




Harlow Fields School and College

Family Newsletter

19th December 2025 Issue 8







A Festive Thank You to Our Harlow Fields Families



As we draw this term to a close, we would like to say a huge thank you to all our families for being such an important part of what has been a truly lovely end to term - very much Harlow Fields style .



There has been so much happening across school and college, and it has been wonderful to see our community come together  Highlights have included the Christmas Fair & grotto , Merit and Awards events with some fabulous performances , and enriching trips such as the pantomime  and visits to Presidents Sports Awards . The generosity of our PTA, providing thoughtful gifts for every class , has been greatly appreciated, as has the festive music from the Harlow Brass Band. We have also really valued our recent parent meetings , which gave us a great opportunity to talk together about pupil progress and next steps. Thank you for your continued engagement and support.



 *We are pleased to share our latest video, offering a further glimpse into daily life at Harlow Fields: <https://harlowfields.essex.sch.uk/about-us/meet-the-team>*




As the term ends, we say a sincere thank you and goodbye  to Tracey Kiddell, who is retiring, and Josh Chadwick, who is leaving to be closer to home. We wish them both all the very best .

A huge thank you also to all our staff—teaching, class-based, support, site, admin, catering and cleaning teams —who go above and beyond every day with such care, commitment and positivity . You make Harlow Fields the special place it is.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our whole-school theme for next term, David Walliams . Sharing one of his stories over the holidays is a lovely way to build excitement for January .

As we head into the Christmas break, we wish all our families a safe, restful and happy holiday . Please remember that safeguarding information and key contacts are always available on our website : <https://harlowfields.essex.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding>



Thank you, as always, for working so closely with us — particularly around attendance . Our attendance currently stands at 89%, above last year's SEND national average of 87%, reflecting the strong partnership between home and school .

We are very mindful that this time of year is not always easy for all families . Please know that we are thinking of you, and that support is always available should you need it. Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas and New Year  With very best wishes .

*Kathleen M Faherty
Headteacher*

A Festive Message from the Harlow Fields PTFA


Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Hello everyone! As the end of 2025 draws to a close, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  

We have had an amazing year and, thanks to your incredible help and support, we managed to raise a staggering £4,327.53 through our Summer and Christmas Fairs. This has made a real difference for our children and young people.


The funds raised have helped to:

- purchase new crash mats for PE
- repair the indoor climbing equipment
- provide new gym equipment for pupils to enjoy
- support Sixth Form with their end-of-year prom
- buy Christmas presents for every class, carefully chosen to meet the needs of the students

The money raised will also continue to fund exciting projects in 2026. None of this would have been possible without the generosity and support of our amazing Harlow Fields families, so thank you from all of us. 

A quick reminder that if you have any unwanted clothes or shoes while clearing out wardrobes and cupboards over the holidays, we have a clothes recycling bin located by the Upper School Hall.

We are always keen to welcome new faces to the PTFA. If you would like to get involved — whether by helping at events, sharing ideas, or simply finding out more — please do get in touch to hear about our next meeting. We would love to see you there.

We are now signing off to enjoy the festive period with our own children and families, and we hope you all get the chance to do the same. Here's to a relaxing, joyful break for everyone. 

Once again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year — see you in 2026! 

Kind regards,

The whole PTFA team

You can contact our Chair, Sophie, directly at:

chair@harlowfieldspta.co.uk

Headteacher Stars of the Festive Fortnight

I am delighted to share our Headteacher Stars of the Festive Fortnight. It has been a joy to read these nominations and celebrate the many different ways our pupils shine across Harlow Fields School and College.

★ **Cedric – Stort Class**

For coping so well with multiple changes to his routine. Cedric has shown resilience, flexibility and maturity, and we are incredibly proud of how he has managed these challenges.

★ **Macy – Blossom Class**

For independently placing her name on the self-register during circle time. This is a fantastic step in independence — well done, Macy!

★ **Elina – Blake Class**

For persisting and producing outstanding work while taking steps in her walker. Elina's determination and effort are truly inspiring.

★ **Charleyann- Chelmer Class**

For greatly improved attendance this half term. Her commitment and effort have not gone unnoticed, and we are very proud of the positive progress she has made.

★ **Julekha – Kestrel Class**


For being a kind and caring student who consistently shows concern for both students and staff. Julekha is a wonderful role model.

★ **Bradley – Hawk Class**

For his positive attitude and kindness, always helping his friends and teachers. Bradley's thoughtfulness makes a real difference every day.

★ **Ziggy – Maple Class**

For excellent effort across all lessons, particularly in his writing. Ziggy's hard work and focus are paying off — keep it up!

 Well done to all of our stars — you each represent our school and college values so beautifully. Thank you to the staff for taking the time to recognise and celebrate these wonderful achievements.



Spring Term Key Dates & Events



Start of Term

Mon 5 Jan – Staff Training Day (pupils at home)

Tue 6 Jan – All pupils return to school (normal time)



Parent & Family Events

Thu 8 Jan, 9.30am – Parental Coffee Morning

Thu 15 Jan, 6.00pm – Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT

Mon 2 Mar, 9.30am – Parental Coffee Morning

Fri 6 Mar – Come and Learn With Me Day

WC 9 Mar – Parent Meetings



Curriculum & Awareness Days

Fri 6 Feb – NSPCC Number Day

Wed 11 Feb – Safer Internet Day

Thu 13 Feb – World Book Day

Mon 16 Mar – Young Carers Action Day

Mon 17–Sun 23 Mar – Neurodiversity Celebration Week



Performances & Celebrations

Fri 6 Feb – Family Performance: Harlow Brass Band

Fri 27 Mar – Family Performance: Harlow Brass Band



Spring Merit Assemblies (2.00pm)

Mon 16 Mar – PMLD

Tue 17 Mar – Sixth Form

Wed 18 Mar – Upper School

Thu 19 Mar – Lower School & Classroom Activities



Summer Term Events



Parent & Family Events

Thu 23 Apr, 6.00pm – Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT

Mon 8 Jun, 9.30am – Parent Coffee Morning

Fri 12 Jun – Come and Learn With Me Day

WC 22 Jun – Parent Meetings (end-of-year reports shared & meet new teacher)

Thu 25 Jun, 6.00pm – Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT

Sat 27 Jun – PTA School Fete

Fri 10 Jul – Family Picnic



Staffing & Organisation

Mon 1 Jun – Staff Training Day (pupils at home)

Week of 1 Jun – Classes published for 2026–27

WC 29 Jun – Whole School & College Transition Week

Mon 20 Jul – INSET Day (pupils at home)



Celebrations & Special Events

Fri 12 Jun – Year 14 Leavers Event

Fri 3 Jul – Sports Day

Fri 17 Jul – Family Performance: Harlow Brass Band



Summer Merit Assemblies (2.00pm)

Mon 13 Jul – Sixth Form

Tue 14 Jul – Upper School

Wed 15 Jul – Lower School & Classroom Activities

Thu 16 Jul – PMLD

