

FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025



# MILWARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER



What a fantastic week we've had celebrating Science Week across the school! The children have been busy investigating, experimenting, and discovering just how amazing our world (and beyond!) really is. The week began with a brilliant science assembly led by Mr Huggett, who wowed everyone with a range of exciting experiments. There were plenty of "oohs" and "ahhs" as colourful reactions fizzed, things popped and floated, and curious minds were left full of questions! Even our youngest learners were treated to their very own special science assembly. One of the highlights of the week was our incredible experience inside the Wonder Dome — a giant, inflatable planetarium! Pupils were completely captivated as they journeyed through the stars, learned about the planets in our solar system, and imagined what it might be like to travel in space.

Science Week has inspired so much curiosity, creativity, and excitement for learning. A huge thank you to all the staff for making it such a memorable week, and to our children for showing such enthusiasm and wonder in every activity. 🌍🌟

## 🔥👻 Fire Safety Assembly

This week, we also had a very important visit for our Fire Safety Assembly. The children learned all about keeping safe at Halloween and Bonfire Night, with helpful tips on how to enjoy these exciting celebrations responsibly. We talked about how to stay visible when trick-or-treating, keep a safe distance from fireworks, and never go near open flames or sparklers without an adult. The children were really engaged and shared lots of sensible ideas about how to look after themselves and others.

## 📅 Parent Consultations – Reminder

Parent/Carer consultations take place this week on Tuesday and Thursday for Reception to Year 6.

If you haven't booked yet, please do so via Arbor as soon as possible so we can confirm your slot.

## 📖 The Scholastic Book Fair Is Visiting Milwards!

We're thrilled to welcome the Scholastic Travelling Book Fair to Milwards! 📖🌟

The fair will run from Thursday 16th October to Tuesday 21st October in the hall after school, as well as during our Reading Café on Monday 20th October.

Come and explore a wonderful range of books for all ages — there are exclusive discounts and every purchase helps us earn free books for our school! Card payments are accepted.

Have a wonderful weekend, one week to go.

Ms Hurley Deputy Head



PLEASE COME TO OUR  
**READING  
CAFE**

*On Monday 20th October*

*9-9.45am Early Years & 4  
10-10.45am Years 2, 3 & 5  
11-11.45am Years 1 & 6*

*Teas, coffees and biscuits  
Read with the children  
Scholastic Book Fair  
Costume swap-shop for  
World Book Day*

*This is a free event,  
however, donations towards  
future events and books are  
welcomed!*

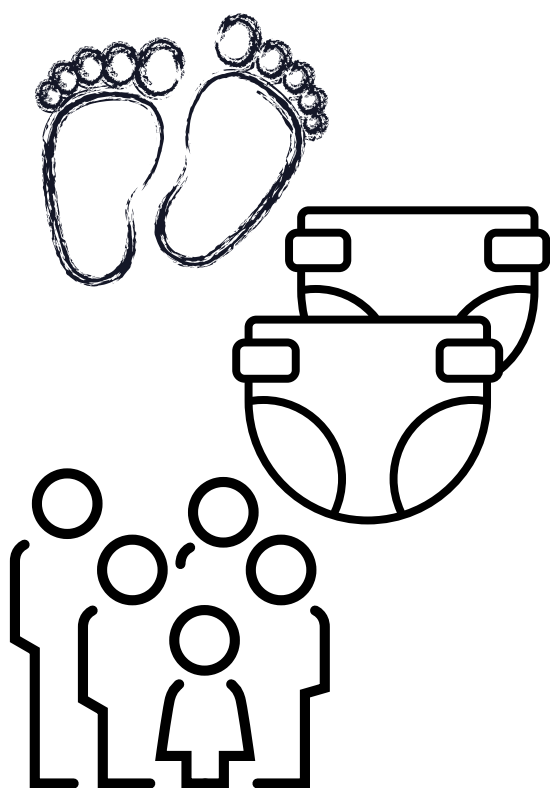


## My Life, My Future: Bump to Five & School Readiness

PADLET



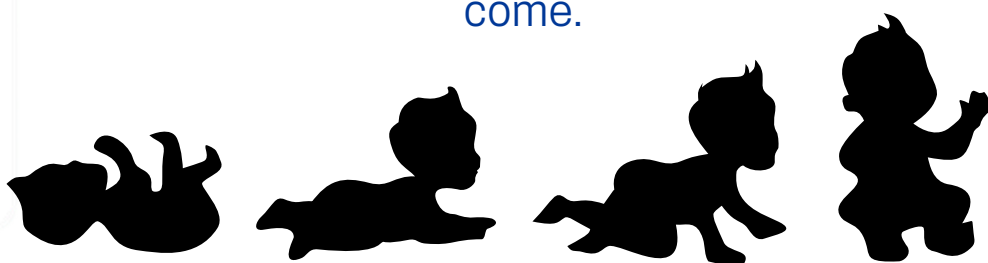
We're excited to share a brilliant new local project called My Life, My Future, designed to help families in Harlow access trusted information and support from pregnancy right through to school readiness. The aim is simple but powerful — to make it easier for families to find help and advice on all the little (and big!) things that make a difference in a child's early development, from healthy eating and toileting, to speech, play, and emotional wellbeing.



This tool, created by a partnership including the NHS, Essex County Council, Harlow schools, and local health services, brings everything together in one easy place — an online “padlet” that guides parents and carers through each stage of a child's development. Before it officially launches later this year, the team would love your feedback to make sure it's as useful and user-friendly as possible.

Feedback

You can explore the My Life, My Future padlet and share your thoughts by scanning the QR codes. The survey only takes a few minutes, but your input will help shape something that supports families across Harlow for years to come.



# Star of the week

Little Acorns: Whole class

Big Acorns: Emmie

Cherry: Choe

Maple: Emelia

Birch: Kayden

Willow: Noah A

Pine: Ella

Oak: Sophia



## SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2026

IF YOUR CHILD IS CURRENTLY IN YEAR 6, YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY FOR THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE. THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 31ST OCTOBER 2025, AND APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT: [WWW.ESSEX.GOV.UK/ADMISSIONS](http://WWW.ESSEX.GOV.UK/ADMISSIONS).



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](http://WWW.ESSEX.GOV.UK/ADMISSIONS).

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

## GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



### PRESCHOOLERS

Build skills and develop good habits for showing up on time



### ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Read well by the end of third grade



### MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Pass important courses



### HIGH SCHOOLERS

Stay on track for graduation



### COLLEGE STUDENTS

Earn their degrees



### WORKERS

Succeed in their jobs

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

### 1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are conversations. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can lead to resolving it in young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life.

### 2 ACTIVELY LISTEN

Remember to give every child the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or other cultural requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings, while some prefer to write their ideas down.

### 3 BE CURIOUS

Demonstrating how to approach conflicts to solve a problem and encourage children can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Instead of just asking 'what?' - yet respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them, when and where appropriate. It's also encouraged young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other side of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out.

### 4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have gendered characteristics, which may cause them to see things from various angles, making it easier and commonly culture which sometimes and others in diversity in all things - including diversity of opinion. A more people are more likely to feel heard and understood.

### 5 BE SUPPORTIVE

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before approaching the issue to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Show trust and time - wait if the conversation gets behind, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later regret.

### 6 MENTALLY PREPARE

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and taking somewhere quiet to talk. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. There may even be religious factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can impact psychological, which can mean it's more likely to have a calm, productive conversation.

### 7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and evidence of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to list down any questions that may arise and look for possible solutions during your preparation time.

### 8 STICK TO THE POINT

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to starting. Avoid an agenda, but as it is a neutral environment you can bring all parties on board. Make sure everyone has a chance to set their response about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, stating what everyone can do to resolve the problem.

### 9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED

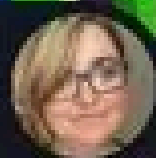
It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others reasons to clamp down. This means the main aim of any meeting or communication should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware that they need to be in a compromise for the common good - this, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting.

### 10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT

Ignore conflicts from avoiding concerns and grievances to parties, as this can lead to further stress and tension, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you find a suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with in the future.

### Meet Our Expert

Christine is a neurodivergent former SENCO and primary teacher, she founded her company, featured here, to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She works with nurseries, schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and mentoring to create belonging and understanding for people with the full range of neurotypes.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

**WE NEED YOU!**

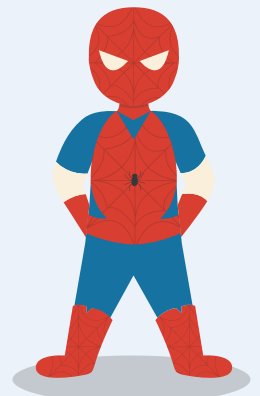
Whether you can help raise much-needed funds, organise exciting events, or simply serve teas and coffees at gatherings, every bit makes a difference. Join us in creating memorable experiences for our children and strengthening our school spirit.

**BE A HERO**

Contact us at [WELFARE@milwards.essex.sch.uk](mailto:WELFARE@milwards.essex.sch.uk)  
to join our PTA-Team!



**Milwards**  
Primary School  
& Nursery





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/PROFILE.php?id=100091808599928](https://www.facebook.com/profile.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](https://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>



### 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
21.10.25 & 23.10.25	Parent consultations	3.30 - 6.30 Details for nursery consultations and one plans to follow.
22.10.25	Halloween discos	EYFS and KS1 3.15 - 4.30 KS2 4.45 - 6.15
27.10.25-31.10.25	<b>Half term</b>	
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	<b>INSET</b>	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	<b>End of Autumn term</b>	School closes at 1.30pm PM nursery children should attend the AM session this day.

Date	Event	Additional information
05.01.26	<b>Start of the Spring term</b>	School opens at the normal time for the new term
16.02.26-20.02.26	<b>Half term</b>	
27.03.26	<b>End of the Spring term</b>	<b>School closes at 1.30pm</b> 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	<b>End of the Summer term</b>	<b>School closes at 1.30pm</b> PM nursery children should attend the AM session this day.