Autumn 3 - Newsletter - 17/09/2026

Message from Mrs Sherwood



Very exciting baby news, Mrs Dummett had a baby boy on Tuesday morning. Both mum and baby are doing well. Huge congratulations to her and her family.

A huge thank you to all of the Johnson Matthey volunteers who gave up their time to paint areas outside the school over the holidays and to Mr Lloyd, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Crowther (parents), Mrs Curtis, one of our MSAs and her granddaughter Stella for decorating the internal quiet area outside the year 3 classes, which we have renamed 'The Nest' (photo above). The hard work, enthusiasm and generosity that all the volunteers have given has made such a positive difference to our school. We are very grateful for their time and effort.

Please have a look at our 'learning topics' for the Autumn term, which are below.

We will be holding open events for prospective parents of children who are due to start Nursery and Reception in September 2027. If you know of any neighbours, friends or family who are looking for school and nursery places, please tell them about our events. They can book by calling our school office on 01763 243392. The open events will take place on 8th, 9th, 10th, 15th and 16th October.

Don't forget to book your appointment with your child's teacher, the booking system goes live this evening at 7pm (see below for more details).

This weekend is Yom Kippur for those following and we'd like to say G'mar Chatimah Tovah. Yom Kippur, meaning the "Day of Atonement," is the holiest and most solemn day of the year in Judaism.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

If you are in receipt of qualifying benefits and have not yet registered for Free School Meals, or wish to check your eligibility please register online at Free School Meals -Herts CC .

Applying is quick and confidential. Even if you are unsure whether you qualify, we encourage you to apply, as eligibility can also help the school access additional funding to support pupils. The Government has recently expanded the criteria for Free School Meals meaning that your child could now be eligible. If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, your child will qualify for free school meals from now.

We are encouraging everyone to review the criteria and apply as soon as possible. Please click the link below and make your application. Free school meals and other benefits | Hertfordshire County Council

If you would like us to make an application on your behalf please contact Sarah Childs in the office at finance@icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk

Learning Topics for Autumn Term

In the nursery the children will be following a topic of 'Marvellous Me' for the whole of the autumn term. Talking about families and friends and thinking about their feelings. They will even do some hand and feet printing. For the second half of the term, we will also be looking at Winter Festivals, including Diwali and Christmas.

Reception's topic is 'Into The Woods'. They will be thinking about stories set in a woodland, such as Goldilocks and The Gruffalo. They will retell the stories and draw story maps. For the second half of the term, they will have a 'Winter Festivals' focus.

This term, Year 1 will be exploring their exciting 'Superheroes' topic. They will begin by diving into the world of fictional superheroes, reading stories such as Superworm and Supertato. They will use these stories to inspire their own ideas, creating new superhero adventures and inventing their very own evil villains for their heroes to defeat! In Design and Technology, they will become designers and engineers as they create and build their own superhero vehicles, thinking carefully about how they are designed and what makes them effective. They will then also discover that not all superheroes wear capes! They will learn about real-life superheroes such as Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, finding out about their incredible contributions as nurses and exploring the similarities and differences between their lives and experiences.

Over the autumn term, the Year 2 children will be following two topics. Firstly, they will be studying the Great Fire of London; this will include writing diaries in the style of Samuel Pepys. They will have a visit from a theatre group, to help them imagine what life was like during the great fire. They will then be looking at the theatre and pantomimes. They will write their own traditional tales and make puppets to help tell their stories.

In Year 3 the children begin to look at British history in chronological order. This term we will study from the Stone Age, through Iron Age (The Celts) and on to the Roman Britain. In science they will be looking at rocks, fossils and soil this term. We also have our school trip to Celtic Harmony.

The Year 4 topic this term is the Amazon rainforest; this involves a study of biomes and South America. They will be looking at all who live in the rain forest and think about deforestation and the impact this is having.

If you require more detailed information about what your child is learning, please look at the curriculum page on our website.

What's on next week

Thursday 17.09.2026

AM - Year 4 Recorder club

3.15-4.15pm - Labtots

3.15-3.45pm - Year 3 Recorder club in the dining hall

3.15-4.15pm - Football Feet

7pm - Parent/Teacher consultation booking system goes liv*e*

Friday 18.09.2026

PM - Year 4 Falcon class swimming

3.15-4.15pm - Kings and Queens Chess Club for Years 1-4 in the dining hall

3.15-4.15pm - It's Your Cue Drama Club in Year 4 classroom

Monday 21.09.2026

3.15-4.15pm - RTFC Gymnastics club

6.00pm - Full Governors meeting

Tuesday 22.09.2026

3.15-4.15pm - RTFC Multi Sports Club

Wednesday 23.09.2026

Piano and Guitar Lessons

3.00pm - Volunteer Reader helper training in the school hall with Mrs White

3.15-4.15pm - Outdoors Project Club

Thursday 24.09.2026

AM - Year 4 Recorder club

3.15-4.15pm - Labtots

3.15-3.45pm - Year 3 Recorder club in the dining hall

3.15-4.15pm - Football Feet

Friday 25.09.2026

All day - Individual and Sibling photographs with Pret-a-Portrait

PM - Year 4 Falcon class swimming

3.15-4.15pm - Kings and Queens Chess Club for Years 1-4 in the dining hall

3.15-4.15pm - It's Your Cue Drama Club in Year 4 classroom

Check-in parent and teacher meetings/consultations

We will be holding our initial 'check-in' parent and teacher meetings in the week beginning 28th September. At these meetings you will be able to chat with your child's class teacher to see how your child is getting on and also ask any questions that you may have. For those that have not booked appointments before, please read our 'how to guide', which can be found on the front page of our website under the quick links section.

We will be holding two sessions. In person appointments in the school hall will be available on Tuesday 29th September, 3.30-6pm and video call (online) appointments will be available on Thursday 1st October, 3.30-6pm. Nursery appointments will be from 3.50-5.30pm for both video and in person sessions.

The booking system goes live this evening at 7pm (link to the booking system can be found on the front page of our website, under the quick links section) or click on the following link: https://icknieldwalk.schoolcloud.co.uk/

1. Only one appointment available per child.

2. Only the parent or carer that is contact 1 on our database can book the appointments.

3. If you are new to the school, you will need to make an account to book the appointments.

If you have any problems booking your appointments, please send an email to the office staff at : admin@icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk

There will be an opportunity for you to view your child's workbooks in their classroom with your child, on Wednesday 2nd December, 3.30-4.30pm.

Volunteering in School - Reading, Maths, Library

We actively encourage and welcome parents, carers and grandparents to help in school every day. Most classes need reading and maths helpers during the mornings 9-9.30am and help in the library during the afternoons. Volunteers often report that it is great to see how well the children progress and enjoy being part of the life of the school. All volunteers need to have a school DBS, which the school will apply for. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school office on admin@icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk.

At **3.00pm on Wednesday 23rd September**, Mrs White will be holding a meeting in school for reading volunteers. This meeting will be a refresher for those who have read with children before and an introduction for those who are interested in volunteering. Mrs White will speak briefly about safeguarding and how to support children with their reading in school.

Individual and Sibling photographs - Pret-a-Portrait

Individual and Sibling portrait photographs will be taken by Pret-a-Portrait on Friday 25th September throughout the school day. All children should wear their school uniform; hair accessories should be school colours and kept minimal.

Nursery children who attend on a Friday will be photographed during their nursery day and nursery children who do not attend on a Friday are invited to pop in to have their photograph taken, in the morning at 9.20am. Nursery children with siblings in the school will be photographed with their sibling if the nursery child attends the photography session. Please inform Miss Pinner your child will be attending by Tuesday 22nd September. Please note that if your child does not attend Nursery on a Friday, they can only come in for the photography session and not attend a full nursery session.

All children with siblings who attend Icknield Walk First School will be photographed both together and individually.

Flu immunisations - Nasal spray - IMPORTANT

Vaccination UK will be visiting school on **Tuesday 29th September** to undertake flu immunisations for children in Reception to Year 4. The immunisation is a nasal spray. Please note that Vaccination UK will be in direct contact with all parents via email asking for you to register your child for the vaccine. Your child will only receive the vaccine IF you have registered your child with Vaccination UK and given consent.

Please contact Vaccination UK with any queries that you may have by sending an email to: Hertfordshire@v-uk.co.uk or by calling **01462 427 008.**

Earrings

Please remember to remove earrings each morning before school. If your child's ears were pierced during the summer holidays and have not yet fully healed, please cover the ears with micropore tape before sending your child to school. Once healed, remove the earrings before school and put them back in again when you get home. We will be lenient for the first week or so but please do all you can to ensure that earrings are removed as soon as possible. It is for safety reasons that we ask that children do not wear earrings to school.

PTA News

PTA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 7th October at 7pm

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up! This is a chance to find out more about what the PTA has been doing, hear about our plans for the year ahead, share your ideas and have your say.

Everyone is automatically part of the PTA so you are all welcome to come along. We'd love to see you there!

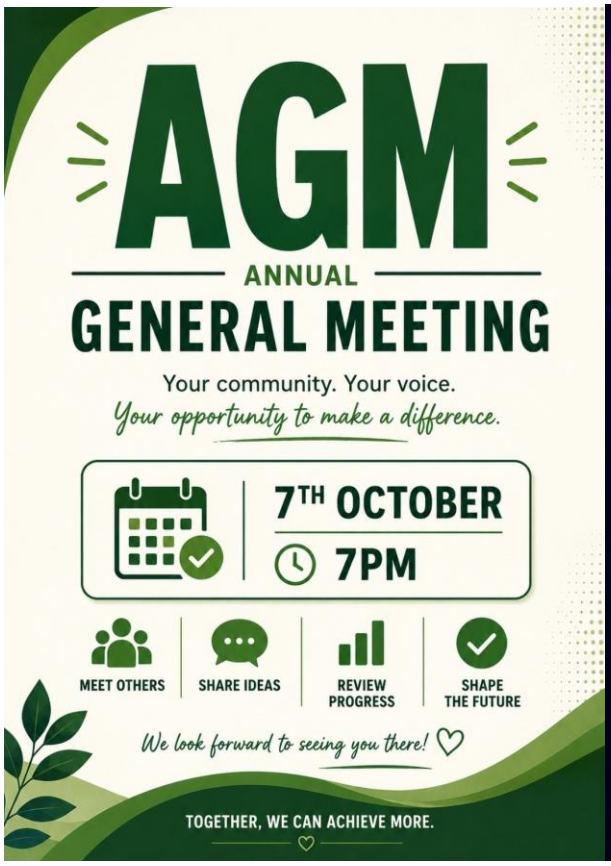
School Disco – Friday 9th October

Tickets are now on sale athttps://www.pta-events.co.uk/iwfspta/

Our next school disco is taking place on Friday 9th October, with separate sessions for Nursery, Reception & Year 1 and Years 2–4.

There'll be music, fun activities, disco glow, refreshments and sweets for sale. Tickets are £6, including £3 of tokens to spend at the cashless disco, and go on sale online from 14th September.

If you are available to help at either disco, please join the WhatsApp group for more information
https://chat.whatsapp.com/F8exSjep9ys9rwcE8A7fMJ?s=cl&p=a&mlu=4&ilr=4





Vacancy - Midday Supervisory Assistant (MSA)

Please come and join our team! We have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisory Assistant to work from 11.55am to 1.15pm, Monday-Friday. The rate of pay is £12.65 per hour. Tasks include supervising the children during their lunchtime and play, in all weathers. First aid training will be given to applicants if they do not hold a current certificate. Previous experience of working or volunteering in school would be an advantage but not essential.

At Icknield Walk First School we take the safety of our children very seriously and all applicants will be thoroughly vetted and will be subject to DBS checks, internet searches, health checks and references. You will be asked questions about safeguarding children in your interview and you will receive regular safeguarding training while you are working with us.

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 2nd October.

Please email admin@icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk for further information and an application form. We reserve the right to interview and appoint before the closing date should the right candidate apply. Please apply early to avoid disappointment.

After School Activities - IWFS







Football Feet

Years 1-4



Thursdays - 3.15pm

Contact:

footballfeetkb@gmail.com



Kings and Queens Chess Club

Years 1-4



After school in the dining room

FRIDAYS – 3.15pm

To register and pay, follow this link:

https://kingsandqueenschess.co.uk/enrol.html

Events in and around Royston and other useful information





CAMBRIDGE UNITED FC

SCHOOLS TICKET VOUCHER

APPLICABLE FIXTURES

26TH SEP 2026	10TH OCT 2026	24TH OCT 2026	21ST NOV 2026
15:00	15:00	15:00	15:00

ADULT AND U18 FOR £12!

CODE: SCHOOLS2627

THIS CODE ENTITLES THE HOLDER TO 1X ADULT & 1 X U18 SEATED TICKET IN THE MEAD PLANT & GRAB FAMILY SOUTH STAND FOR £12.00. THIS CODE CAN BE REDEEMED FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICABLE FIXTURES VIA CUFCTICKETS.COM. REDEMPTIONS ARE LIMITED TO ONE PER PERSON AND ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

PLEASE NOTE ALL FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE CHECK WWW.CAMBRIDGEUNITED.COM FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

WITH FIXTURES ANTICIPATED TO SELL OUT, WE ADVISE BOOKING TICKETS WELL IN ADVANCE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH a.r.u. Anglia Ruskin University

FAMILY FOLK SHOW with megson

Interactive Folk Concerts For Little Music Connoisseurs

"The most original duo on the British folk scene" **The Guardian**



The Old Bull, Royston

Sunday 27th Sep

11:30AM - Tickets: www.megsonmusic.co.uk

'A HUGE family hit. 11/10' **KiddyChart.com**

'Pure Entertainment - Five Stars' **Broadway World**

Royston Arts Festival



with songs from megson's albums LITTLE BIRD & WHEN I WAS A LAD



www.familyfolkshow.co.uk

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Groups and workshops

coram family lives

Autumn 2026

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group

Monday 5th October to 16th November, 7pm to 9pm OR
Friday 6th November to 11th December, 9.30am to 11.30am

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our online 6-week group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group

Tuesday 6th October to 17th November, 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online 6-week group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Dads Together (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 4th November to 9th December, 7pm to 9pm

Are you a dad who feels you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online 6-week group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop
Wednesday 21 October 9.30am to 11.30am

Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop
Monday 9 November 9.30am to 11.30am

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop
Wednesday 25 November 7pm to 9pm

It's a Dad's Life Online Workshop
Thursday 26 November 7pm to 9pm

Navigating the Storm (Teens) Online Workshop
Wednesday 2 December 9.30am to 11.30am

All our programmes provide support, information and resources to parents, carers and adult family members in Hertfordshire so they can help their children reach their full potential.

For more info, please contact **Louise** on **0204 522 8700/8701** or email **services@coramfamilylives.org.uk** or scan the QR code for our online form.

SCAN ME

We build better family lives together

www.coramfamilylives.org.uk @coramfamilyliveshertsandbeds

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council | Hertfordshire

Coram Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No.1077722. Registered address: Coram Family Lives, Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ



coram family lives

Parenting when separated for parents of SEN children - online programme

Come along to our six-session programme, specifically tailored to help separated parents navigate the complexities of co-parenting and provide the best possible support for their SEND child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance co-parenting skills, support children's development and build a strong foundation for the future.

The programme includes:

- Understanding SEN and its impact on children and family dynamics
- Effective communication skills
- Managing emotions and stress
- Collaborative problem solving
- Building a supportive network
- Creating a unified parenting approach

Dates and times

Date: Tuesday 13th and 20th October, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th November 2026
Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Date: Wednesday 14th and 21st October, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November 2026
Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

This will be delivered online via MS TEAMS

SCAN ME

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email **services@coramfamilylives.org.uk** or call **0204 522 8700** or **0204 522 8701**

We build better family lives together

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Angels
AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT

Charity no: 1117059

Weekly online Workshop and Support:
Every Tuesday 10am-12pm during term time.



Each week there will be an hour long workshop on a specific topic that you can listen to and ask questions. Following this there will be an hour where we open to discussions/chats about **any topic or concern** and can offer help support and guidance.

Weekly topics are detailed on our programme.

Monthly in person support Letchworth and Stevenage:
Will be running on a Wednesday see programme for dates

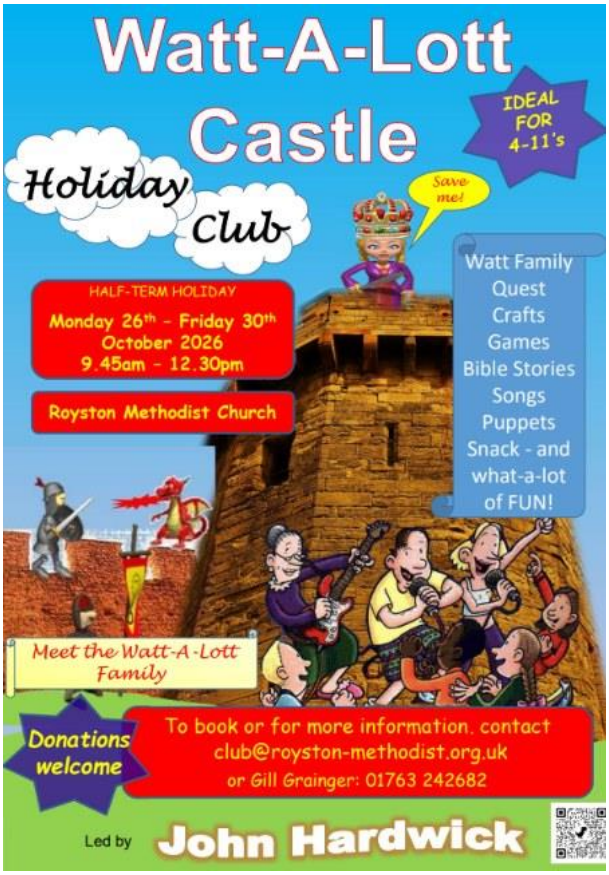




Our podcasts series "Neurodiversity Chats" cover a wide range of topics, search "Neurodiversity Chats"on Spotify or Apple Podcasts or listen on our website:
https://angelssupportgroup.org.uk/podcasts/

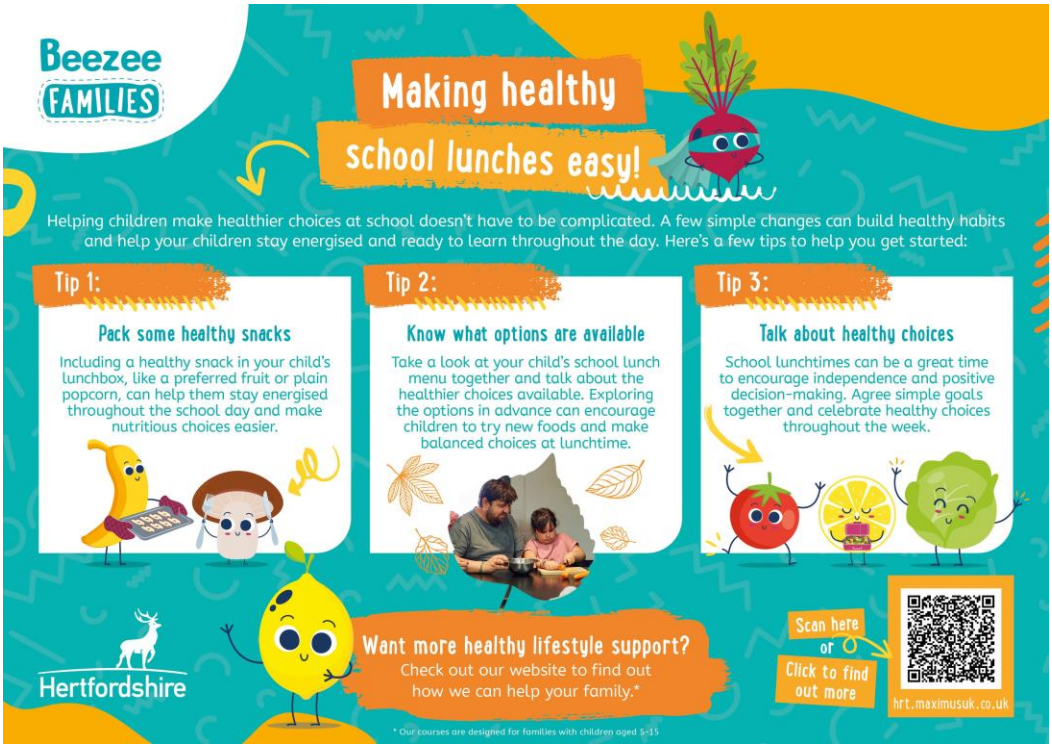
Follow us on social media for updates:

www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk











Message from Children's Commissioner for England



Every child's voice matters, and I want to make sure that children and young people in every school and college, in every community, have the opportunity to shape the picture of childhood that I will share with Government.

At present, I have heard from fewer than ten children at your school, and I really want to make sure their voices are represented alongside those of children from across the country.

Please help your child to complete my survey so that their voice can be heard, please follow this link: https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza - Children's Commissioner for England

Easy Fundraising - help us while you shop



Please remember to use easyfundraising when you do any of your online shopping.

Over 8,000 retailers including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos and M&S will donate to Icknield Walk First School PTA for FREE when you use easyfundraising to shop with them.

Want to know more, see this handy intro

These donations really help us and all you have to do is use easyfundraising when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway.

Weblinks that can help you

NSPCC - Online safety.

Smartphone Free Childhood

Angels Support (ASD & ADHD)

Herts CC Relationship advice

Families Feeling Safe

NESSIE - Positive Mental Health - Lots of talks and courses to help you and your child with their mental health.

Supporting Family Links - Promoting Strong Family Relationships with children up to the age of 12, lots of online courses to help.

Herts CC Cost of living resources - cost-of-living-flashcard (thegrid.org.uk)

North Herts Family Support Services - www.hertsfamilycentres.org

www.supportinglinks.co.uk - Workshops/training courses for parents/carers of children (up to age 25).

BeeZee Bodies - www.beezeebodies.com

North Herts Special Provision updates - look here for SEN and Behaviour support

Free School Meals

Neurodiversiry Support Hub

Lumi Nova - Fun digital therapy for childhood anxiety - https://luminova.app/

Mind Hertfordshire Network -

The Sleep Charity - https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/