

### INTRODUCING BEAR!

We are thrilled to announce a furry new addition to our school community: Bear, a golden retriever puppy who joined us for his first day on Friday! At just under 4 months old, Bear is training to become a therapy dog, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome him.

Bear will be visiting us once a week, where he will spend time getting to know the school environment and becoming familiar with our staff and students. For now, Bear is settling in and spending his days in Miss Branagh's office as he adjusts to his new role.

Once fully trained, Bear will take on his official duties as our Therapy Dog. He will support children with their reading and be available for calming cuddles whenever they're needed. We are confident that Bear will bring lots of joy and comfort to our school, and we can't wait to see the positive impact he will have on our children.

We'll keep you updated on Bear's progress and training. In the meantime, let's all give Bear a warm welcome to our school family!

Mrs Toni Branagh



### DIARY DATES

**Friday 24th January:** PTA Meeting  
2pm (in school)

**Monday 27th January:** Year 6  
Parents SATs Information Session

**Thursday 6th February:** 9am Church  
Worship

**Friday 7th February:** Wear a Scarf  
Day

**Thursday 27th February - Monday  
3rd March:** SAET Author Visits (Details  
to follow)

## FREE BOOKS FOR ALL!

We are thrilled that Hartlebury has been incredibly fortunate to receive a generous donation of books in a wide variety of genres. Teachers have selected books to enhance their classrooms, our librarian has added a huge number to the school library, and children in the older classes have already chosen books to take home. However, we still have boxes and boxes of books left over! To ensure these books find homes, we will be putting them out on the playground at the end of the school day tomorrow (Tuesday) and again on Friday. These books are completely free, and you are welcome to take as many as you like.

Please note: with such a large number of books, it has been impossible to check every single one for suitability. We kindly ask that you take a moment to review the books your child chooses to ensure they are appropriate for their age and reading level.

Thank you for helping us make the most of this wonderful donation. We hope you and your children find some treasures to enjoy!

### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Reception:  
96.3%  
Year 1: 95.9%  
Year 2: 94.0%  
Year 3: 91.8%  
Year 4: 97.0%  
Year 5: 99.2%  
Year 6: 96.1%

### PARENT - TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Our school, like any other, relies heavily on the support of our dedicated PTA to raise valuable funds in exciting ways, which then provide resources that help our children continue to flourish and reach their full potential. Please consider joining us for coffee on Friday 24th January at 2pm in school. This is an opportunity to meet the current PTA team and get involved - the more the merrier!

## SUPER JESS!

We are so proud of Jess in Alder Class. She has very kindly donated 15 inches of her hair for the Little Princess Trust. This is a charity that provides free real hair wigs to children and young people up to the age of 24, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. Jess has also raised £75 in sponsorship for the charity and we are incredibly proud of her. Well done Jess!



### WAITING FOR A CLINICAL APPOINTMENT?

A new website has been created to support children and young people, as well as their families, who find themselves experiencing long waits for appointments with health services in Worcestershire.

These include appointments for Community Paediatrics, Umbrella Pathway, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and CAMHS.

The website, created by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrate Care System (ICB), contains details of resources and support available locally and nationally. This includes links to web resources, telephone advice and some in-person groups.

Worcestershire's Children's Community Health services are continuing to experience a high volume of referrals and unfortunately that means children and young people are waiting longer than usual for their first appointment. This can be worrying and frustrating and the ICB are working as a system to improve waiting times for children, young people and their families. We would encourage anyone working with families who are waiting appointments for these services to make them aware of the website and the support available while they wait:

<https://www.hwics.org.uk/priorities/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/information-support-you-while-you-are-waiting-worcestershire>

## PHARMACY FIRST

### What is Pharmacy First?

This service enables children and adults to get quick access to healthcare advice as they can walk in to a pharmacy and access the service (some pharmacies also offer the service remotely as a video consultation). The person will then be offered a consultation with a pharmacist in a private consultation room. This service takes away the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment and may help ensure children get well and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better sooner if they are unwell.

The service supports primary school aged children in the below age groups who need help with:

- Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)
- The service also supports older children and adults (so is applicable to you as parents/carers) in the below age groups who need help with:
  - Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
  - Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
  - Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
  - Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)
  - Shingles (aged 18 years and over)
  - Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
  - Urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)

The pharmacist will provide advice and, if clinically necessary, offer an NHS medicine to treat the condition (these medicines are supplied free of charge to children under 16 years, with the normal NHS prescription charge rules applying to people aged 16 or over). The pharmacy will then send an electronic message to the person's GP surgery so their health record can be updated.

Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the person to their GP surgery or other health professional as appropriate.

A summary of the service and more information can also be found at [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst)