

MILWARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers.

It's been another busy and exciting week at Milwards! The children have continued to work hard, show kindness, and work hard at making themselves the best they can be.

PE Safety Reminder

Please ensure that no earrings are worn on PE days. This is in line with Essex County Council's safety policy, which states that jewellery should not be worn during physical activity to prevent injury. Earrings can easily become caught or cause harm, so we ask that they are removed before school on PE days. Thank you for supporting us in keeping all children safe.

Parents' Consultations

You should have received a message on Arbor inviting you to book your parents' consultation for Tuesday 21st October or Thursday 23rd October. If your child has a One Plan or an EHCP, we'll contact you separately to arrange an individual meeting. Nursery parents' consultations will take place after half-term, and I'll be in touch soon with the details.

Music Assembly

Yesterday we enjoyed a fantastic music assembly! The children were amazed by the range of instruments, including trombones. They loved hearing how each one sounded — from the low, booming notes to the bright, cheerful melodies. The musician even showed how the instruments worked and played some familiar tunes, which had everyone clapping and tapping along. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience live music up close and sparked lots of excitement about learning an instrument! So, if you hear any enthusiastic attempts at trombone practice at home this weekend... our apologies in advance!

Important Book Alert

Puffin, the children's publisher, has shared an important update about books by Andy Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pup series. Some older editions include a website link at the back which no longer belongs to the author and now leads to inappropriate adult content. Puffin has paused sales and is removing affected copies from circulation. We recommend parents check any copies at home and remind children never to visit websites in books without asking an adult first.

Have a lovely week ahead and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Ms Hurley Deputy Headteacher



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

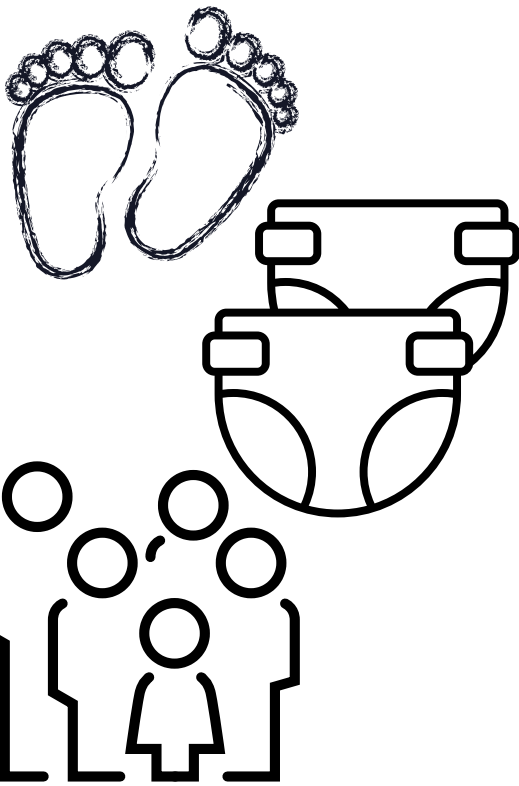
PADLET



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.

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.



Feedback



Star of the week

Little Acorns: Megan

Big Acorns: Elayda

Cherry: Pola

Maple: Isla

Birch: Evelyn

Willow: Summer

Pine: Kaiden

Oak: Ty



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.

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.

GOOD ATTENDANCE MEANS

BEING IN SCHOOL AT LEAST 95% OF THE TIME (BETWEEN 180 & 190 DAYS)



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ONLINE TROLLING

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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

WE NEED YOU!

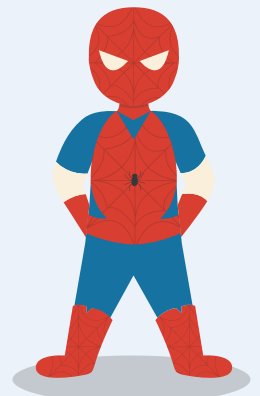
Whether you can help raise much-needed funds, organise exciting events, or simply serve teas and coffees at gatherings, every bit makes a difference. Join us in creating memorable experiences for our children and strengthening our school spirit.

BE A HERO

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



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](#).

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>



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
14.10.25	Year 4 Verulamium trip	A letter with information has been sent to Year 4 parents/carers
15.10.25	Open classrooms	Class rooms are open for you to come and have a look at your child's class and their work. 3.30pm-5.00pm
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	Half term	
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	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.