

MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2025



MILWARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Carers,

As autumn now feels truly upon us and we all begin to dress accordingly, I felt it was a good time to remind parents, carers, and children about our school uniform policy — and why. At Milwards, we see it as such an important part of who we are. Wearing our uniform with pride helps to create a strong sense of belonging, unity, and equality across our school community.

The full uniform policy can be found <https://www.milwards.essex.sch.uk/policies/>. It highlights that it is not essential for clothing to feature the Milwards logo; however, we do ask that uniform items reflect our school colour of navy for jumpers or cardigans. Trousers and skirts should be grey or black, and polo shirts or shirts/blouses may be white, pale blue, or navy.

Please note that trainers should not be worn, except for PE. The PE kit should consist of a plain white T-shirt and black shorts or jogging bottoms. This helps ensure children are comfortable, safe, and ready for all physical activities.

As a friendly reminder, only stud earrings are permitted in school, and no earrings or jewellery should be worn on PE days for safety reasons. No other types of jewellery should be worn to school at any time.

On a different note, our Book Fair was a huge success — thank you so much to everyone who came along and supported it! We're thrilled to share that it raised an impressive amount of money for new books and reading resources across the school. Your enthusiasm and generosity really do make a difference to our children's love of reading and their ongoing literacy journey.

Although it's only the start of November, there's already a real buzz around school as classes begin to prepare for the Christmas season. From festive crafts and nativity rehearsals to decorations slowly making their way out of storage, it's shaping up to be a wonderfully busy and exciting couple of months ahead.

Kind regards,
Mr M. Doughty
Headteacher

Star of the Week

Little Acorns: Mihili

Big Acorns: Amelia

Cherry: Harley & Marlie

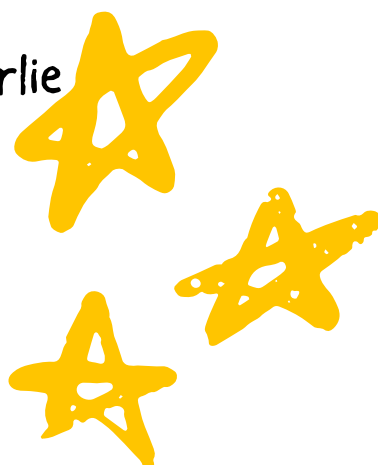
Maple: Miran

Birch: Skyler

Willow: Arsh

Pine: Chloe

Oak: Mila



At Milwards, we understand that family life can sometimes be challenging, and we want all our parents and carers to know that support is available. Our school is part of the J9 initiative, which helps people affected by domestic abuse to access help safely and confidentially. If you ever need advice, support, or signposting to services, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team – we're here to help.

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS - SEPTEMBER 2026

APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN STARTING RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2026
OPEN ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2025 AND CLOSE ON 15TH JANUARY 2026.
APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE ONLINE VIA ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AT:
WWW.ESSEX.GOV.UK/ADMISSIONS.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less
absence per year
97% or above
VERY GOOD
THIS IS YOUR
TARGET

Between
7 and 19 days
absence per year
90% - 96%
BELOW
EXPECTATIONS

More
than 19 days
absence per year
Under 90%
POOR
ATTENDANCE

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TROLLING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The term "Trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

24/7 CONTACT

The internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

HATE SPEECH

Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial slurs, homophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/online-trolling

Mental Health Support Teams in Schools



Are you looking for effective ways to help you,
help your young person, navigate anxiety
and help them manage their worries?

The Mental HealthSupport Team is
running 2 online parentgroups in NOVEMBER

When?

Tuesday
4th 11th 18th 25th
November
1-2pm

When?

Thursday
6th 13th 20th 27th
November
9.30-10.30am

Where?

zoom link will
be sent to
you via email
for each
session

Choose sessions
on Tuesday OR
Thursday

Attendance at
all four sessions
is expected

Notes for each
session are
emailed for you to
try out the ideas
each week

Next steps:

- scan QR code
- complete form
- practitioner
will telephone
to confirm
details



For any questions email: mhstadmin@mindinwestessex.org.uk

Information for parent/carers



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Not all Superheroes wear
capas, 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!





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.

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/9nb2MD0lca>



Download the
easyfundraising App



Worried About Your Child's Learning or Development?



Scan the QR code to access our SEND Support Padlet – a helpful guide from our SEN Team with advice, available support, and who to speak to in school.



Newsletter Diary

With each newsletter, we'll include a diary featuring important dates. As new dates come up, we'll add them and highlight them for easy visibility. Please keep in mind that our school diary is always evolving, so some dates might need to be adjusted. We'll strive to keep these changes to a minimum!

Date	Event	Additional information
12.11.25	Flu immunisation day	
14.11.25	Children in Need	Dress down and a cake sale. Contributions can be made via Arbor for the dress down.

21.11.25	Year 4 Roman Day	
21.11.25	Year 6 Shakespeare workshop	
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	KS1 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.