



— Live Life in All its Fullness, John 10:10 —



October 2026



Welcome to our October newsletter.

September has flown by, and it has been wonderful to see how well all the children have settled into their new classes. Our new starters have already learnt the school rules so well, and we are incredibly proud of how confidently they have begun their school journey.

It has been lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into school and see you joining in with the events and opportunities we have offered. These have included our Phonics Information Meetings for Reception and Year 1 parents, the Year 6 SATs Information Meeting, Open Forest Week, where parents and carers were able to join their children for their first session, our first Together at Heartwood session for an informal chat with cake and a cuppa and our Harvest Festival in church. Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our half-termly **workshare** on **Monday 5th October**, from **3.30–3.45pm**, in your child's classroom. This is a lovely opportunity to celebrate the children's learning and see the progress they are making. Working together makes such a difference to children's confidence and achievement, so thank you for supporting learning at home by reading together regularly and completing homework.

There has been plenty of excitement and adventure across the school! A big thank you to Jon from Little Riders, who delivered three fantastic sessions to help the children develop their cycling skills. We look forward to offering Bikeability later in the school year. Year 4 enjoyed an action-packed residential trip to Horstead, taking part in wall climbing, zip wires, camp cookery and kayaking. Meanwhile, Year 5 enjoyed a visit to Swaffham Museum, bringing their learning to life beyond the classroom.

We are also delighted that Winnie, our school dog, has started her journey with us and is settling in very well. We look forward to seeing her become an increasingly familiar and much-loved member of our school community.

As we move into October, there is lots to look forward to! We are excited to see the children continue to build on their learning, develop their knowledge and skills, and make great progress across all areas of the curriculum.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working in partnership with us to help every child thrive.

With best wishes,

Mrs Starman



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A huge thank you to our wonderful staff, Holmwood House, and, of course, our children, for all your incredible fundraising efforts for Rudham Childrens Ward, Q,E Hospital.



Thanks to the kind donation from Holmwood House Residential Care & Nursing Home, we were able to purchase toys and essential items for the ward, helping to put smiles on the faces of so many children during what can be a difficult time. We're so grateful for everyone who contributed and helped make this possible. Your generosity and kindness really do make a difference.



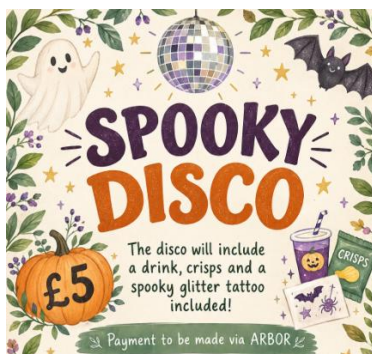
Do you have a child starting Reception in September 2027? If so, we would love to welcome you to our open events to show you our wonderful school. Open events with tours of the school: Tuesday 6th October 10.30am, Wednesday 14th October 5pm. Stay and Play sessions in the Reception indoor and outdoor classrooms: Tuesday 20th October 10.30 - 11.30, Saturday 7th November 10-11. We look forward to welcoming you.



Heartwood Little Explorers is a free weekly session in our school forest, run by Mrs Butters our forest school teacher, for any families in the community with a child of pre-school age. The sessions run on Mondays 9-10 and families meet at the side vehicle gate. You can call or email the school or just turn up. Occasionally we need to cancel the session due to staffing or weather; we will always post on our school Facebook page if this happens. Just search Heartwood Church of England VC Primary and Nursery School on Facebook for our public school page.



You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram. We have set up a new public Facebook page - Heartwood Church of England VC Primary and Nursery School. Our Instagram handle is heartwoodprimaryandnursery





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Thank you to everyone who came to St. Peter and St. Paul's Church for our annual Harvest Festival. It was lovely to see the Church packed with our families. We collected non-perishable food items for the 'Food Bank'. By giving to the local food bank the children are working towards Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 of 'no poverty' and 'zero hunger'. Thank you for bringing in items for the local food bank. If you haven't done so, there is still time as we always have a trolley at the main entrance of the school to donate.



With thanks to all the money raised at the 'Colour Run' and money set aside from the school budget we have heavily reduced the amount that school trips cost this year. We have also looked to have more visitors into school rather than trips to support the costs for parents/carers. Payment of trips is voluntary but if the school does not receive enough money, they will not be able to go ahead. If you are struggling to pay the full amount, please speak to the class teacher, the school office or Mrs Starman and we will be happy to see how we can help you.



Bonfire and Books is on Wednesday 4th November 5-6pm. We will begin our time enjoying books in some of the classrooms and then go onto the field where the bonfire will be lit. There will be hot chocolate available for a donation and you can pre-order sparklers for the event. Information will be sent out soon to pre-order sparklers. We look forward to seeing you there.

Learning Review Meetings

Learning Review Meetings (also known as parent/carer evenings) are being held on Monday 9th November and Wednesday 11th November in the school. There will be a book sale where a percentage of the money made buys books for the school. Mrs Starman (headteacher), Mrs McKenna (deputy headteacher), Miss Compton (SENCo) and Miss Fisher (school family support worker) will also be available to chat to. Information and a link to state when you'd like your appointment will be sent home soon.



A big welcome to Winnie, our new school dog. It has been wonderful to see the children interacting with her. If you have not yet completed the consent form for your child and Winnie, please do so.



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Years 1 to 6 have voted for their class representatives for this year's School Council. Reception class will vote for their class representatives in the Spring term. The Head boys and girls will spend time in our Nursery class to make sure that their voice is heard too. The children discussed the British Value of 'democracy' when voting for their class representatives and how this related to the Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace and Justice). So far, the school council have found out what the children at Heartwood like and what they would like this academic year. The 'likes' have included learning, maths, the forest, PE, the staff, Winnie the school dog, Collective Worship, trips and visitors, Church services, playtimes and lunchtimes to name a few. The School Council have feedback that our children would like more discos, ways to help each other more, another Santa Run, Colour Run, a new soap dispenser in the toilet, to learn more about King Charles III, to have a TTRS day again and much more! Watch this space...



Thank you to everyone who came to our first Together at Heartwood session which was an informal chat with cake and a cuppa. Our next session is on Monday 19th October to join your child for breakfast whilst competing together on Times Tables Rock Stars. This session is ideally for parents of children who are in Year 2 to Year 6. A booking form will be sent home asap.



Diary Dates

Monday 5th October – Year 6 NHS screening checks

Monday 5th October – Workshare for all parents/carers 3.30 - 3.45 in classrooms

Thursday 8th October – Year 6 trip to Gressenhall (Stone Age)

Friday 9th October – Individual and Sibling photographs

w/c Monday 12th October – Assessment week for Years 2 to 5.

Thursday 22nd October – Last day of the half term

Friday 23rd October – Sunday 1st November – Half Term Break

Wednesday 4th November – Bonfire and books at 5pm

Thursday 5th November – Year 2 – Edith Cavell experience

Monday 9th November – Learning Review Meetings after school

Wednesday 11th November – Learning Review Meeting after school

Wednesday 2nd December – Year 5 trip to Fitzwilliam museum, Cambridge