



FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Fearnfile

Issue 603

9 December 2022

Building excitement!

We are in full Christmas preparation mode at Fearnhill this week. The festive cheer is spreading with all kinds of activities under way.

You can read about our male teachers and their efforts to raise awareness of male health issues with Movember (including a sensational picture on [page 3](#)).

Now moving into December and everything that involves...

There is a short story with a Christmassy flavour for every day, with the library's online advent calendar ([page 6](#)). Our Christmas card competition also has a winner – Charlie Campbell in Year 7. You can see his winning entry inside ([page 7](#)) and buy copies of the card at reception or at the Christmas Concert on Tuesday 20th December (7pm start). The rehearsals are heating up for this lovely event and we look forward to seeing you there. With traditional carols, party pieces and some sneak previews of numbers from our spring show, *The Addams Family A Comedy Musical*, it promises to be a lovely way to end the term ([page 7](#)). Make sure you get your tickets beforehand as there will not be any available on the door!

Apart from Christmas events, we also have some great sports news from a recent Year 9 football match (not the World Cup exactly, but not far off!) and congratulations must also go to Riley Mann in Year 10, who has been selected to play for the Saracens as part of their player development programme ([page 8](#)). Other developments in Year 10 include the arrival of the 'Young Writers' books – Fearnhill students' names in print along with their creative work ([page 3](#)). Extra cultural highlights include the awarding of the prizes for the Year 7 London photo competition; the top five pictures are inside ([page 4](#)).

As we look towards the end of term and the festive season, we are very aware of the struggles many people are facing with the cost of living crisis. If you can spare



an item for the Letchworth Food Bank collection, please drop it in the trolley in reception. Mrs Tollervey will be dropping off the items we have collected to the food bank early next week. A full list of what is required can be seen on [page 11](#).

Our non-uniform day on Wednesday 21 st December (House Day and last day of term) will also be raising money for local charity 'Feed Up, Warm Up', which supports the homeless in Hertfordshire and especially in our local area.

Finally, if you are interested to find out more about becoming a governor here at Fearnhill, do drop me a line and we can chat about this great way to support your community ([page 5](#)).

Thanks as always for your support

Liz Ellis, Headteacher

Week beginning 12/12- week 2 Week beginning 19/12 - week 1

Student Awards

w/e 25 November

Student of the Week	Pakeeza 10H	16 points
Form of the Week	8H	176 points
House of the Week	Howard	693 points
Teacher of the Week	Miss Cotter Science	263 points

w/e 2 December

Student of the Week	Logan 7Q	22 points
Form of the Week	7Q	228 points
House of the Week	Pearsall	686 points
Teacher of the Week	Miss Bossley	355 points

Performing Arts Student of the Month (October)

Jenson 8H	PE	Always great effort and shows excellent teamwork and leadership.
Freddy 10H	PE	Fantastic ATL & selfless support of others in Sport Studies.
Jeorjana 8H	Art	Excellent ATL & always offering to help hand out books and resources, every lesson
Lucy 9G	Art	Amazing effort & beautiful work.
Alfie 9H	Music	Really trying hard to better himself through performance.
Colette 10P	Music	Commitment & hard work in composition task.

Have you got what it takes to be Student of the Week? Try your best in all lessons and extra-curricular activities and you could find yourself nominated and crowned!

Knowledge Organisers

At Fearnhill, we believe in the power of knowledge. Teachers in every subject have put together a Knowledge Organiser which has all the key knowledge students need to learn to understand that topic.

In school, they are used in lessons to support learning as a reference and as a way of checking answers. Knowledge Organisers are also an excellent homework tool for self-quizzing and revising.

You can find all the current knowledge organisers for this half term by clicking on the QR codes below:



Year 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10



Year 11



Year 12



Year 13

School News

The month of November saw a number of Fearnhill staff adopt moustaches to help raise awareness and initiate conversations surrounding male mental health and prostate cancer.

The month saw some wonderful moustaches grown and many teachers looking debonair, a combination of world war two pilots and 1970s disco kings..!

So a massive well done again to all the bros that took part and here's to cold December top lips.

Big shouts to: Mike 'Lorax' Phillips, Alex 'Squadron Leader' Williams, WW1 Captain Toby Cordwell, Ryan 'Salvador Dali' Walkinshaw, Mark 'Magnum PI' Parsons, Oli 'Mercury' Shepherd and Gavin 'Borat' McLeod.



Movember is an excellent cause and a chance for all the chaps to get talking about some serious stuff. The link to the website can be found here:

[MOVEMBER 2022: Have fun, whilst doing good, because whatever you grow, will save a bro - Movember](#)

Nick 'Flanders' Fowler

English



Our Year 10 students were celebrating being published authors this week with the release of *Twisted Tales*, a book of prizewinning entries in the annual Young Writers short story competition. 51 of our students were chosen to have their work published! A copy of the book will soon be available in the Fearnhill library.

Hadeel Bennett, Head of Faculty, said: "We are exceptionally proud that so many of our students can now call themselves a published author! It is a great achievement."

Photography Competition Winners

Congratulations to our Year 7 Photography Competition **winner Ella-Mae 7T**. Judges Ms Ellis and Mrs Clifton said: "The composition of this shot is lovely, especially the contrast of the soldier's eyes and the horse's expression. It makes me want to know more about what both of them are thinking. It is also very well framed and the colour is sharp." Well done to everyone who took part.



Above.

2nd place: Cayden 7R

Lovely sense of light, energy, colour and perspective. A great shot inviting me into the adventure.



Left.

3rd place: Jensen 7T

Very eye catching shot. Deceptively simple but the asymmetrical angles and contrasts add real interest. Very well framed picture.

Left.

4th place: Wiktoria 7U

Very interesting shot, making great use of perspective and drawing the eye upwards.

Right.

5th place: Holly 7Q

Great composition and sense of movement, life and variety. Effective blend of blues and greys that work well.



School of Sanctuary

Building a better world together

The recent OFSTED inspection of Fearnhill reported something that we all already know - that Fearnhill feels like a family. Students feel safe and welcome here, and everyone's differences are recognised and celebrated. That's why this year, Fearnhill is launching a bid to become an accredited part of the Schools of Sanctuary program.



Schools of Sanctuary is a national network of over 370 primary and secondary schools, nurseries, and sixth forms all committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum.

Driven by teachers, school staff, parents, governors and community groups, this network supports the thousands of young people seeking sanctuary in the UK by raising awareness of the issues facing people in the asylum system, challenging misconceptions and building social cohesion.

As part of this bid, we will be putting together a portfolio of evidence to show that Fearnhill is a place where:

- Everyone is welcomed.
- Our students are educated about why some people are forcibly displaced.
- We recognise that the UK is enriched by new arrivals.
- We support pupils from all backgrounds to feel seen, supported and included.

We have already signed the pledge to connect us with the Schools of Sanctuary network, and we are excited to see where the next year takes us!

Watch this space for updates!

In brief ...

Have you ever considered supporting the school by joining our Governing body?

As students leave us each year, vacancies arise for the role of parent governor. School governors play a key role in the community and can shape the direction of a school, supporting the development of Fearnhill in all kinds of ways.

The time commitment involved is not huge and it is a great opportunity to become part of something worthwhile and rewarding. Further information about the governing body can be seen on our website: www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/about/school-governors/

Ms Ellis will be delighted to talk to you in more detail about what the role involves; please email her on head@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk, or our chair of governors, Nye Hathway, on nye.hathway10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk to arrange a chat.

The school musical production this year is The Addams Family A Comedy Musical. If you go through any wardrobes at home anytime soon and find anything pale grey or white that are surplus to requirements we would happily take them from you. There are a large group of ghostly ancestor characters - so any dresses, skirts, jackets, trousers, shoes etc would be very useful.

Calling all former students - have you collected your exam certificates? These are important legal documents and we have a number still waiting to be picked up. Contact Mrs Bremner, Data & Exams manager, kerri.bremner10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk for details of how to collect them.

Have you enjoyed a tub of chocolates recently? Our food department would love to have your empty tubs - they are useful for students taking their food items home. Please bring them into the School Office.

Do you have piles of newspapers cluttering up your house? Our Art department is looking for newspapers (not magazines) for forthcoming projects—please hand into the Art department or School Office. Thank you.

Library

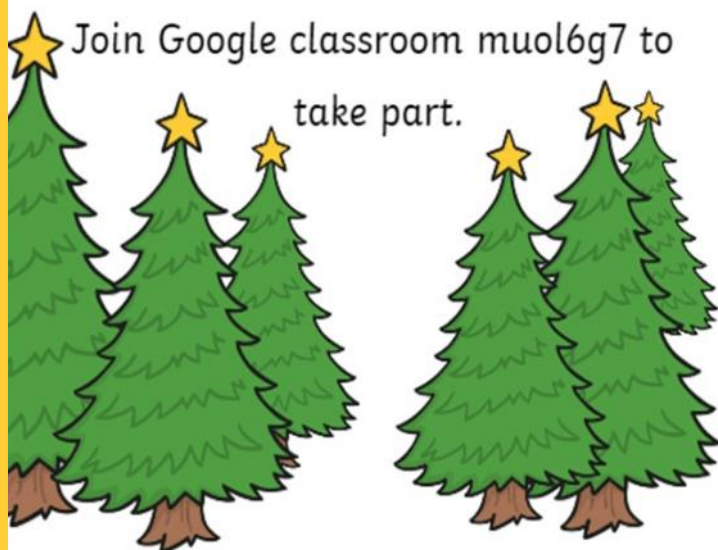
The Library is open before school from 8am and after school until 4pm.

You can also visit the library during break and lunch times to read a book, do some homework on the computer or play a card or board game (sorry, no computer games!)

Mrs Thurlby, Library & Literacy Assistant

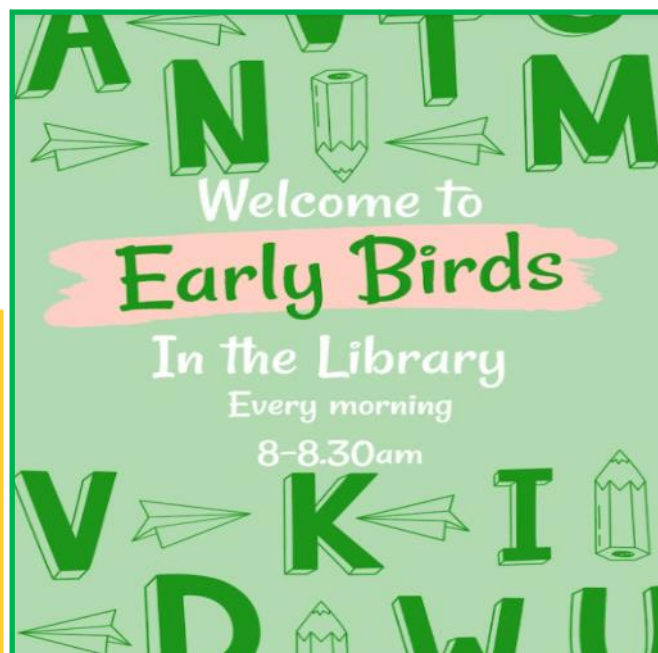
Library Advent Reading Challenge

Join Google classroom muol6g7 to take part.



Everyday a christmassy short story or extract will be revealed for you to read.

If you answer the optional question (based on what you have read) correctly, you will win a prize.



Word of the Week



FERAL: in a wild state, especially after escape from captivity or domestication.



GRATING: harsh and annoying!

Music

Christmas Concert, Tuesday 20th December, 7-9pm

Students are well into rehearsals for our annual Christmas Concert, to be held here at Fearnhill on Tuesday 20th December at 7pm. This promises to be an exciting evening, with a variety of our students performing songs, dance, dramatic readings with a Christmas flavour and much more. You will be treated to a sneak peek from our upcoming musical 'The Addams Family' and some audience carols - there is something for everyone!

There will also be refreshments during the interval to raise money for the Year 11 Prom.

Tickets cost £4 for adults, £2 for under-18s. If you wish to attend, please purchase your tickets via Schoolgateway. Please pay for the correct number of tickets you require as corrections cannot be made on the night.

Physical tickets will not be issued this year, but a list of names of those who have purchased online will be on the door. There will be a limit to the number we can admit to the hall, so be sure to buy your tickets now so as not to miss out. Our last school production was a sell-out and we had to turn people away.



Christmas Concert

Tuesday 20th December
7pm

Fearnhill Students invite you to join us for an evening of music, drama and dance! Sing carols, enjoy refreshments and get in the Christmassy mood while being entertained by our wonderful students.

**Tickets available on
School Gateway**
Adults - £4
Under 18 - £2



Christmas Card Winner



Congratulations to Year 7 student Charlie Campbell who won our annual competition to design the school Christmas card. The card is used by Headteacher Ms Ellis and will be seen far and wide. Charlie was presented with his prize of chocolates and a £25 gift voucher by Deputy Head Mr Spencer.



LEARN AN INSTRUMENT

AT FEARNHILL!

We have fantastic tutors from Herts Music Service ready to teach you to play an instrument or sing! Learning an instrument is a great **hobby**, good for your **well being** and will boost your **confidence**.

The drum teacher currently has space, and we have many brass and string instruments available to lend to students to begin their musical journey - however many other instruments are also available!

If you are interested in learning an instrument, please apply via the link <https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration/> (Scroll down to the purple box and find Fearnhill)



Year 9 Football Match Report

Final Score Fearnhill 7-4 Highfield

Goal scorers: R Laurence x3, G Jones x3, L Grant x1

Assists: R Laurence x1, L Baldry x1, H Wilkins x1, A Vallejos-Alvarez x1, K Hoyte x1

Year 9 produced a classy performance against Highfield capped off by hattricks from Man of the Match RL and GJ.

The game began poorly as GJ spilled a long range effort into his goal but showed great resilience in continuing to keep in goal well for the remainder of the half. Both teams had chances in a tense first 15 minutes. Fearnhill struck back with an excellent freekick from AV which found the head of RL to make it 1-1. After a smart one-two passing moving LG added a second goal just before the half time break.

After half time GJ came outfield as TH went on goal who produced a few smart saves. The game ebbed and flowed as both sides scored several goals each leaving Fearnhill up 6-3. The highlight of this was a long range curling effort from RL.

GJ capped of a great performance completing a fluid move started by GB, who's pass to HW then made its way to GJ to slam in the final goal.

Overall an outstanding effort from all who played, with several players filling in different positions when they needed to help the team.



Congratulations to Year 10 student Riley who has been selected to play in the Saracen's intra-county rugby tournament.

This will involve players from Hertfordshire, Essex and Kent that make up the Saracens Player Development Programme.

This is a great opportunity for Riley to play in a tournament at a higher level of youth rugby and will serve as an introduction to playing in a large public venue. Well done Riley!



Next week the PE department will be holding a house netball tournament, all lunchtime extra-curricular clubs will collapse for the week to allow the tournaments to take place.

There is no cap on the number of students who can turn up and represent their house so please encourage students to participate. Every student that attends their event will gain house points for their team. The breakdown of the week is as follows:

Date	Year Group
Mon 12 th Dec	7
Tues 13 th Dec	8
Weds 14 th Dec	9
Thurs 15 th Dec	10
Fri 16 th Dec	Senior (11-13)

Students do not need to get changed however, they will need to wear trainers to compete.

The event will start at 13.25. We encourage students to eat their lunch at break time on the day of their event and head straight to the PE area. The sports hall will be used as the playing area.

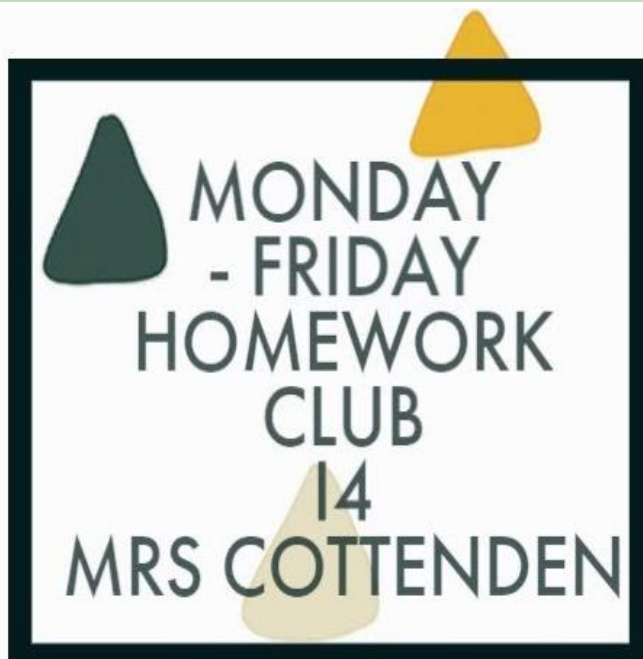
Student Support

Student Support and Inclusion are now in the main school building - students can find Mrs Tollervey & Ms Brown and their teams upstairs next to Homework Club.



We are proud to offer the National School Breakfast Programme - offering all students a free, healthy breakfast.

Breakfast Club is in the Canteen every morning from 8am or you can collect your free bagel from the SSC



KS3&4

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
BOREHAMWOOD Allum Hall WD6 3PJ 17:00 – 19:00	STEVENAGE Barnwell Middle School SG2 9XT 17:30 – 19:00	HODDESDON St. Cuthbert's Church EN11 0PU 17:30 – 19:30	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Hobletts Manor Junior School HP2 5JS 17:30 – 19:30
WELWYN GARDEN CITY Ridgeway Academy AL7 2AF 17:00 – 19:00	WATFORD St Meryl Primary WD19 5BT 17:00 – 19:00	WALTHAM CROSS Hurst Drive Primary EN8 8DU 17:30 – 19:30	LETCHWORTH Jackmans Community Centre SG6 2NL 17:30 – 19:30

12 week BeeZee Families courses starting in Hertfordshire from January 16th

Student Support

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



What parents need to know about

OMEGLE



NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that people of all ages can have almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril'. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.



PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and those of other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual psychological grooming (users coaxing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



Safety Tips For Parents



DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children to be more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming IDs. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filter or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into showing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failure.



TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers. If/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add www.omegle.com to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



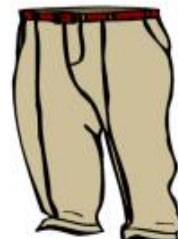
SOURCE: <http://www.omegle.com>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlineafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.03.2020

There will be a

LOST PROPERTY DISPLAY



HELD OUTSIDE THE MAIN OFFICE

(Weather permitting)

Week commencing 19th December

ANY ITEMS NOT COLLECTED WILL BE GIVEN TO CHARITY

Letchworth Foodbank Appeal

Urgent Requests

UHT Longlife milk (not skimmed) & Longlife Juices
Jams & Marmalade
Dried potatoes & Dried milk
Sponge puddings

Other Requests

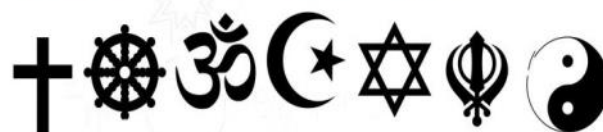
Tinned - meat, fish, Spaghetti, beans, Chilli, Curries, Soups,
Fruit and Rice pudding
Tea bags
Coffee
Pasta
Sugar
Squash/Cordial
Chocolate spread
Tomato Ketchup
Toiletries – toothpaste, soap, Shampoo and Shower gel
Baby wipes



Thank you



Diversity



IT'S OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT AT FEARNHILL

DIVERSITY RUNS EVERY WEEK 1 WEDNESDAY LUNCH 1N 11
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

We aim to provide a safe place to talk about our differences,
learn about each other and to discuss how diversity can be celebrated at Fearnhill

For further information or questions contact:
katie.mphoko@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

External Opportunities

Published: 8/12/22



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



Sunday 15th January 2023, 2pm to 4pm
Hitchin Town Hall

Free Women's Safety Talk

STAY
SAFE

Risk awareness
Safety on the street
Stalking
Conflict management
And more...

 safe.cst.org.uk

WARM SPACE



St. Michaels Mount Community Centre
St. Michaels Road, Hitchin.

The St. Michaels Mount Community Association will be running a temporary WarmUp hub during winter 2022/23
No need to book just come along on the day.

This will be open to all members of the community – adults, families, children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Times and dates: from 9a.m. to 12 noon

Monday 19th December, Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st,
Thursday 22nd,
Wednesday 28th December, Thursday 29th, Friday 30th,
Monday 2nd January, Tuesday 3rd,
Wednesday 4th,

The Oxley room will be available for tea, coffee, cold drinks and toast

The main Hall will be open for children to play with soft balls, or to take part in other suitable indoor activities. Some crayons, paper etc. may be available.

External Opportunities



It's the December Christmas Wilbury Cafe this Saturday. It's sure to be a busy and action-packed cafe! We will have:

FREE wreath making with Glyn

Letchworth's big Christmas jumper swap

Local makers Christmas gift stalls.

FREE Drinks and cakes around the chat tables

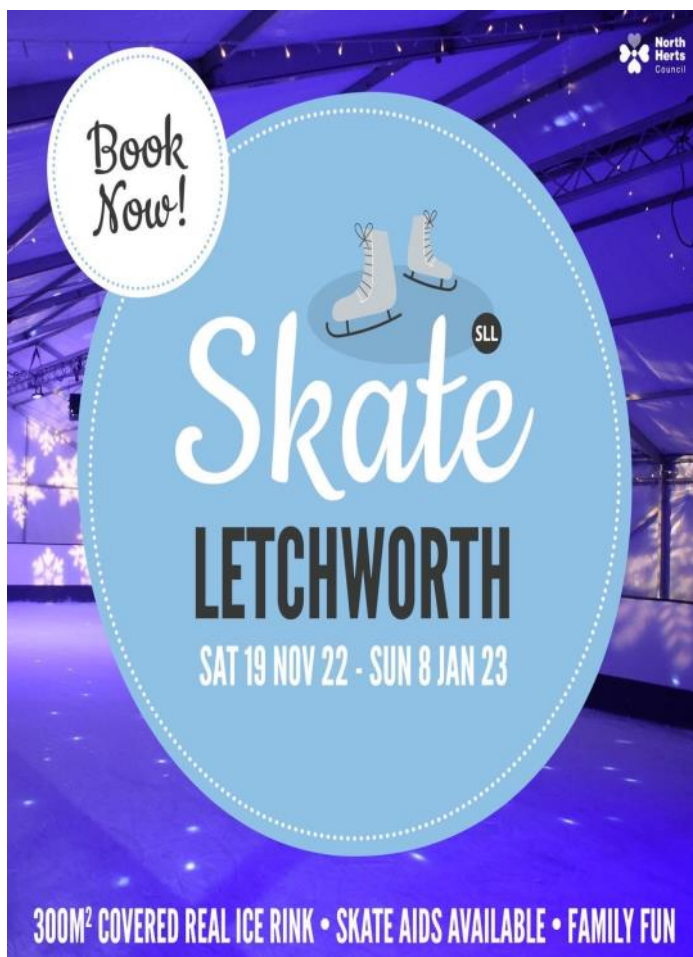
FREE best before food rescue

FREE Community Pantry for kitchen cupboard essentials

Winter coats for a donation

School uniform for Wilbury, Icknield, Highfield & Fearnhill.

Among lots lot's more! May be even some carol singing! Let's get as many of the local community along to the final cafe of 2022.



Thought of the Month



"Always find opportunities to make someone smile, and to offer random acts of kindness in everyday life."

Calendar

5-16 December	Year 11 mock exams
19	Years 7&8 Christmas lunch
20	Years 9-13 Christmas lunch
20	Christmas concert
21 December	End of Term (early closure)

Spring term 2023

6 January	8.30am term starts
13-17 February	Half term
31 March	End of term

Summer Term 2023

17 April	8.30am term starts
----------	--------------------

Contact Us

01462 621200

admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Fearnhill School
Icknield Way
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire SG6 4BA

Please ensure that we have your current address, mobile phone number and email address.

Any updates can be sent to the Main Office.

Follow Us



twitter.com/fearnhillschool



facebook.com/fearnhillschool