

THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2025



MILWARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we edge closer to the festive season, the excitement across school is definitely building – and that’s just the staff! We have lots of lovely events coming up over the next couple of weeks, and I’m really looking forward to seeing as many families as possible joining us. Please check the diary dates at the bottom of this newsletter for your child’s specific show times, and don’t forget to book tickets where needed.

The weather has certainly taken a wintry turn this week. Many of us have been out early scraping windscreens, and the school grounds have been looking absolutely beautiful covered in frost. Please make sure children come in wrapped up warm – hats, gloves, and coats are definitely needed now.

On Monday, we are delighted to welcome Reverend Richard for our annual Christingle service. All children will be making their own Christingles during the day, so a huge thank you for your donations of oranges – your support makes these special traditions possible.

One of our favourite traditions returns this week with Choir in the Woods, taking place this Tuesday in the woodland area on our school field. Wrap up warm, bring a torch if you have one, and maybe a bit of cash for hot drinks to keep you cosy. It’s always a magical event, and we can’t wait to share it with you.

A big well done to our Early Years children, who represented Milwards brilliantly on their first trip of the year to the cinema. Not only was their behaviour fantastic amongst other schools, but we were also genuinely impressed by the very limited toilet trips... only two for the entire group! A Christmas miracle in itself.

Finally, a gentle reminder about earrings: children should only wear stud earrings in school. This helps us keep everyone safe during learning and play.

Thank you, as always, for your support. The next couple of weeks promise to be busy, festive, and full of joy – just how we like it!

Have a lovely long weekend,

Ms Hurley –Deputy Head

Star of the Week

Little Acorns: Phillip

Big Acorns: Darcie

Cherry: Lucas

Maple: Ava

Birch: Sophia

Willow: Sashwath

Pine: Amreen

Oak: Hewad



RECEPTION ADMISSIONS – SEPTEMBER 2026

APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN STARTING RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2026 OPENED ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2025 AND WILL CLOSE ON 15TH JANUARY 2026.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE VIA ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL:

WWW.ESSEX.GOV.UK/ADMISSIONS. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST STILL APPLY EVEN IF YOUR CHILD CURRENTLY ATTENDS OUR NURSERY.

Who can get the free NHS flu vaccine?



- People aged 65 or over
- Anyone 6 months to 64 years old with certain long-term health conditions
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 2 to 3 years old
- School aged children (Reception to Year 11)
- Carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- Anyone living with someone who has a weakened immune system

Speak to a member of staff to book your flu vaccine or visit nhs.uk/bookflu

At Milwards, we know that family life isn't always easy — and sometimes the festive season, while full of joy and lights, can bring extra pressures, tensions or worries for families. Our school is part of the J9 initiative, which offers safe and confidential support for anyone affected by domestic abuse. If you ever need advice, someone to talk to, or signposting to services, please reach out to a member of our safeguarding team. We're here for you — not just during term-time, but especially when the festive season weighs heavy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Not all Superheroes wear capes, sometimes they volunteer on the school PTA!

WE NEED YOU!

Whether you can help raise much-needed funds, organise exciting events, or simply serve teas and coffees at gatherings, every bit makes a difference. Join us in creating memorable experiences for our children and strengthening our school spirit.

BE A HERO

Contact us at WELFARE@milwards.essex.sch.uk to join our PTA-Team!



Harlow

Call Citizens Advice Harlow, part of the Tackling Fuel Poverty Together Team

0808 189 6550

www.harlowcitizensadvice.org.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Promoting good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brandon O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brandon guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Christmas in the Woods

Tuesday 2nd December

3:30 – 4:00 hot chocolates served



4:00 – 4:30 Christmas singing





JOIN US AS A SCHOOL GOVERNOR!
THE HARLOW INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING TRUST IS LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC NEW GOVERNORS TO JOIN OUR TEAM!
IF YOU - OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW - CARE ABOUT EDUCATION AND WANT TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR FANTASTIC SCHOOLS, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
OUR FRIENDLY HEADTEACHERS ARE HAPPY TO CHAT ABOUT WHAT THE ROLE INVOLVES AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.
BECOMING A GOVERNOR IS A REWARDING WAY TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN LOCAL EDUCATION. SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS, AND GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.
TO FIND OUT MORE OR EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.
THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO INSPIRE CHANGE! ✨

STAY CONNECTED WITH US! ✨
JOIN OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITY ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK! 📸 ✨
SHARE OUR POSTS AND SPREAD THE JOY ABOUT THE AMAZING LEARNING HAPPENING HERE. FOLLOW US TO STAY UPDATED ON ALL THE EXCITING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES. LET'S GROW, LEARN, AND HAVE FUN TOGETHER UNDER THE BRIGHT SUN! 🎉

WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.MILWARDS.ESSEX.SCH.UK/](http://www.milwards.essex.sch.uk/)

INSTAGRAM:

[HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/MILWARDSPRIMARYSCHOOL/](https://www.instagram.com/milwardsprimaryschool/)

FACEBOOK:

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PROFILEFILE.PHP?ID=100091808599928](https://www.facebook.com/profilefile.php?id=100091808599928)

Privacy Notice Please see the following link to a page on the HILT Academies website where you can view the Privacy Notice for Pupils and Parents.

<https://www.milwards.essex.sch.uk/general-data-protection-regulation-2018/>

Contact details

A reminder to please keep all of your contact details up to date. This can be done by logging into your Arbor app or via the website: [Milwards Primary School and Nursery.](http://www.milwards.essex.sch.uk/)

easyfundraising

Turn your online shopping into everyday magic for Milwards Primary School - Harlow with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!

How to sign up

Scan the QR code

or visit:

<http://efraising.org/9nb2MDOlca>



Download the easyfundraising App



Date	Event	Additional information
28.11.25	INSET	School closed for staff training
02.12.25	Reception to St Marys Church	
02.12.25	Christmas choir in the woods.	4PM
05.12.25	Year 5 Tudor day	
09.12.25	KS2 Christmas show	2pm & 4PM
10.12.25	KS2 Christmas show	9.30
10.12.25	Acorns Christmas show	2pm
11.12.25	Acorns Christmas show	9.30
12.12.25	Pantomime	Whole school trip to see Sleeping Beauty
16.12.25	After school Christmas parties	EYFS and KS1 3.15 - 4.30 KS2 4.45 - 6.15
17.12.25	KS1 Nativity	2pm
18.12.25	KS1 Nativity	9.30am
19.12.25	Christmas Dinner and wear an xmas outfit	
19.12.25	End of Autumn term	School closes at 1.30pm PM nursery children should attend the AM session this day.

Date	Event	Additional information
05.01.26	Start of the Spring term	School opens at the normal time for the new term
16.02.26-20.02.26	Half term	
27.03.26	End of the Spring term	School closes at 1.30pm PM nursery children should attend the AM session this day.
19.05.26	Class photos	Class and team photos
03.06.26	Reception to Pizza Express	Details to follow.
07.07.26	Key Stage 2 Production	2pm and 4pm
8.07.26	Key Stage 2 Production	9.30
09.07.26	KSI summer showcase	3pm
26.06.26	Whole school Sports Day	Reserve date: 10.07.26
03.07.26	EYFS to Barley Lands Farm	Details to follow
15.07.26	Year 6 leavers BBQ	3.30
16.07.26	Acorns Graduation	2pm - For parents of children leaving Acorns
17.07.26	Year 6 leavers assembly	9.30
17.07.26	End of the Summer term	School closes at 1.30pm PM nursery children should attend the AM session this day.