



## Spring 4 - Newsletter - 29/01/2026

### What's on

#### Thursday 29.01.2026

am - Year 4 Recorder Club

3.15-3.45pm - Year 3 Recorder Club

3.15-4.15pm - Lab Tots in Dove class

3.15-4.15pm - Football Feet

7pm - Booking system for Parent/Teacher consultations go live - <https://icknieldwalk.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

#### Friday 30.01.2026

pm - Year 4 Eagle class start swimming

3.15-4.15pm - Kings & Queens Chess Club in the dining hall

3.15-4.15pm - It's Your Cue Drama Club for Year 4s in Eagle class

#### Monday 02.02.2026

3.15-4.15pm - RTFC Gymnastics club

#### Tuesday 03.02.2026

3.15-4.15pm - RTFC Multi sports skills club

#### Wednesday 04.02.2026

Guitar and Piano lessons

3.15-4.15pm - Outdoors Project

#### Thursday 05.02.2026

am - Year 4 Recorder Club

3.15-3.45pm - Year 3 Recorder Club

3.15-4.15pm - Lab Tots in Dove class

3.15-4.15pm - Football Feet

#### Friday 06.02.2026

No Year 4 Eagle class swimming due to leisure centre closure

3.15-4.15pm - Kings & Queens Chess Club in the dining hall

3.15-4.15pm - It's Your Cue Drama Club for Year 4s in Eagle class

<https://icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/calendar/>

## Parent-Teacher Consultations

On Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th February, parent-teacher consultations will be taking place. 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.

We will be holding two sessions: in-person appointments on Tuesday 10th February, 3.30-6pm, and video call (online) appointments on Thursday 12th February, 3.30-6pm.

**Year 3 Swift class parent-teacher consultations will take place on Monday 9th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th February. Monday 9th will be in person in Swift classroom and Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th will be video call (online) appointments.**

A reminder of how to book appointments is available on our website under the Quick Links section on the front page.

The booking system will go live at 7pm this evening (link to the booking system can be found on the front page of our website, under the quick links section) or follow this

link: <https://icknielwalk.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please note only one appointment is available per child; you must choose either online or in person on the days listed above. Parents who do not live with their children should refer to the 'Separated Parent' policy, which has been sent by email this morning with regard to booking parent teacher consultation appointments.

If you have any problems booking your appointments, please contact the school office.

Parents and carers will have an opportunity to view their child's work books after school on Wednesday 11th March, 3.30-4.30pm.

## News from the Governors

We would be very grateful if you could take some time to complete our survey.

The survey can be completed by each parent/carer for each child you have attending our school. All feedback received is noted by the governing body and responses are anonymous. As always, if you have any queries or concerns about your child, please do contact the school office so that we can direct your concern to a member of staff who can help you.

Please click on the link to complete: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YLP9Q9K> by 27th February 2026.

## PTA News

### PTA Committee Meeting – Everyone Welcome

All parents are automatically members of our PTA, and we would love your help.

Our next PTA committee meeting will take place on 1st February at 7.45pm at The Old Bull. We'll be chatting about upcoming events, fundraising ideas, and ways we can support the school throughout the year.

Everyone is welcome to join us — whether you can help regularly or just have a few ideas to share. We'd love to see some new faces and hear your thoughts.

Next time you need to reorder name labels for your child's belongings, please consider using **Stikins** 🏷️

**Stikins** generously gives 30% commission to schools, PTAs and nurseries on all approved named-label sales made by parents throughout the year, with a cheque sent to us every November.

📄 Last year alone we received just over £110.00, simply from parents ordering labels they needed anyway!

How to order:

- 1 Go to 🖱️ <https://www.stikins.co.uk/order/>
- 2 Before you get to CHECKOUT, you'll see the question: "Do you have a school fundraising number?"
- 3 Click YES
- 4 Enter our fundraising number: 10432

Thank you for supporting our school — every order really does make a difference 🧡

## NURSERY ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Applications are now live for a September 2026 start.

Please fill in an application form online by following the link below, we will start to allocate places from 15th January 2026. We will continue to accept applications and offer places throughout the year until we are full.

**Please call the school office on 01763 243392 if you would like to discuss your child's application, we are always happy to help.**

[Icknield Walk First School Nursery application form for Nursery](#)

## Best Start in Life Parent Hub

The Best Start in Life Parent Hub is a new website from the Government that has information and support from pregnancy through to your child's early years and beyond. It offers:

- Support and advice when you are pregnant, for your new baby and toddler development.
- Childcare funding support.
- Family support in your local area.
- Getting ready to start school.

Find all the information on <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

## 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 | Hertfordshire County Council](#) . Even if your child currently receives universal free meals in Reception to Year 2 you should still complete the application as other education benefits will be automatically registered. Registering for FSM could result in extra funding coming into school to support learning and additional activities for all students, which the school might not otherwise be able to afford. It really makes a difference to our budget and thus to children's learning opportunities.

Please be assured that the whole process is confidential and there is no way for your child to be identified when having their free lunch. Please use the eligibility checker link above or contact Sue Barrett or Sarah Childs in the office and they will support you.

## Guitar lessons

Mr Hillier has told us that he has spaces. If your child would like to learn how to play guitar, please sign them up by contacting Herts Music Service on the following link:

<https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/music-lessons-in-hertfordshire/music-lessons.aspx>

## Vacancy - Cleaner

We have a vacancy for a cleaner to join our dedicated and friendly team as soon as possible.

We need a cleaner (early morning or afternoon or early evening) during term time for two hours and fifteen minutes each day, some additional holiday cleaning will also be required.

The rate of pay is £12.65 per hour.

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.

Previous cleaning experience would be an advantage but not essential.

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 13th February 2026.

We reserve the right to interview and appoint before the closing date should the right candidate apply. Please apply early to avoid disappointment.

For more details, please contact the school office on 01763 243392 or email [admin@icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@icknieldwalk.herts.sch.uk).

# Events in and around Royston and other useful information



OFSTED REGISTERED





"NO SCREENS, JUST GOOD FUN OUTSIDE!"

★★★★★

## FEBRUARY HALF TERM CLUBS

"Childcare during the holidays they want to go to"  
Fresh air. Fresh activities. Fresh attitude.

### STUDLANDS RISE FIRST SCHOOL, ROYSTON



ANIMAL AMBASSADOR

**MONDAY 16 FEB**  
**TRIBAL ADVENTURE: BUILD, CRAFT & SURVIVE!**

Join your tribe for a day of wild adventure! Work together to build your tribal woodland camp & get creative with tribal crafts. Take on castaway style team challenges & games as you learn how tribes across the world live & survive in the wild!

**TUESDAY 17 FEB**  
**CAMPFIRE COOKOUT PANCAKE DAY SPECIAL & BUSHCRAFT**

Join us for the perfect winter campfire cookout! Make s'mores & Pancakes over the flames, learn different bushcraft fire lighting methods & enjoy a mix of classic outdoor games. A cosy & relaxed day filled with creativity, camp vibes, tasty treats and skills to take home and share with your family!

**WEDNESDAY 18 FEB**  
**NERF: WILD WEST SHOWDOWN**

Let's go back in time and ride into a Wild West world of heists and outlaws! Grab your blasters, team up, and join stagecoach standoffs, bank robbery missions, and cattle corrals in a full day of action-packed Nerf games. A fast-paced, high-adventure Nerf experience! (Age 6+ recommended)

**THURSDAY 19 FEB**  
**BUSHCRAFT VS MINECRAFT**

Minecraft comes to life outdoors! Team up to build your village using real bushcraft skills, earn reward pixels for completing survival challenges, & search for hidden resources to craft your tools. Take on Creeper & Lava Chicken games, protect your base, and experience Minecraft like never before! (knowledge of Minecraft is not required!)

**FRIDAY 20 FEB**  
**WE'RE GOING ON A YETI HUNT!**

Become an explorer for the day and step into a world of mystery & adventure! Track the legendary Yeti through the wild as you follow hidden clues, build clever traps, & craft your own Yeti footprints as proof of your discovery. Work together to uncover the forest's secrets, outsmart the wild's most mysterious creature, and maybe even meet the Yeti itself!



"BEST HOLIDAY CLUB AROUND!"

★★★★★



For more info on dates, locations and how the clubs run & to book: [www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk](http://www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk)

★★★★★

"THIS IS A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY CLUB, FULL OF FUN & FRESH AIR"

★★★★★

"I LOVE THAT IT'S PHYSICAL ACTIVITY NOT BASED ON TRADITIONAL SPORTS"



The Outdoors Project  
Inspiring Adventure Clubs For Kids

★★★★★

"THAT WAS SO MUCH FUN. CAN I GO AGAIN TOMORROW?"

★★★★★

"LOTS OF GOOD OLD FASHIONED GET DIRTY PLAY!"

**BOOK NOW**

# FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

## TRIBAL ADVENTURE BUILD, CRAFT & SURVIVE!

AMAZING ACTIVITIES RUNNING AROUND TEAMWORK

## BUSHCRAFT VS MINECRAFT NERF

CLASSIC CHILDHOOD FUN

## SUPERHERO STAFF WILD WEST SHOWDOWN

FRESH AIR GOOD TIMES ADVENTURE NO SCREENS

## MAKING FRIENDS CAMPFIRE ROSEY CHEEKS COOKOUT

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES & BUSHCRAFT SKILLS

<b>LOCATION</b>	STUDLANDS RISE FIRST SCHOOL, ROYSTON
<b>DATES</b>	MONDAY 16TH – FRIDAY 20TH FEB
<b>TIME</b>	9 AM – 3 PM
<b>AGE RANGE</b>	SCHOOL YEARS 1-6
<b>PRICE</b>	£39.50 A DAY



"BEST HOLIDAY CLUB AROUND!"

★★★★★



- 100% OUTDOORS
- MAKING FRIENDS
- PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
- BUILDING CONFIDENCE
- ENERGETIC & ENGAGED STAFF
- FLEXIBLE BOOKING
- OFSTED REGISTERED
- CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

FREE to parents and carers in Hertfordshire

## TALKING TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **12-19**, covering:

- The Teen Brain: physical and emotional changes taking place and why behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understand risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.



**Mondays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
5th Jan to 19th Feb  
Online Course: ID 804

**Thursdays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
5th Feb to 19th Mar  
Online Course: ID 803

**Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
11th Mar to 29th Apr  
Online Course: ID 802

## TALKING ANGER in TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **11-19**, supporting you to:

- Understand why children & adults get angry.
- Develop strategies to handle anger in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anger.
- Reduce conflict and arguments.
- Encourage positive behaviour.



**Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
6th Jan to 20th Feb  
Online Course: ID 805

## TALKING FAMILIES

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **0-12** sharing tips on:

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self-esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries.
- Responding to tantrums and difficult feelings in children.
- Developing a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future.



**Thursdays 8.00 - 9.30pm**  
8th Jan to 22nd Feb  
Online Course: ID 799

**Thursdays 9.45 - 11.15am**  
5th Feb to 19th Mar  
Online Course: ID 798

## TALKING DADS

6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers of children **0-19**, sharing information on:

- Improved listening and communication skills.
- A healthy dad-child relationship now and for the future.
- Effective strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- How to enforce boundaries.
- Being the dad, you want to be.



**Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
7th Jan to 21st Feb  
Online Course: ID 806

**Mondays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
2nd Feb to 16th Mar  
Online Course: ID 807

## TALKING ANXIETY in FAMILIES

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children **5-12**, supporting you to:

- Understand why young people and adults get anxious.
- Develop strategies to handle anxiety in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anxiety.
- Reduce stress and tension.
- Encourage resilient behaviour.



**Wednesdays 9.45 - 11.30am**  
4th Feb to 18th Mar  
Online Course: ID 801

## TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children **2-19**, with any additional need. Your child does not need a diagnosis.

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict.
- Improve emotional regulation.
- Explore sensory needs.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage different needs in your family.



**Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm**  
6th Jan to 20th Feb  
Online Course: ID 797

**Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15am**  
3rd Feb to 17th Mar  
Online Course: ID 796

**Thursdays 8.00 - 9.30pm**  
5th Feb to 19th Mar  
Online Course: ID 800

**Booking essential. Please Quote the Course ID**

To check eligibility and book a place, please contact Supporting Links on: **07512 709556** or [bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)

These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund. Information taken on booking will be used to process your booking, check your eligibility, identify any access needs and will be stored in accordance with our GDPR policy which is available on request



# Associated Karate Schools

Providing Traditional and Sport Karate tuition for Children and Adults since 1995

AKS classes are structured, disciplined, fun and respectful. Lessons are tailored to suit all ages and abilities. New beginners are always welcome.

Please see our website for full details and to book a free trial lesson.



[www.karateschools.co.uk](http://www.karateschools.co.uk)

barrettbusiness@aol.com / 07929 100612

AKS Chief Instructor Sensei Anthony Barrett 5<sup>th</sup> Dan.

Former England Squad, English, British and International medallist. Coach Accredited, DBS, First Aid certified and Public Liability insured.

AKS is registered with the English Karate National Governing Body (EKNGB) and WKF.



## 'Come and Try' - Stevenage Music Centre

'Come and try' is being held at Stevenage Music Centre (SG2 0HS) on Saturday 7th February at 1pm - 2.30pm.

This session aims to give prospective students the chance to try a variety of instruments and gives parents the opportunity to be involved in the decision making. Everyone is welcome.

Contact for more information: [Stevenagemusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Stevenagemusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or call: 01438 844 518.

## Home-Start

Home-Start are currently looking for **Family Volunteers** to support parents who are going through a tough time. Our volunteers offer a friendly, consistent presence, helping families feel more confident, less isolated, and better able to cope day-to-day.

If you've ever thought, "*I'd love to help, but I'm not sure how*", this could be it. Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more (no pressure, just a chat).

### Home-Start's Got Talent — more acts wanted!

Home-Start's Got Talent event is coming up, on March 28th 2-4.30pm at King James Academy, Royston and we'd love to add more performers to the line-up.

We're looking for:

- **Magicians**
- **Gospel Choirs / Choirs**
- **Cheerleading squads**
- **Comedians**
- **Dance groups / solo singers / musicians**
- ...and anyone who can perform and wants to show off their talent!

If that's you (or you know someone brilliant), please reply to this email with a quick description and a contact number, we'll do the rest.

### 👏👏 **Volunteers needed – LYHS - Store Collections (a few slots left!)**

If you can spare two hours, these collections make a *huge* difference. We still have:

- **Tesco Extra, Royston – Friday 13th February: 5 slots available**
- **Bury Lane Farm Shop – Friday 13th February: 4 slots available**

It's friendly, easy, and you'll be fully briefed (smiling is the only real requirement!). Please email [angie.ward@hsrsc.org.uk](mailto:angie.ward@hsrsc.org.uk)

### **Katy Watson – Literary Lunch (DATE CHANGE)**

Please note our **Literary Lunch with author Katy Watson** has moved from **Monday 23rd to Tuesday 24th February 2026**.

If you've already popped it in your calendar, thank you! Please update the date so you don't turn up a day early and end up having lunch with a very confused coat rack.

We'd love to see you there for a relaxed, feel-good afternoon of conversation, books, and supporting local families who really need us.

**Book here:**

**? Quiz Night – Seth Ward, Buntingford**

Don't forget our **Quiz Night on Saturday 28th February 2026** at **Seth Ward, Buntingford**.

Bring a team, bring your brain, bring your "confidently wrong" answers — it's always a brilliant night and a great way to support our work.

**Book here:** <https://buytickets.at/homestartroystonbuntingfordandsouthcambridgeshire/2012655>

## Easy Fundraising - help us while you shop

**Raise funds for us for FREE**  
with **easyfundraising**

Join as our supporter today at:  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)  
Just search for:  
**Icknield Walk First School PTA**

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them

Argos TESCO JOHN LEWIS ebay JUST EAT

Start at the easyfundraising website or app → Click out to where you'd like to shop → Checkout: prices are exactly the same! → The retailer sends a % of your spend to easyfundraising → They pass it on to us :)

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Exclusive retailer offers      Competitions      A warm feeling inside!

Over **£60m** raised for UK good causes

**£0** extra cost to anyone

Please remember to use [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) 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](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) 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](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) 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](http://www.hertsfamilycentres.org)

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

BeeZee Bodies - [www.beezeebodies.com](http://www.beezeebodies.com)

[North Herts Special Provision updates - look here for SEN and Behaviour support](#)

[Free School Meals](#)

[Neurodiversity Support Hub](#)

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

Mind Hertfordshire Network - <https://www.withyouth.org/>