



Harlow Fields School and College

Family Newsletter

25th April 2025 Issue 15

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we dive into the summer term, I am filled with excitement about the wonderful learning activities we have planned! A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment to our pupils. It has been delightful to see so many updates on Earwig from the Easter break.

I would like to highlight a fantastic event that took place during the break. Some of our amazing PTFA members completed a sponsored walk with their children and classmates, visiting all seven gardens in the town park. They raised an incredible **£1,393.75!** We are truly fortunate to have such a supportive PTFA at Harlow Fields!

Additionally, I would like to extend our gratitude to **Paul Ekperigin** for his service as a Parent Governor. Paul has moved out of the area, making it no longer viable for him to continue in this role. This opens up an opportunity for another parent to step in. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, please reach out to us via email at admin@harlowfields.essex.sch.uk / speak to us at the school gates, or visit the school reception to express your interest by **6th May**. For more information on Governance, please check our website: [Harlow Fields Governors](https://www.harlowfields.essex.sch.uk/governance).



As we all know, school attendance is crucial for pupils' academic success, wellbeing, and overall development. Regular attendance allows pupils to fully engage with the curriculum, fostering a deeper understanding of knowledge and skills that build over time. Statistics show that pupils with SEND in special schools who miss just 10% of school can fall behind their peers. Our goal is to maintain an overall attendance rate of at least **95%** across all year groups to ensure that every pupil can thrive, currently our attendance is 85% across the school and college. Congratulations to the following classes for

achieving top attendance in their departments: **Mulberry (Lower School), Stort (Upper School), Dahl (Specialist), and Kestrel (College)!**

Like many schools, we are currently reviewing our spending and seeking ways to achieve financial efficiencies. I want to assure you that this will not come at the expense of our pupils' experiences. As a heads-up, we will be introducing a cover charge for food technology ingredients / sensory food exploration at **£10 per term** per pupil, as well as a **£15 per term** charge for those who swim. This will help cover some of the associated costs. We have explored various solutions before arriving at this decision, which will take effect in **September 2025**. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to share them at the gates, email us at admin@harlowfields.essex.sch.uk or drop your thoughts into the suggestion box at school reception.

Kind regards,

Kathleen M. Faherty
Headteacher



Headteacher Star Pupil of the Fortnight

Do read about these four pupils and their achievements:

Cobey, Hawk class




for being a recycling hero! Cobey is helping me to launch a recycling group across the school and college. Watch this space!

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

We need your help!

We are expanding in September! This means we have to name some new classes. Can you send in any Tree and River in to admin@harlowfields.essex.sch.uk

Some key updates and messages for you:

	<p>We are introducing a weekly competition across the school and college to reward wonderful attendance. Good luck everyone! Megan, incoming Assistant Headteacher</p>
	<p>Tracey, our Deputy Headteacher will be overseeing The College site this term. Feel free to see Tracey if you have any 6th form queries.</p>
	<p>Kerry is leading Earwig across the school and college. All families should now have access to Earwig so you can see your child's progress throughout the day at school / college. Thank you to those who have been uploading from home - it has been lovely to see!</p>



Cultural Capital Week

14th-18th July 2025

Cultural Capital Week is designed to provide rich, meaningful experiences that help our Pupils engage with different cultures in an accessible and immersive way. Through a mix of sensory exploration, interactive storytelling, music, movement, and creative activities, we aim to broaden horizons, build cultural awareness, and support engagement in a way that is tailored to each pupil's needs. We will also be celebrating every individual pupil by holding our Merit assemblies during this week and have an overall celebration of all our pupils hard work!



To kick start our new termly Cultural Capital Week we will focus on Christianity, please see below for our events and all the way our families are invited to attend and share their own experiences of culture, faith and personal experiences.

Day	Theme	Families invited too...
Monday	Exploring cultures and religious themes: Stories and traditions	Parents are invited to bring in artifacts, family pictures or special items relating to their culture, faith or special places such as holidays.
Tuesday	Dance, Music and Clothing: Fancy Dress Day: Wear your favourite colour	Parents are invited to bring in clothing, share special music (please send in a list of your child's favourite music) and take part in dressing up. There will be a photo opportunity at the end of the day!
Wednesday	Tastes and Textures: Cultural foods	Parents are invited to bring in food samples.
Thursday	Art and Competitions	Pupils will share artwork in a gallery style presentation and parents are invited to attend end of day presentation and take part in voting for a winner!
Friday	Community and Reflection	Parents can join their child in workshops or school trips.

Summer Term (22nd April - 22nd July 2025)

- Staff Training: Monday, 2nd June
- Parental Coffee Morning: Monday, 9th June at 9.30am
- Parent Meetings: Week commencing 23rd June (all families are invited to site for face-to-face meeting - families will receive the end of year report then)
- Hertfordshire Zoo: Wednesday 25th June
- PTA School Fete: Saturday, 28th June **Only 64 Days to Go!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- Whole School and College Transition to September 2025 Classes: Week commencing 30th June
- Staff Training: Friday, 27th June
- Sports Day: Friday, 4th July
- 6th Form Prom: 4th July
- Cultural Capital Week: 14-18th July
- Sixth Form Merit Assembly: Monday, 14th July at 2pm
- Upper School Merit Assembly: Tuesday, 15th July at 2pm
- Lower School Merit Assembly/Classroom Activities: Wednesday, 16th July at 2pm
- PMLD Merit Assembly: Friday, 18th July at 2pm
- 6th Form Leavers Assembly: Thursday, 17th July at 2pm
- End of Term: Tuesday, 22nd July (½ day for pupils)

Final Term Dates for 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025

- Start Date: Monday, 1 September 2025
- Half Term: Monday, 27 October to Friday, 31 October 2025
- End Date: Friday, 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

- Start Date: Monday, 5 January 2026
- Half Term: Monday, 16 February to Friday, 20 February 2026
- End Date: Friday, 27 March 2026

Summer Term 2026

- Start Date: Monday, 13 April 2026
- Half Term: Monday, 25 May to Friday, 29 May 2026
- End Date: Friday, 23 July 2026

Staff Training Days (Pupils at Home)

- 1st September 2025
- 3rd November 2025
- 28th November 2025
- 5th January 2026
- 1st June 2026
- 20th July 2026

End of Term (Half Day for Pupils)

- 19th December 2025
- 3rd April 2026
- 17th July 2026