

THE NUTSHELL

Celebrating recent highlights at Hazelwood

3RD OCTOBER 2025

Dear Parents,

At the Hazelwood Cross Country Relays just over a week ago, as the children ran up the steep and unforgiving Hazelwood hill (!), I was reminded of resilience. Life can sometimes feel like that hill: challenging, relentless, and demanding strength to keep going.



In the past, we might have called this grit. These days, we talk more about resilience, and rightly so. Grit can sound like simply "toughing it out," while resilience is about something much broader and healthier: adapting well to challenges, managing frustration, and building the confidence to persevere, even when success is not instant.

True resilience is not only about bouncing back. It is also about knowing when something isn't the right fit, having the courage to say, "I gave it my best, but this is not for me," and moving on with perspective. Resilience is as much about flexibility and self-knowledge as it is about determination. This is no small task for children in a world of instant gratification, where so much is available at the tap of a button. As parents and educators, we might ask ourselves: how do we help children keep going when things take time?

At our Parent Insights session last night, Georgina Morgan explored this very theme: Resilience in Kids – does it still matter? The discussion was both thought-provoking and practical. If you have not yet joined us, we would love to see you. Sessions run on Fridays at 9.00am and, on alternate weeks, Thursdays at 6.30pm. The next Parent Insights is on Friday 10 October at 9.00am in the TOSH, when we will be discussing gut microbiome science, ultra-processed food, and the impact on children's health.

Georgina closed with words that stayed with me: "Resilience does still matter. In fact, it may matter more than ever. Our children do not just need to pass exams or survive the playground. They need to navigate a world of shifting truths and tempting shortcuts. If we can help them value honesty, persistence, and character, even when it is unfashionable, we give them something much deeper than instant comfort. We give them strength."

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Perhaps try something new with your children and take time to notice together how resilience still matters.

Best wishes, Lindie

Follow us on our social channels for regular updates on school news!



@hazelwoodschooloxted



@hazelwoodschool.co.uk



@hazelwoodschoolsport

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Spotlight

Swimming Success!

Club Champs - Raif swam all the 50m races and achieved lots of pb's and also did the 100IM and 200IM - new pbs and a whopping 18 seconds off his 200IM, doing it in 3.08. He came 3rd overall.

Noah did super well coming 3rd in his fly and second in back overall.

Kent Relays - Raif's team got to the finals and came 2nd in the medley relay and 4th in the free. He was selected to race fly in the medley based on his IM at the club champs and did his 50m in 37.2 in the heat and then 36.8 in the finals.



Well done boys!







Mrs Sweeting

Specialist Dyslexia Teacher

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I love witnessing how pupils grow in confidence, discover their strengths, and understand that they are so capable of achieving any of the goals that they may set themselves while at Hazelwood. I also love being part of the Wellbeing Hub with an extremely caring, motivated team of teachers and teaching assistants, creating a welcoming, supportive space to any pupil who may need just a little extra help during their school day.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

I am motivated by knowing that with extra time and targeted intervention, a pupil who is finding reading or spelling challenging, can go on to develop a passion for reading or a love of writing just by being given a little more time and support. My role is just one piece of a much bigger jigsaw and I try to work closely with other staff and parents to make sure that in our 1:1 or small group lessons, we are learning skills and strategies that will give a pupil confidence to achieve when they are in the classroom or completing homework.

HOW DO YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN'S LIVES?

By being part of their journey and constantly encouraging and accepting that sometimes we may have to think of other ways to reach our goals. I hope that with this targeted support, pupils start to redefine how they see themselves as learners.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS YEAR?

So many things! Getting to know new pupils and finding out how I can work with them this year, making new resources and games that can help pupils learn in fun, interactive and multisensory ways and finding more ways to use technology as a tool to support children with their learning. Out of school, I am looking forward to spending more time at the pottery studio I have joined!



Other News

Parent Insights



Our Parent Insights sessions are held each week, led by Georgina Morgan.

Georgina holds a Master's degree in Restorative Justice from Cambridge University and is both Head of our Parent Insights Programme and a Pedagogical Coach. Each week, this inspiring programme will offer parents practical knowledge, evidence-based insights, and the chance to reflect and share in a supportive environment.

Whether you're curious about the latest thinking in child development, looking for guidance in navigating today's parenting challenges, or simply hoping to connect with other parents, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow together.

Upcoming session:

Latest gut microbiome science - ultra-processed food and its impact on our children's health.

• Friday 10th October - 9am

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Reading Roots



Reading Roots has got off to a wonderful start!

Reading Roots is a wonderful team of parents who support reading in the Lower School. If you are at all interested in finding out more do join us on Wednesday 8th October at 3pm as I am doing another training session and everyone is welcome to join.

Meet in Reception - see you there!

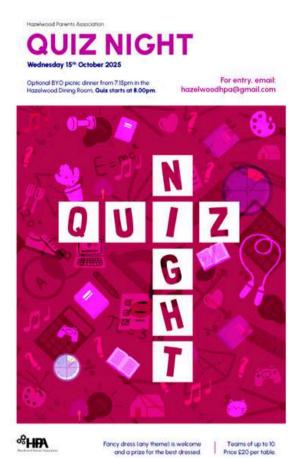




Other News

Tickets now available for the HPA Quiz Night!

15th October in the Hazelwood Dining Room - come along for a fantastic evening and support the school.





Problem-solving missions

Book here

Swimming

Arts & Crafts

Vraparound Care

Booking for The Hub at Hazelwood during October half term is now open!

Book your child's place via MSP.

Any bookings made after 15th October will incur a late booking charge.

Wraparound care is now available between 8:30-10am and 3-5pm.





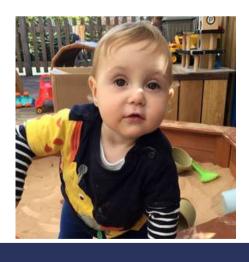




Blossom

The Blossom children have been looking at and exploring the not my books this week. The children have been very creative and making their own penguins using sponges, finger painting frogs and moving paint underneath cling film to create monsters. The children have been exploring arctic animals and under the sea creatures in the messy tray. We have also been balancing along a beam over a soft pond with lily pads and moving our bodies to different music.

We have also begun to exploring different aspects of autumn in the classroom. The children have been listening to autumn music on the carpet area and exploring different coloured leaves in sensory bags. In the messy tray we have been finding different animals hidden under the leaves and exploring leaves floating in the water play. The blossom children have been making their own hedgehogs using forks, making leaf suncatchers and doing some leaf printing. The children also had lots of fun visiting the nursery library and looking at the different books and puppets.





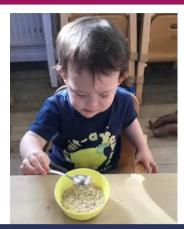


Maple

Maple has had a wonderfully busy few week! We've been diving into our theme 'Old Macdonald', where the children have created their own muddy pigs. They've also enjoyed exploring our messy trays. Our new sandpit has been a hit too, with the children building sandcastles and happily scooping sand into buckets. This week, we're shifting our focus to 'Dinosaurs'. The children are having a fantastic time exploring the dinosaur-themed tough tray and engaging in imaginative play at the small world table









Willow

Last week in Willow, we continued our topic on transport, looking at different vehicles through the use of books and small world models. The children have been colour matching using trains and have had fun sticking shapes down onto paper to create boats. We have also been mark-making with paint using marbles.

This week, we have begun our Goldilocks and the Three Bears topic. We have been talking about the family of bears and have been learning about their difference in sizes. The children enjoyed mixing oats and honey together to make their own porridge.







Elm

In Elm this week we have been talking about the Gruffalo. The children have had great fun looking at him and his purple prickles all over his back. We have done some folk painting where the children in the Pansie group made their own Gruffalo. The children also did some cooking and they made Gruffalo Rice Krispie cakes using marshmallows for teeth and smarties for eyes.

Last week we continued our 'Goldilocks and the three bears and other fairytales' topic. We talked about the three bear behaviour code as well as reading the story and getting the children to identify which was Daddy's bowl, Mummy's chair and baby bear's bed.

Next week we are doing the topic of Autumn. We will be discussing what happens at this time and how things change as well as getting the children to gather some Autumn bits from their own garden.









Birch

Last week, the children enjoyed exploring the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We started our week by reading the story together, using puppies and various resources to help the children to understand the story. We also introduced our three bears safety code, which we've introduced into our daily routine. To add some adventure, we took the children on a walk to the nature area, where they searched for bear paw prints numbered 1-10. Throughout our activities, the children engaged in fun learning about different sizes of bowls and bears, making it a fantastic experience for everyone.

This week, our topic was Transport. The children had a fantastic time using cars and paint to create beautiful patterns on paper while discussing various types of vehicles. They also played in the playground, pretending to be cars on the road, which allowed them to learn about road safety using colours like red, yellow, and green. Additionally, the children learned about hot air balloons, adding even more excitement to our week!







Hazel

Hazel is our new room that opened this September, and we're thrilled to share how well the children are settling in. During the first week, our focus was on making the Hazel children feel comfortable and familiar with their surroundings, as well as introducing them to their key person. In the second week, we encouraged the children to talk about their families, fostering a sense of belonging. They created a wonderful display by sticking family pictures onto a nest, which was a lovely way for them to connect with each other. Also, we've been exploring shapes and colours! The children had a fantastic time printing shapes using potatoes. We also took them on a shape hunt on the grass, which was both fun and educational. As part of the nursery's 'Jeans for Genes Day', the children used different coloured paint for handprints and fingerprints as well as mixing two colours to create a new one. It's been a delightful few weeks filled with creativity and learning!







Pine

The children in Pine class concluded their focus on feelings, families and emotions with a selection of activities including making individual mirrors, linking the amount of people in their family to the correct numeral and using 'The Colour Monster' books as a visual aid to instigate paintings and conversations about expressing our feelings in relation to specific colours.

This week the traditional tale of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' has captured the children's imagination via a variety of activities designed to reinforce their literacy and numeracy skills, develop their fine motor movements and spark plenty of descriptive, imaginative dialogue.

We have sequenced the story's illustrations to retell the narrative, used the props in the home corner and the 'small world' provision to reenact the storyline and used our cutting skills to give Goldilocks a haircut! The sensory porridge oats tuff tray provided plenty of opportunities for the children to explore texture and fill, empty, transfer and mix using different one-handed tools. We also extended this to look at the concept of 'half' and 'quarter' filled receptacles too.



Acorns

The popular children's story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' underpinned this week's activities in the Acorn class. The children used the story's illustrations as prompts to retell the narrative in their own words, so highlighting their comprehension and recall. Some children showed great understanding of size differentiation too, as they independently arranged story-related objects in descending size order. We matched quantity of sorting bears to the correct numeral, used a variety of materials and media to create individual bears and even made tea for our teddy bears in the tuff tray. We particularly enjoyed our special Teddy Bears Picnic, complete with sandwiches and china teacups, and accompanied by our favourite teddy bears brought in from home!



Reception

Forest School

The children enjoyed participating in a treasure hunt during their first Forest School session. Signs of autumn were observed on a beautiful, sunny afternoon.







Name Writing

Using playdough, the children manipulated sausage shapes to create the letters in their name. Following on from this, they worked on writing their names using the correct letter formation and practised writing some of the tall letters.









Reception

Portraits

Using a mirror, the children looked carefully at the features of their faces. Then they had a go at mixing the colours to match their features.







Superhero Art Work

The children painted a sunset sky background; they then had to turn it into a superhero city at night. They cut out squares and rectangles from black paper, sticking them onto the background for the buildings, and adding small yellow squares for windows.

Following on from this we used 'Ideogram' to create their own superheroes.



Plastic Topic Day

Year 1 had a fantastic Topic Day! Co

They welcomed a speaker from SUEZ Recycling, who delivered an informative session all about the importance of recycling and protecting our planet.

They also took part in a range of activities, including collage making with recycled materials and interactive sorting games — all designed to spark curiosity and build awareness around sustainability.











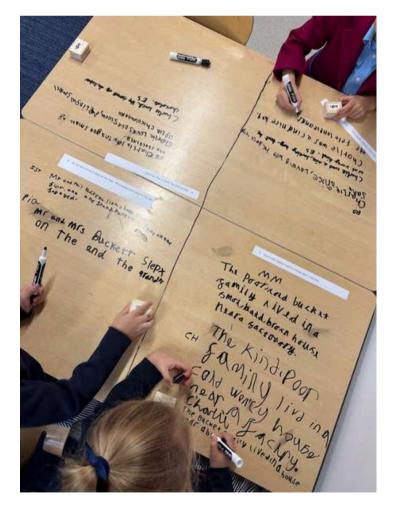


English

Year 2 worked very hard to collaborate with each other on their expanded noun phrase sentences this week. We took to writing on the tables for one lesson too!









Science

What is the function of different parts of a flowering plant?

3M used natural materials to create their own representations of plants, they then had to label each part of the plant.







Maths

Year 3 took part in carousel of activities to consolidate their understanding of place value.











Art

4L had an art lesson with Mrs Tullett and Mrs Fuller last Friday and created their own volcano artwork inspired by Matisse.











DT

Year 5 have been designing and modelling a prototype of a toy storage unit for a child's bedroom. They have been busy modelling and creating frame structures to represent their design ideas. Using straws, card and tape they have carefully constructed their designs. Well done Year 5.



















English

Year 6 have been exploring emotions in this term's poetry topic. Here are some of their own poetic ideas.

Sadness is a dreary grey

It smells like the salty sea air when you are packing to go home

It tastes like the last slice of chocolate cake as someone else devours it

It sounds like the pitter patter of the rain dripping down the window on a Sunday afternoon

It feels like the end of your favourite era

It looks like a cracked mug when you're pouring your tea

Sadness is a feeling that tears your heart apart.

Tabby L

Love is rosy pink

It smells like roses on a gentle summers day

It tastes like grandma's fresh banana bread

It sounds like calm waves on a tropical beach with white sand and clear water.

It feels like a sunrise in the bottom of your heart

It looks like a gentleman helping his wife across the street

Love is your heart feeling full of dreams

Yuv K

POWER is grand gold

POWER tastes like an explosion of juice from the best orange

POWER sounds like an opera with a grand piano

POWER feels like having all the POWER in the WORLD

POWER looks like a great king with a DAZZLING GOLD CROWN

POWER IS LIKE FLYING ABOVE THE WORLD

Thomas H



English

Year 6 have been exploring emotions in this term's poetry topic. Here are some of their own poetic ideas.

Boredom is a grey vortex slowly sucking away your soul.

It smells like black smoke polluting the once blue sky.

It tastes of plain potatoes over and over again.

It sounds like a constant woodpecker slowly eating away at your mind.

It feels like standing, not moving a muscle for hours on end.

It looks like watching grey paint dry.

Boredom is an endless cycle of pain and suffering.

Fyfe H

Love is a golden sun setting on a warm beach
It smells like roses booming on a Summer day
It tastes like strawberries dunked in melted chocolate
It sounds like waves crashing against the rocks on an island
It feels like a calming bubble bath after a spar day
Love makes you feel complete.

Francesca F

Disgust is swamp green!

It smells like mould growing behind your ears!

It tastes like rotten cabbages in the cupboard behind the old tinned beans!

It sounds like nails scratching on a blackboard!

It feels like slime is crawling down your clothes!

It looks like when you're running, drenched in sweat!

Disgust is that feeling when you see someone eating with their mouth open!

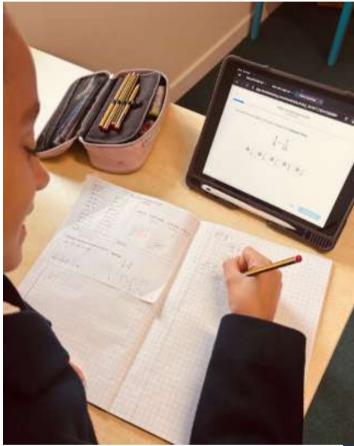
Charlotte B



Maths

This week in Thursday Atom, Year 7 were adding and subtracting fractions.







Camp Out

Last Friday was the Year 8 sleepover and after playing football with an illuminated football, and deciding where to lay our sleeping bags, air mattresses or giant duvets, we went to the teepee with glowsticks to toast marshmallows, drink hot chocolate and sing songs.

We also danced the Samba around the firepit. Next we went indoors to watch a film, well some did, others wanted to paint their nails, make jewellery or apply transfers in the form of dinosaurs. Most were tired by midnight, a few giggles from a certain girls' room but everyone had a great time. Even Mr Jarvis' room was put back in order!











English

Year 8 have been developing their descriptive writing techniques, and carefully crafting expressive ideas. It's not as easy as it looks!

Twilight creatures emerged from the undergrowth, ready to rule the night. Charlie H.

A magnificent stag and its delicate daughter emerged silently from the safety of the forest, their button noses twitching as tendrils of thick smoke wafted from the flickering fire. Sam C

The fire's glow felt intoxicating, both comforting and perilous, holding back the woodland's darkness, yet hinting at its fading power.

Molly B

Like imperial judges, majestic snow-capped mountains glared violently at each other, silently imposing their will.

Charlie J.T.

Multiple wild salmon leapt playfully across the pristine water, their silver-plated scales gleaming with the last breaths of the day's light.

Logan S

The dense green canopy had a breathtaking otherworldly look, with a gentle, quiet vibe. Jacob P

A lambent fire lay smouldering, its radiating heat giving off a flickering aura. Ran J



English

Clouds on the horizon matched the mountain's jagged shape, like outstretched fingers searching the picturesque landscape. Daria M

Licking at sooty logs, ethereal flames leapt and danced as the crowning centrepiece of a circle of smooth stones.

Felicity M

Where once a mighty campfire blazed, only the echo remained - a fleeting reminder of light mercilessly consumed by darkness.

Esmee M

The grand sycamore's verdant hue and woody aroma wafted through the autumnal air. Flo M

Veiled with a light coat of shimmering mist, the mountains' cascading slopes seemed to swaddle the scenery below, encased in a sturdy shield of timeless endurance. Margot W





Sport

Girls Swim Gala vs Kent College Pembury

The girls had a fantastic evening at the swim gala against Kent College Pembury, winning the majority of races. It was clear that the hard work put in during training is paying off in the water, with strong performances across all age groups. Special congratulations to our U8 swimmers, who competed in their first gala action and showed great enthusiasm. A brilliant team effort all round!











Library

Tom Palmer Visit













On Tuesday 30th September we invited Tom Palmer, author of some amazing war, rugby, football and crime books into the school for an assembly with Years 4-8 and then a workshop with Year 5 pupils.

In assembly, Tom talked to the pupils about his books and what inspired him to write them. He explained that a lot of his work is based on research and is true and then he adapts the story accordingly whilst keeping an element of the truth within the book. He then showed the pupils some of his scrapbooks with all his research in. We then had a questions and answers session.

The Year 5 workshop was brilliant and here are some of the pupil's comments: The flip chart details how the pupils looked at writing a story and these ideas will form the start of their stories in their English lessons.





The Children's Book Project - Christmas Collection

We are again running the collection of new and nearly new (but in very good condition) books for the Children's Charity in the run up to Christmas.

Please drop off your unwanted new or nearly new books that your children have grown out of and send them in to me in the Hazelwood Library from now until the end of November and I will ensure they are sent on to children who do not get/or have any books of their own. Let's help more disadvantaged children to enjoy the magic of books too!

Please note that the condition of books donated is very important. The charity cannot accept old, marked or tatty books since these are not suitable to gift onwards to another child. so please do not send any of the following:

- textbooks or revision books
- religious texts
- encyclopaedias
- DVDs or CDs
- torn, scribbled or dirty books
- ex library books or ex reading schemes



Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the pupils below who took part in the summer reading challenges, by now everyone should have collected their prize of a book but if you are still awaiting your prize please call into the library. I do hope you all enjoyed the challenges.

Yr 1 Darian, Isabelle B, Leo C, Emilia C, Louis D, Henrietta D, Theo E, Alex J, Mabel, Louis L, Ralph L, Fionn M, Zagros, Maeve, Shreya, Freddie R and Thomas S

Yr2 Sophie B, Alfie D, Georgia D, Lua E, Lucas, Ava G, Charlie H, Minty, Jess H, Ernie, Charlie J, Alessia, Emilia L, Harry, Beatrix, Allegra, Finlay M, Riley M, Milly MacD, Chloe P, Florence P, Eve S, Isabelle ST, Melody, Noah and Erica

Yr 3 Sienna A, Jove, Oliver C, India ,Ethan C, Rocco, Jude, Oscar E, Lola, Finlay G, Sophie H, Cooper K, Max K, Abigail, Imogen, Rhys, Henry dM, Wilfred, Sebastian P, James P, Darcey, Oliver P, Max R, Poppy R, Gloria and Molly T

Yr4 Jean, Eleanor, Sienna C, Hugo, George LJ, Danny H, Clodagh, Lily H, Jack H, Margot K, Lucas ML, Jack McS, Nieve, Rachel, Aramis, Jessica, Charlie P, Francesca P. Lauren, Isla, Maude, Poppy and Imi Yr 5 Clemmie B, Luke, Dakota, Freddie, Leo, Etienne, James, Francis, Jensen, Edie, Alice, Heidi, William K, Barnaby, Hugo, Emily, Scarlett, Siddharth, Edward, Izzy, Harper, Abi and Annabelle Yr 6 John, Harper, Lana, Tom, Eddie, Bethany, Eva, Everett, Charlotte S, Georgia and Phillippa Yr 8 Charlie JT, Esmee M, Jacob and Margot.

Some of you also completed the Reading Rivers and some of these will be displayed in the library from next week. The winners of the competition will be announced at the next assembly!

Usborne Sponsored Reading Challenge

Our next reading challenge in the library is the Usborne sponsored reading challenge in the October half term. More details will be sent in the next Nutshell edition.























Hobby Horse Club

Grace in Year 6 is starting a hobby horse club at home!

When: Sundays at 12 midday starting from 2nd November - every 2 weeks.

Where: Crewes Lane, Warlingham.

Cost: £5 for 45 minutes (50p will go to Dash Dog Rescue in Greece).

Refreshments available to purchase.

A large grassed paddock with jumps of various heights which Grace will organise.

Suitable for all ages.

A small shed for shelter but no seating - please bring your own fold-out chairs if accompanying your child.

Contact Vida on 07904 386 793 or vida.cannon@gmail.com

Golf Day for Hazelwood Parents & Children - Monday 20th October

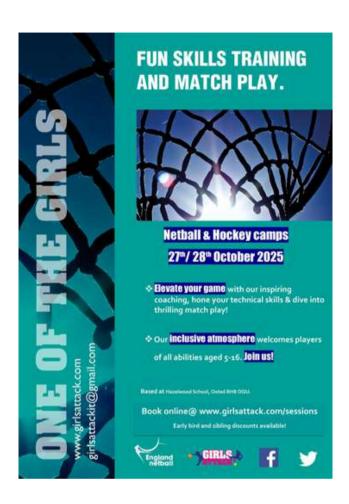
Limpsfield Golf Club, Oxted, RH8 0SH

- Each parent to be accompanied by 1 a child (minimum age 5) acting as caddies and/or putters
- Meet for breakfast rolls at 9am.
- First tee 10am (2hrs for the 9 hole round).
- Lunch from 12.30pm where additional parents and siblings over 5 can join (additional cost per head).
- Cost £45 covers adult and child green fees, breakfast roll, coffee and lunch of sandwiches and chips.

Contact Gurjit on 07711 148 773 for further details.

















Piano Concert

Young classical pianist, Jeneba Kanneh-Mason is performing on Saturday 18 October 2025 in the Bawtree Hall at Hazelwood.

Jeneba is part of the Kanneh-Mason family (Who are the Kanneh-Masons?) and regularly features on radio and television.

As a society, we are committed to supporting live performance at a high level and celebrating diversity and accessibility within the arts. We feel this concert will inspire future generations and show that classical music is a space for anyone.

Jeneba's programme includes pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, Florence Price and William Grant Still. Tickets are free for 26s and under.

If any staff, including peripatetic teachers, are interested in attending, a free ticket is available. Please email: oandlmusicsociety@gmail.com

Please visit our website to find out more and secure tickets.



Just Launched!

Time 4 You PA Services is here to assist you with your life administration and help you get more Time 4 You.

Feel free to visit www.time4youpa.co.uk or reach out to me at time4youpaservices@gmail.com.