



# Harlow Fields School and College

## Family Newsletter

6th March 2026 Issue 11

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This is a bumper edition, filled with lots of photos to give you a window into our World Book Day celebrations across the school and college. It was wonderful to see the creativity from our pupils and to celebrate the joy of reading together. It was also great to welcome so many of you into school for our “Come Learn With Me” sessions. These events are always special, giving families the opportunity to see learning in action and spend time alongside your children in their classrooms.

Next week we look forward to welcoming many of you again for Parents’ Week and our Mother’s Day celebrations. Parents’ Week is an important opportunity to meet with staff to review your child’s academic progress, discuss next steps in learning, and explore how we can work together to support learning at home. These conversations are an important part of ensuring every pupil continues to grow and succeed. A quick reminder to also check Earwig regularly for learning updates. Earwig gives you a wonderful insight into the school day and allows you to see the fantastic work and achievements of your children. It is always lovely to celebrate these moments together.

Finally, everyone is warmly welcome to attend the Harlow Brass Band performance at the end of term. It promises to be a lovely event for our school community and a great way to finish the term together.



Kathleen M Faherty  
Headteacher

## **Family Voice – Safeguarding, Safety & Communication**

Thank you to the families who completed our recent Safeguarding, Safety and Communication Survey. We received 26 responses (around 12% of families). We know SEND family life is busy, so we really appreciate those who took the time to share their views.

Overall, feedback was reassuring. Communication and safeguarding were generally rated as good. Families highlighted the importance of positive relationships with staff, emotional wellbeing support, being contacted when concerns arise, strong class-level communication, and the school newsletter and website updates. A small number of families asked for clearer communication following incidents, reassurance around staffing consistency, and more visibility of learning. This feedback has been discussed by the Senior Leadership Team and is helping shape next steps. We are strengthening communication following incidents, reviewing staffing consistency, and providing clearer curriculum information so families can better see what pupils are learning.

Please also visit our Parent Voice page: <https://harlowfields.essex.sch.uk/parents/parent-voice> Your feedback genuinely helps shape improvements across the school. Thank you for continuing to share your voice with us.

## **PTFA Easter Events – Cakes, Creativity and Community**

On Wednesday 18th we will be holding a PTFA Bake Sale with a fantastic selection of cakes, biscuits and sweet treats generously baked and donated by members of our school community. It is always a popular event and a lovely way to support the school. On Tuesday 24th pupils are invited to take part in our Easter Bonnet Competition by creating and wearing their own Easter bonnet. We always see some wonderfully imaginative designs and it is a great opportunity for pupils to show their creativity.

Both events raise valuable funds that support activities and resources for our pupils while bringing the school community together.

## **Celebrating Our Pupils – New Weekly Rewards Certificates**

We are delighted to introduce a new weekly rewards certificate system across the school to celebrate the achievements of our pupils. Each class will award two certificates every Friday: a Learning Certificate and a Citizen of the Week Certificate. These recognise effort, progress and the many different ways our pupils succeed. In a specialist SEND school, progress is often made through small but incredibly meaningful steps. Certificates may recognise trying a new skill, making progress towards an EHCP target, communicating more independently, showing resilience, kindness to others, following routines, or developing independence. Headteacher Awards will now also take place once each half term to recognise exceptional achievements across the school. Thank you to James Nash for leading this initiative.

## **Harlow Fields Joins “Lions on the Loose”**



We are excited that Harlow Fields will be taking part in Harlow’s “Lions on the Loose” project supporting St Clare Hospice. Our pupils will decorate a lion sculpture which will form part of Harlow’s summer lion trail before returning permanently to the school.

The lion will be displayed in school reception before decorating begins, and we will also hold fundraising events for St Clare Hospice, including a stall at our school summer fete.

Thank you to Craig for leading this fantastic community project



**We had great fun spotting Wally in school this week! It's a great reminder of how important reading and literacy are for our pupils. Please take a little time to read at home using the books and materials provided by your child's class. If you ever feel unsure about how to support reading at home, please speak to your class lead - we're always happy to help.**

# 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:**

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



**Sam, Cheryl and Leyla, our Attendance Officer, from the school office would like to say how lovely it has been seeing pupils enjoying World Book Day. Please keep the reading going at home – even a few minutes a day really helps build confidence and a love of books.**

