13TH NOVEMBER 2026

HOLTSMERE END INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2 2026

Dear Holtsmere families,
I hope that you have had a great week.

Children in Need
Thank you for all of your donations so far for this great cause. A child in assembly yesterday explained beautifully that this charity is for 'children that are less fortunate'. It is an important message for our children that it is important to help each other. If you haven't donated, you can still do so via the Shop on ARBOR.

Diwali
I hope that all our families who celebrate Diwali had a wonderful time celebrating with their families earlier this week. All of children learned about the festival and enjoyed taking part in a dance workshop. I hope that you have had a chance to look at the photographs on Tapestry.

Stay and Play Sessions
Our popular Stay and Play sessions for Nursery and Reception will take place next week. Please see the dates below. You do not need to 'book' these sessions. Just arrive at the correct time for your child's class. The children love showing you what and who they play with. We would love you to join us.

Storytellers
I shared a plea for parents to come in and share stories with the children. We have only received a couple of volunteers. If you are able to come in regulary or as a one off for 15 mins please let the office know.

Clubs - lateness
Please ensure that you are on time to pick your child up from our after school clubs. One parent was 30 minutes late this week. This is unacceptable. Our teachers are only paid until 3.30 and are doing this in their own time. Please respect the timings.

Remembrance
I was so impressed with how all of the children respected the 2 minute silence on Armistice Day on the 11th November, remembering those who have served in the armed forces protecting our country. They attended an assembly prior to 11am in order for them to have an understanding of it. Thank you to everyone who bought poppies and other British Legion merchandise. This is another worthy charity.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Nicola O'Connell Headteacher



On Monday Bollywood Vibes visited school as we celebrated Diwali.







Well done to Chestnut class - this week's best attendance - 97%



Thank you to every parent who has made sure that their child is in school, on time, each day. We really appreciate it.

Attendance

Chestnut	Maple	Hazel	Oak	Beech	Pine
97%	91%	93%	96%	95%	92%

You MUST inform us if your child is absent from school, by calling or emailing the office, each day of absence.

Lateness - the number of children who were late in each class

Chestnut	Maple	Hazel	Oak	Beech	Pine
1	1	1	3	0	1

If your child is late - missing 15 minutes per day adds up to 2 weeks of school across the year!



Happy Birthday!



This half term's Winning house yellow

Upcoming dates

Day	Date	Time	Event
Tuesday	17th Nov	8.50-9.50 am	Nursery Stay and Play
Wednesday	18th Nov	2pm	Maple Stay and Play
Thursday	19th Nov	2pm	Chestnut Stay and Play

ATTENDANCE

Thank you for supporting good attendance. By working together, we can help every child be a HERO – Here Every day, Ready, On time!



HERO our attendance bear is awarded to the class with the best attendance each week



How can you help your child achieve the best attendance possible?

- Allow plenty of time to get ready in the morning and have breakfast before leaving for school.
- Allow plenty of time to get to school - if you are late please bring your child to the School Office.
- Have a bedtime routine so that they have a good night's sleep.
- Please do not keep your child off school if they have a minor ailment such as a cough, cold, runny nose, sneezing or sore throat.
- Children should be kept home for 48 hours from the last episode of vomiting and diarrhoea.
- If they are unable to attend school, please ring the school office by 9.15am to give details of the absence, otherwise your child's absence will be recorded as unauthorised.
- If making a routine appointment for the dentist/ doctor, please make it out of school hours, or during school holidays.
- If parents/carers have an appointment, please try to arrange for another suitable adult to collect your child(ren) so they stay at school till the end of the school day.
- Talk to us. We are here to help. If you are having any difficulties that are affecting your child's attendance at school, please come and talk to us as soon as possible so we can help you.
- Take your family holidays in school holiday time, missing valuable learning time can have a big impact on your child's education.

We cannot authorise term time holidays.
Our term dates are published a year in advance. They can be found here:
https://www.holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk/Term-Dates/

We appreciate that holidays are cheaper in term time, we can't go either!! We are committed to our roles as you should be to your child's education.

One of our parents has devised this app which may be of interest to you.



Funded by Hertfordshire County Council

Families in Focus
Looking forward together

Handling Anger in Children with Autism & ADHD

Join Francine & Lesley on our FREE 6-week online course for Hertfordshire parents.

Understand what's driving your child's anger and learn practical tools that bring calm, connection and smoother days at home.

We'll cover:

- Autism, ADHD & sensory needs
- What the brain does during anger
- Regulation tools that actually work
- Easier routines & transitions
- Reducing stress for the whole family
- Support from parents who truly "get it"

Mondays 6.30pm to 8.30pm
January 4, 11, 18, 25 & February 1, 8

Email: bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk

Beezee FAMILIES



We're here to help your family make healthy habits fun

Join our FREE, 12-week healthy lifestyle programme to help your family build habits around food and physical activity. Our in-person group sessions start on:

Date: Tuesday 19th January '27 **Time:** 5pm - 7pm

Venue: Hobletts Manor Junior School, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 5JT

Or you can join us online!

hrt.maximusuk.co.uk

Sign up for your FREE PLACE today

hellohertfordshire@maximusuk.co.uk

01707 248 648



Hertfordshire

Our programmes are for children above their ideal weight, see our website for more information. 24-0814