

MILWARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Carers,

🌟 Sports Update

What a fantastic way to start the sporting season! Our girls took part in the Harlow Football Tournament. In the morning, our Year 3 and 4 team showed wonderful enthusiasm and teamwork, followed by our Year 5 and 6 girls who competed brilliantly at Passmores Academy in the afternoon. Both teams represented our school with great pride and played some fantastic football. We are so proud of every child who took part – well done, girls! ⚽👏

🚶♀️ Safe Parking Reminder

As the new academic year begins, it's a good time to remind everyone about safe and considerate parking around the school. Where possible, we encourage families to enjoy the journey to school on foot – it's healthier, safer, and a lovely way to start the day.

If driving is necessary, please help us by following the parking restrictions outside school. By working together, we can make drop-off and pick-up times safe and stress-free for all our children. Thank you for your continued support.

📷 Use of Photography on School Grounds

We'd also like to remind parents and carers about photography. Some of our children cannot have their photographs shared, and we ask that this is respected at all times. For this reason, please do not take photographs on or around the school grounds.

Your support with this helps us to keep all our children safe – thank you for working with us to protect every child in our community.

🍂 Harvest Festival – Monday 29th September

On Monday, we celebrated our very first Harvest Festival with a special assembly led by Reverend Richard. The children loved learning about the tradition of giving thanks and sharing with others. We were delighted to receive a range of thoughtful donations for Harlow Food Bank. Every tin and packet collected will help to support local families in need – thank you for your kindness and generosity in making our first Harvest Festival a meaningful one. 🌿🌟

Warm regards,
Mr M Doughty, 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!*





Star of the week

Little Acorns: Darius & Ellie

Big Acorns: Alfie & Idris

Cherry: Sophia D & Max

Maple: Remi & George

Birch: Ben & Harrison

Willow: Gracie & Sofia

Pine: Peace & Hanife

Oak: Kaya & Sahashra

📖 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.

📖 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.

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS

SIR FREDERICK GIBBERD 30.09.25 (TUES) 5-8PM
STEWARDS ACADEMY 25.09.25 (THURS) 6-9PM
LEVENTHORPE 25.09.25 (THURS) 5:30-8:30PM
ST MARK'S 02.10.25 (THURS) 7-9PM

***PLEASE CHECK ON THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL'S WEBSITES THAT THESE DATES AND TIMES HAVE
NOT CHANGED PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE EVENT. THIS TABLE IS JUST FOR GENERAL GUIDANCE.

FOR SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF HARLOW, E.G. HERTFORDSHIRE, AN APTITUDE TEST MAY BE A
REQUIREMENT FOR ENTRY. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORMS MAY ALSO BE A REQUIREMENT.
PLEASE SEE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL'S WEBSITES FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON OPEN EVENINGS AND
ADMISSION POLICIES.

Essex County Council
Education

Be a superhero
and come to school every day!

If you miss school, you miss out.

HERO
Here, every day, ready and on time

E-SAFETY

- ★ Keep your personal information private
- ★ Be kind and respectful online
- ★ Tell an adult if you are worried
- ★ Only talk to people you know

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

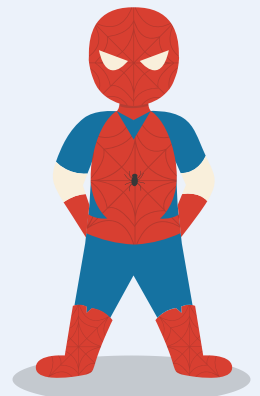
**Not all Superheroes wear
capes, sometimes they
volunteer on the school PTA!**

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!





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

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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>



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GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

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.