



Harlow Fields School and College

Family Newsletter

13th February 2026 Issue 10

What a half term it has been! Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement and partnership.



Today is a wonderful example of learning beyond the classroom. Our Valentine's discos are more than celebrations — they support communication and social interaction, turn-taking and shared experiences, emotional literacy (friendship, kindness and relationships), and confidence and performance skills. Experiences like this are vital to pupils' social, emotional and academic development.

Funds raised will go towards the Sixth Form Prom and our Home Management Room. Thank you to Katie and the Sixth Form Team for organising such a special event.

We were also delighted to welcome live performances from the Harlow Brass Band. Live music offers rich sensory experiences, develops listening skills, introduces new musical styles and instruments, and builds cultural capital as part of our broad and ambitious curriculum.

Days like today remind us that education is not only about academic progress, but also about joy, belonging, confidence and shared memories.

We will be following up shortly on the recent parent surveys. We want to take the time to meaningfully evaluate what you have shared, reflect carefully, and agree on the next steps. Your voice matters to us, and we are committed to responding thoughtfully rather than rushing a reply. A few themes have come through in recent feedback, and I wanted to update you on some of the work already underway.

Reading and Literacy

Reading remains a key priority for us. It underpins communication, independence, imagination and life opportunities - and it is an area we are absolutely promoting across the school and college.

Our aim is that every class has a welcoming reading corner or dedicated reading space, reinforcing our culture of literacy and shared reading. We want books to feel visible, valued and accessible in every environment.

We are also exploring the possibility of developing a dedicated rebound therapy area in the space currently used as the library. This would be a significant enhancement to our physical development and sensory offer, but it will be dependent on finances and careful planning. If this moves forward, we will ensure that reading provision remains strong and visible across the school.

It has been a real pleasure this week to see classes from different sections of the school coming together for shared reading sessions and activities such as Tac Pac. These opportunities support communication, listening, regulation, social interaction and community - very much aligned with our ethos of *Working Together to Succeed*. Seeing pupils learning alongside peers from other pathways is something very special.

Finally, thank you to those who attended the meeting with 247. This was a great opportunity to talk and find ways forward. Should any family have queries, please email essexpassengercomms@24x7ltd.co.uk and in the Subject Matter Line state '**For the Urgent attention of Andrew**'.

Thank you again for being part of our Harlow Fields community. We look forward to sharing more updates - and our survey follow-up - very soon.

Warmest wishes,
Kathleen
Headteacher

Harlow Fields School and College – Term Dates

2025–2026

Spring:

5 Jan – 27 Mar
Half term: 16–20 Feb
Early finish 27 Mar: Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

Summer:

13 Apr – 20 July
Half term: 25–29 May
INSET: 1 June, 20 July
Early finish 17 July: Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

Important School Events

March:

2 Mar Parent Coffee Morning
6 Mar World Book Day & Come and Learn With Me
W/c 9 Mar Parent Meetings
16 Mar PMLD Merit Assembly (2pm)
17–23 Mar Neurodiversity Celebration Week
17 Mar Sixth Form Merit Assembly (2pm)
18 Mar Upper School Merit Assembly (2pm)
19 Mar Lower School Merit Assembly (2pm)
19 Mar Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)
27 Mar Family Performance (Harlow Brass Band)

April:

20–30 Apr Finalise classes for 2026–27
23 Apr Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)

June:

8 Jun Publish class staffing for 2026–27 | Parent Coffee Morning (9.30am)
12 Jun Come and Learn With Me | Year 14 Leavers' Event
25 Jun Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)
26 Jun Prom
W/c 22 Jun Parent Meetings (end of year reports)
27 Jun PTA School Fete

July:

3 Jul Sports Day
9 Jul Come and Learn With Me
10 Jul Family Picnic
13 Jul Sixth Form Merit Assembly (2pm)
14 Jul Upper School Merit Assembly (2pm)
15 Jul Lower School Merit Assembly (2pm)
16 Jul PMLD Merit Assembly (2pm)
17 Jul Family Performance (Harlow Brass Band)

2026–2027

Autumn:

1–2 Sept INSET | 3 Sept pupils return | 23 Oct break up
Half term: 26–30 Oct
2 Nov return | 27 Nov INSET | 18 Dec end
Early finish 18 Dec: Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

Spring:

4 Jan INSET | 5 Jan pupils return | 12 Feb break up
Half term: 15–19 Feb
22 Feb return | 25 Mar end
Early finish 25 Mar: Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

Summer:

12 Apr INSET | 13 Apr pupils return | 3 May Bank Holiday | 28 May break up
Half term: 31 May–4 June
7 June return | 21 July end
Early finish 21 July: Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

INSET (no pupils):

1–2 Sept 2026 | 27 Nov 2026 | 4 Jan 2027 | 12 Apr 2027



★ Star Pupils of the Fortnight! ★

Lola – Brooke Class

Lola has made everyone so proud with how positively she has settled into Brooke Class. She has been building new friendships and is working incredibly hard in lessons. What a fantastic start — well done, Lola!

Andy – Hazel Class

Andy is nominated for the mature and resilient way he has coped with recent staff changes in Hazel Class. He has shown real strength of character and adaptability. We are very proud of you, Andy.

Lilly – Orwell Class

Lilly has been engaging brilliantly in her lessons and is making lovely friendships within the class. Her positive attitude to learning is shining through. Keep it up, Lilly!

Mackenzie – Eagle Class

Mackenzie has shown outstanding commitment to improving learning across the school by developing ideas for our whole-school Pokémon Day. He has demonstrated excellent work ethic, even using his break and lunchtime to plan and refine his ideas. This shows real leadership and dedication — amazing effort!

Mark – Roman Class

Mark is nominated for displaying such courage this week. Facing challenges takes bravery, and we are extremely proud of the way he handled himself.

Elizabeth KH – Avon Class

Elizabeth has been engaging really well in lessons and is completing some of her work independently. This shows growing confidence and determination. Well done, Elizabeth!



⚡ Pokéball Party! 🎉



We're excited to share that on **Friday 27 February** we will be celebrating a special **Pokémon-themed enrichment day** at Harlow Fields — made possible by Mackenzie's fantastic hard work. 🌟

In response to strong pupil interest, Mackenzie has planned a day that brings together learning, creativity and fun around a shared passion.

🍽️ Pokémon-Themed Lunch Menu

Our kitchen team will be serving a special menu including:

- 🌯 Pikachu Chicken Power Wraps
- 🍕 Pokéball Cheese & Tomato Pizza
- 🥔 Pidgeotto Jacket Potato
- 🍝 Gyarados Pasta Salad
- 🥕 Energy Vegetable Sticks
- 🍓 Pokéball Fruit Platter
- 🍯 Jigglypuff Fruit Jelly
- ⭐ Star Piece Yoghurt

📺 Pokémon 30th Anniversary Live Stream

Where appropriate, classes will watch the anniversary live stream after lunch. This will be carefully structured with adjustments for volume and group size, and alternative activities available for any pupils who may find elements overwhelming.

The day is designed not only to be fun, but to support:

- ✨ Communication and interaction
- ✨ Shared attention and listening
- ✨ Social connection through common interests
- ✨ Links to computing, media literacy and storytelling

We're incredibly proud of Mackenzie's creativity and pupil-centred planning — a wonderful example of responding to pupil voice while keeping experiences inclusive and supportive. 🌟

