



James Marks Academy Trust

www.jmatherts.co.uk

Friday 13th February 2026

Email Admin@romanfields.herts.sch.uk admin@jamesmarks.herts.sch.uk admin@foresthous.herts.sch.uk

Roman Fields Head's message



Hi all,

We are 'full steam ahead' now towards the February half term; I hope you manage to have a restful break. Our pupils have been working hard to make craft projects to sell for Valentines Day and they have also been leading our 'spread the love' campaign to provide food to those in need. Thank you for attending our parents' support meeting this week; it is always a good opportunity for us all to get together to share ideas and support. Take care and see you on the other side of the break!

Emma :-)





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James Marks Head's message



An enjoyable and equally challenging part of opening a new school is all the new experiences we have, for example the Year 10 pupils attending a careers fair, and us starting the process of finding work experience for these pupils. A reminder to parents and carers of Year 10, please complete and return the work experience form by Friday 27th February. The form has been sent via email, and paper copies are available to collect from the school office.

We are also in the middle of the mock exams, and the Y13 and Y10 pupils have been working hard for these. This has caused a degree of disruption to classes, but pupils have been very respectful when moving around the school, and changing classrooms to allow these pupils to practice for the summer. We were all amazed by the way the Y10 pupils dealt with their very first formal exam, this is a difficult situation for them all but they managed to get through this, and from the initial feedback, they have done themselves proud.

We round off the half term with our annual pancake-flipping competition – most flips in 30 seconds. The winner is Lewi with an impressive 49 flips, followed by Fin K with 40 flips. Well done to all for taking part!

A quick reminder that before the end of term is the next Parents Evening. These have been separated, as there are now too many pupils to enable us to operate this on one day:

Y7 – 9: Thursday 12th March 3.30 – 6.00pm Y10 & Y13: Thursday 19th March 3.30 – 6.00pm

Invitations to this will be sent out after half term.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 23rd February after a well-earned rest with longer days, hopefully some of those without rain.





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Pupil successes at Roman Fields Academy



Stars of the week - 06/02/2026

GOLD - Tom

SILVER - Brody

BRONZE - Aiyla

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Natan

ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD - Mason

POOL COMPETITION - Brody



Stars of the week - 13/02/2026

GOLD - Lou

SILVER - Mason

BRONZE - Timothy

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Lewis

ROMAN FIELDS SPIRIT AWARD - Ben





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Pupil successes at James Marks Academy



Stars of the week - 06/02/2026

GOLD - Jacob

SILVER - Mason. S

BRONZE - Connie

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Ben. R

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Bella



Stars of the week - 13/02/2026

GOLD - Max. B

SILVER - Will

BRONZE - Harry

100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK - Sam

JAMES MARKS SPIRIT AWARD - Finn. H





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Pupil successes at Forest House Education Centre



Stars of the week - 06/02/2026

FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Amina - For gaining a place at college.

FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Lucy - For great engagement and effort in lessons.



Stars of the week - 13/02/2026

FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Isabella - For being kind and supportive of another pupil.

FOREST HOUSE PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Henry - For exceptional effort and engagement.





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Dates for the diary

Monday 16th February till Friday 20th February - Half term

Friday 27th March - Last day of school before we break for Easter holidays

Monday 30th March till Friday 10th April - Easter break

Monday 13th April - INSET DAY (staff only)

Tuesday 14th April - Pupils back to school

Monday 20th April - Year 11 English Literature Macbeth Theatre trip

Monday 4th May - BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 25th May till Friday 29th May - Half term

Thursday 23rd July - Last day before breaking for summer holidays



Become a Star Reader!



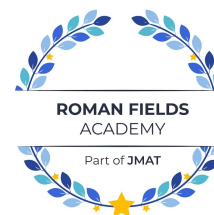
Here at Roman Fields, we understand and value the importance of reading. Reading - in whatever form you choose to engage in - fills you with knowledge. It improves your comprehension and analytical abilities. Furthermore, it stimulates the memory and broadens your imagination.

Therefore, each week, Roman Fields will be championing a *Star Reader*. You can be rewarded for your reading in any lesson, but you will also have the opportunity to demonstrate it in a specific session on your timetable. In these lessons, your teacher will be looking opportunities to award you points for your engagement in reading

Each week, the pupil with the most points awarded will receive a Star Reader certificate and a voucher.



Star reader of the week at Roman Fields Academy



13/02/2026

Timothy, Cara, Mason





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James Marks Academy - Year 9 Humanities lessons

As we come to the end of the Restless Earth topic I thought it would be fun to investigate the properties of volcanoes. The key idea is that different magmas have different viscosity, gas content and the ability for gas to escape which gives the different types of volcanic eruption. We blew into water, water with washing up liquid and honey/golden syrup as well as shaking up a bottle of fizzy water to look at what happened when we dropped the pressure and released the violent gas rich magma. At the end we compared how easy it was to blow into the liquids as well as observing what happens with the bubbles as viscosity increases.

Why don't all volcanoes look the same?



Shield



Strato



Super





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James Marks Academy - horticulture lessons

Horticulture groups have been taking part in the RSPB's (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) big garden Birdwatch. Using recycled materials, pupils created their own bird feeders and placed them in trees around the grounds.

We then completed a bird survey, recording many species including sparrows, robins and blue tits. We have also been enjoying watching the red kites on our field!





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James Marks Academy - Art Department - donations



The Art Department will be offering a new option after half term, Junk Journaling, where pupils will create unique scrapbooks and journals using found and recycled materials, encouraging creativity, sustainability, and self-expression.

If you have any of the following unwanted materials, these would be gratefully received:-

- Paper craft materials
- Stickers
- Washi tape
- Tissue paper
- Coloured or decorative paper
- Anything similar that could be used creatively
- Magazines (such as food, fashion, home, or general interest)

Donations can be dropped off at the school office.

Thank you very much for your continued support

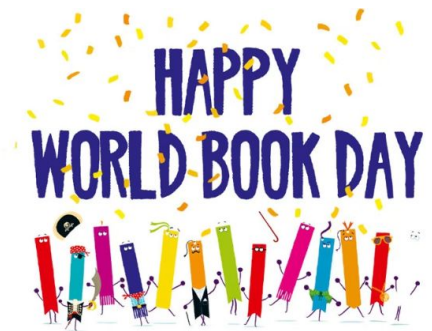


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Roman Fields - World Book Day - Thursday 5th March



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day on the 5th March at Roman Fields**. We have a range of exciting activities planned to promote a love of reading across the school.

On the day, pupils are invited to **dress up as a book character** of their choice. Throughout the day, children will also take part in a **fun story-writing competition**, using words taken from our cross-curriculum key word board.

We will also be running a **quiz** to add to the excitement. Last year, pupils enjoyed our *Teachers' Favourite Books Quiz*, and this year we are exploring the idea of *The Masked Reader* — a fun new twist we think the children will love.

Alongside World Book Day, we will be launching a **Readathon** to encourage pupils to read as much as possible. The Readathon is a sponsored read which will be launched on the 12th February until the end of term. However, there is **no pressure for pupils to gain sponsorship**. All children need to do is record what they have read using the sponsorship card or the Readathon App. If any money is raised, it will be donated to buying books and providing storytellers for sick children in hospital.

A love of reading improves a child's life beyond measure, and we hope that parents and carers will support us by encouraging children to read regularly at home.

Thank you for your continued support. We are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day together.

Happy Reading!!

English Team

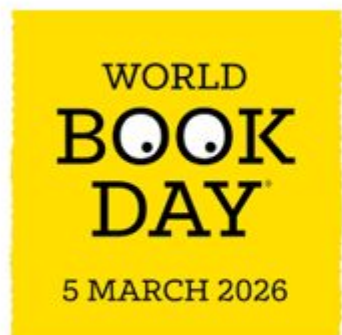


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Roman Fields - World Book Day - Thursday 5th March



World Book Day Costume Competition (staff included)!!

Come dressed as a book character. A prize for the best costume!



Take part in the Masked Reader Competition. All you need to do is guess the staff member's voice behind the mask. A prize for the individual who guesses the most correct!

Enter the Short Story Competition. Can you write a short story (no more than 300 words), using at least 6 of the words below? All entries must be handed to the office by midday on Wednesday 4th March. The best entry will be announced at the end of lunch on World Book Day, with the winner receiving a prize!

Trevor	algorithm	vivacious	ornate	texture
peripheral	synthesise	parallel	observation	agile
ambiguous	dilapidated	coup	exquisite	fatigue
radiant	ubiquitous	nostalgic	tottering	justice

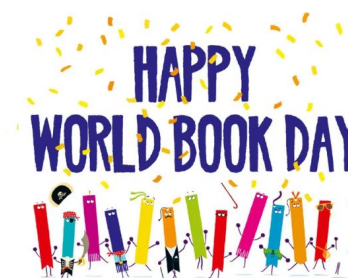


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James Marks Academy - World Book Day - Thursday 5th March



To celebrate World Book Day we have organised a range of activities for our pupils to enjoy.

- **Book tokens:** Book tokens can be downloaded from the WBD website. They also have listed there the £1 books which can be bought from many retailers in exchange for a token:
<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/>
- **Dress up:** On Thursday 5th March pupils and staff are invited to dress up as their favourite literary figure/book character. Please don't feel the need to go out and buy costumes - we love creativity and costumes that are home-made are, of course, welcomed. The World Book Day site has ideas which you may find helpful:
<https://www.worldbookday.com/resources/dressing-up-ideas-for-parents-and-carers/>
- **Bring your favourite book:** Pupils are invited to bring in their favourite book, or a prop linked to their favourite book, to share with their peers and staff. We are keen to find out what our pupils love reading and can't wait to have conversations about them.
- **Staff Favourite Book Quiz:** Students can collect a quiz sheet on their way in to school (from the office) and find out which book was each staff member's childhood favourite read, what they loved about it, and what they are currently reading. They have until the end of the day on Thursday to complete the quiz.
- **Short story competition:** Write a 250-300 word mystery story set at the JMA. Please hand to Faye or Georgine by lunch time on Wednesday 4th March so that entries can be judged. Winners to be announced at lunch time on Thursday.
- **Book Drive:** We are very grateful to have received many donations to our library which is shaping up nicely - thank you for your donations. We would now love to furnish our library with the following: texts for older readers, for example classic and canonical writers' books (Dickens, the Brontes, Shelley); plays (Shakespeare - and of course any other playwrights); poems/anthologies/collections; non-fiction texts for all age-ranges. Anything on topics such as history, space, science, technology, wildlife, sport would be welcomingly received. We have plenty of the likes of Michael Morpurgo, David Walliams, Tom Gates already, so if you need to rehome these please consider donating to charity.



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James Marks Academy - Stranger Sagas writing competition

Before Christmas, four students entered our creative writing competition with Young Writers where they wrote a short story in the genre of their choice.

Congratulations to Logan, Kieran, Teddy and Ava who were selected to have their stories published.

We are incredibly proud of their creativity and hard work and look forward to seeing their work in print!





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James Marks Academy - Circuit Training

This term we offered circuit training as an option and five brave pupils took up the challenge to improve their strength, endurance and coordination through a variety of exercises.

They started the term saying they couldn't do each of the exercises for one minute but with a bit of resilience and focus, they pushed on through....well, until they realised that they had to do the circuit again! At the end of each session, we did a group challenge of who can hold a plank or a wall sit for the longest, which was fun! Week on week, they started to see the benefits of becoming strong not just their core strength and coordination but a strong mind and as they say 'train your mind, then your body'! Well done to you all and I hope to see you in the sessions next term.





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National Apprenticeship week (9-13 February)

This week, across the trust, pupils have been learning about apprenticeships in various lessons to understand the link between what they currently study and possible jobs into the future.

Today, Year 11 pupils from Roman Fields enjoyed a trip to Premier Foods in St Albans (think Mr Kipling, Angel Delight, Sharwood's and Bisto) - where they learnt about the business, recruitment, how teams work and also the apprenticeships they offer.

Apprenticeships vary in levels and can be an alternative to university. Erin, one of our Roman Fields' alumni (and also Michael, the site manager's daughter) popped back to speak to one of Jane's PSHE classes about life after Roman Fields. When she left she went to West Herts College and following a gap year, is preparing to go to Brighton University in September.

Please click on the links for more information about apprenticeships, how to search for one and information related to school subject areas:

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/apprenticeships/>

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/subject-led-bundles/>





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Sally & Cara's big winter roam in aid of cats protection



A parent and pupil at Roman Fields are doing such a kind challenge to help keep cats safe when out walking.

They are raising money in aid of cats protection.

If you would like to donate then please scan the QR code attached to poster.

Thank you for all your support.

Sally and Cara's Big Winter Roam



In aid of Cats Protection

We are challenging ourselves to strut and prowl for a minimum of 15 me-hours during the month of February, and we will be litter-picking along the way, to ensure our routes are the most purrfect and cattilicious cat walks you will ever see.

Did you know that the Egyptian word for cat is miu, pronounced meow?

Please donate to our JustGiving fundraiser page by scanning the qr code here:





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DSPL8 SEND Information Fayre for Parents/Carers Thursday 5th March

Please see attached poster of free advent for Parents/Carers being held on Thursday 5th march at

The Bennetts End Community Centre,
Gatecroft,
Bennetts End,
Hemel Hempstead,
HP3 9LZ

If you are interested then please use the QR code on the leaflet or for further information please email dspl@kls.herts.sch.uk



Delivering Special
Provision Locally

DSPL8 SEND Parent & Carers Information Fayre

Thursday 5th March 2026

9.30am - 12.30pm

At the Bennetts End Community Centre
Gatecroft, Bennetts End
Hemel Hempstead
HP3 9LZ

*This **FREE** event is for Parents and Carers of Children with SEN or Disabilities; we will have local services/providers information stands, activities for children & refreshments!*

You can register your interest by scanning this QR code



Any questions email: dspl@kls.herts.sch.uk