



Harlow Fields School and College

Family Newsletter

20th September 2024 Issue 2

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

It has been a lovely start to the new academic year with lots of learning, hard work and excitement about our outdoor facilities. We are also delighted that our hydrotherapy pool is now in full use and.....some of our classes (*where it is appropriate*) will be getting class pets. Tanya and her team are also working on our extra curricular clubs programme for an October launch - more to come on this!

Please see this edit to my previous communication re key dates.

Staff training days (pupils at home):

- 4th November 2024
- 29th November 2024
- 6th January 2025
- 2nd June 2025
- 27th June 2025 - **NOT** Saturday 28th June as previously published (apologies for my typo!)

End of term (half day for pupils):

- 20th December 2024
- 4th April 2025
- 22nd July 2025

Some important support available for parents and carers:

Autism Central:

Autism Central's Peer Education Programme offers support to parents/carers and personal assistants of autistic children and adults via:

1. The [Autism Central](https://www.autismcentral.org.uk/hubs/essex-county-council) website (<https://www.autismcentral.org.uk/hubs/essex-county-council>) which has a huge range of information and guidance.
2. Weekly online group sessions
3. 1:1 support calls for more personal support.

This is a free, all age service and does not require a diagnosis. Visit the website to find a wealth of information and to book online and 1:1 sessions.

Good Beginnings:

A course for parents and carers of children in Reception class or younger, who have autism or social communication needs. A diagnosis of autism is not needed to access Good Beginnings. The course runs in all four quadrants at least twice a year and one online course is also offered. This course is for parents/carers only – they do not bring the children or younger siblings with them. Parents can request a place on the course by completing the [application form](#). Due to high demand, it may be necessary to add their details to a waiting list for the next course with availability. This course covers: understanding autism; communication; play; sensory processing; behaviour is communication; eating, sleeping and toileting; managing anxiety.

In the lead up to World Mental Health Day, I thought it would be helpful to signpost some benefits to putting down our mobile phones. We often focus on these key messages in school / college and would welcome your support in doing so at home too.



Some key dates for your diary:

- There is an opportunity to come in and meet our new Speech and Language provider on **Monday 23rd September at 9.30am (school site)**.
- Meet with the Disabilities Teams at Essex County Council, Children's Social Care and other services in the area at our drop in with senior practitioners and social workers on **24th September at 2.00pm (school site)**.



Kindest regards

Kathleen M Faherty, Headteacher