<br>♦ Girls football away—Hobletts Manor School   |
| Tuesday 20th  | ♦ Netball match—home against Hobbs Hill School   |
| Thursday 22nd | ♦ Y1 Multi sport event at sports centre<br>♦ School Nurse visit reception classes<br>♦ YV Choir practice 3.15-4.15pm<br>♦ Boys A Team football, home against Hobletts manor School |
| Friday 23rd   | ♦ Young Voices Concert O2<br>♦ Y4 Swimming<br>♦ David Taylor MP visiting the School  |

### Attendance



### Attendance matters

Every student, every day.  
School Target is 97%

### Attendance



### Weekly Attendance Champion

Maple 100%



### Whole school

94.4%



### Attachments

- ♦ Family Lives Online Programme 2026
- ♦ Book Drop—National Year of Reading
- ♦ Game On Saturday Football
- ♦ <https://dacorumspl.org.uk/online-resources-for-parents-and-carers/>

Please follow the link here to see all attachments via our school website