



Harlow Fields School and College

Family Newsletter

17th April 2026 Issue 14

🌿 Are You Green-Fingered? 🌿

After feedback, we're so excited to be planning a **plant stall at this year's school fete** 🌻

We would absolutely love to involve our wonderful school community in bringing this to life. If you enjoy gardening—even just a little—you might like to share:

- Plants or seedlings
- Cuttings you've grown
- Herbs or flowers
- Spare pots or gardening bits

Every contribution, big or small, will help create something really special on the day.

If you're able to support, we would be so grateful - please do bring any donations into school nearer the time, and we'll share more details soon.



Thank you, as always, for your kindness and support. We're really looking forward to growing something beautiful together 🌿

Dear Families and Carers

I had written the below piece for you before we received the Ofsted call this week. However, I do still feel it is important for you to have the below message so that you know where we are as a school. I will share our most recent report with you when published. Ahead of that I do want to share my gratitude to staff for all their exceptional work. And our pupils are a real credit to you - visitors always comment on how lovely and welcoming they are!

A Year On: Stronger, Safer, Moving Forward

It has now been over a year since our last Ofsted report was published, and I want to write openly to you about where we are as a school.

Firstly, thank you. Families at Harlow Fields care deeply about our school and college, and we feel that every day. Your support, honesty and partnership mean a great deal to us, and we are truly grateful. We value the strength of this relationship and are committed to continuing to build it as we move forward together.

I also want you to know how much I care about our school community. Your children, this school, and the journey we are on together matter hugely to me. Over the past year, staff have worked incredibly hard to strengthen the school, and I am proud of the progress we are making.

There are clear signs of improvement:

- Attendance has improved and is now above the national average for special schools
- Persistent absence has reduced significantly and is now in line with national figures
- Behaviour incidents, including more serious incidents, have reduced
- Safeguarding concerns have reduced
- The use of restrictive physical intervention has reduced considerably
- Pupils are making progress towards their EHCP outcomes

Alongside this, we have continued to improve the day-to-day experience for pupils:

- Clearer curriculum pathways are now in place
- Teaching, communication and assessment are becoming more consistent
- New sensory spaces have been developed to support regulation and engagement
- Swimming and enrichment opportunities have been extended
- Our Sixth Form continues to strengthen, with a strong focus on independence and preparing for adulthood

We are also continuing to invest in our staff, ensuring your children are supported by adults who are developing their skills and expertise, with a strong focus on consistency and high-quality practice across the school.

We are incredibly grateful to our PTA for their ongoing support. Their work has helped secure additional funding for projects such as a new sensory garden, accessible pathways and specialist equipment. This partnership makes a real and lasting difference to what we can offer our pupils.

There are also positive signs from our wider school community:

- A high number of families attended recent parent meetings
- Most families report confidence in the school's care and safety
- All pupils surveyed said they can identify a trusted adult in school

We recently welcomed a visit from our School Effectiveness Partner, who recognised the progress being made. The review highlighted improvements in the curriculum, positive feedback from staff, and pupils who are engaged and enjoying their learning. It also recognised that systems across the school are becoming stronger and more consistent. On a separate visit our Chair of Governors acknowledged progress being made- both observed lessons and saw your children working hard. Also the pupils I saw were not just working hard, but responsive to their learning and the classes were so calm and focused.

That said, I want to be clear: there is still more to do.

We are not where we want to be yet, and we remain fully focused on continuing to improve—particularly in ensuring consistency in every classroom, every day, and building on the progress already made.

What I can reassure you of is this:

- We have a committed and caring staff team
- We are strengthening expertise across the school
- Systems and leadership are clearer and stronger
- We are focused on consistency for every child, every day
- We are moving in the right direction

Thank you again for your continued support and trust. It truly matters.

Working together to succeed ❤️ We always welcome your feedback — strong partnerships make the greatest difference for our children.

Do feel free to share any comments you may have to: head@hearlowfields.essex.gov.uk

🌟 Staffing Update 🌟

We know how important staffing is to families, so we wanted to share a quick update.

After five terms working with us through ESSET, we'd like to say a big thank you to Keily. She's made a real difference at Harlow Fields. We're really pleased for her that she's been offered a permanent role with ESSET, where she'll continue supporting children, schools and families across Essex. The good news for us is that she'll still be doing some work with Harlow Fields, so we'll continue to benefit from her experience.

We also want to thank Amie, who joined us in September. She's made the decision to step back to focus on her health, and we wish her all the very best.

We also want to reassure families that we are continuing to invest in and grow our staff team. We currently have 7 staff undertaking apprenticeships, many of which lead to teaching qualifications, and 3 staff registered on National Professional Qualifications (NPQs).

Safeguarding & Attendance Reminder

If you have a concern

Please report it straight away—no concern is too small.

DSL & Senior Attendance Officer: Megan Hood – safeguarding@harlowfields.essex.sch.uk

Deputy DSLs: Kathleen Faherty – head@harlowfields.essex.sch.uk

Rebecca Willers – safeguarding@harlowfields.essex.sch.uk

For urgent concerns, please call the school directly.

Attendance & Wellbeing

Good attendance is a key part of safeguarding. If your child is absent:

- Please inform school as early as possible on the first day of absence
- We will always follow up unexplained absence to ensure pupils are safe
- This may include phone calls, messages or, where necessary, a home visit

These checks are part of our responsibility to ensure every child is safe and well.

Online Safety

We support pupils to stay safe online and work with families to raise awareness of risks such as cyberbullying, online grooming and sharing personal information.

Working Together

Keeping children safe is a shared responsibility. Thank you for your continued support in helping all pupils feel safe, supported and able to thrive.

More information

Full safeguarding information is available here:

 <https://harlowfields.essex.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding>

Roar & Explore – Harlow Fields


We're excited to be taking part in *Roar & Explore*, part of the Lions on the Loose Art Trail supporting St Clare Hospice.

Our pupils will be designing their own *little lion sculpture*, which will join others across the community in a colourful, family-friendly trail celebrating creativity and local pride. At the end of the event, our lion will return to school.

We are also fundraising to support the vital work of St Clare Hospice. If you are able to donate, we would be very grateful:



https://www.justgiving.com/page/harlowfieldslot!utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=020

Thank you for your support 

COLLEGE
Prom 2026
DRESS *to* IMPRESS

— FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2026 —

— 7:00PM – 10:00 PM —

Harlow Cricket Club

CHIPPINGFIELD, HARLOW CM17 0DJ

— AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT OF —

Music • Dancing • Lights • Memories



A colorful poster for a school fair. At the top, a banner reads 'HARLOW FIELDS SCHOOL & COLLEGE'. Below it, a large blue banner says 'SCHOOL FAIR'. The location 'TENDRING ROAD, HARLOW, CM18 6RN' is written below. The date and time 'SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 2026 12PM - 3PM' are in the center. A yellow balloon on the left says 'FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY'. A red balloon on the right says 'TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, GAMES, STALLS AND MUCH MORE'. The text 'FREE ENTRY' is on the right. A PTA logo is on the bottom left. At the bottom, it says 'FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.HARLOWFIELDSPTA.CO.UK'.

HARLOW FIELDS SCHOOL & COLLEGE

SCHOOL FAIR

TENDRING ROAD, HARLOW, CM18 6RN

SATURDAY
27TH JUNE 2026
12PM - 3PM

FREE ENTRY

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, GAMES, STALLS AND MUCH MORE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.HARLOWFIELDSPTA.CO.UK

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17QWCFzKj1/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/harlow_fields_pta?igsh=MjViNXR6Z2RhZ2J6

Harlow Fields School and College – Term Dates

2025–2026

Summer:

13 Apr – 20 July

Mental Health Awareness Week: 11th to 17th May 2026

Half term: 25–29 May

INSET: 1 June, 20 July

Early finish 17 July: Transport 1:20pm, Walkers 1:30pm

Important School Events

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