



23RD OCTOBER 2026

HOLTSMEERE END INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 1 2026

Dear Holtsmere families,

I hope that you have all had a good week and are looking forward to the half term break. It has been a very long but successful half term.

It has been fantastic to welcome so many of our families to the events which have been held this half term - workshops, parents evenings, our playgroup, reading breakfast and the harvest festival. Thank you so much for all of your donations of food and toiletries. It was extremely generous and echoes part of our wellbeing mantra about being kind. The donations will be split between our own community cupboard, DENS and the Salvation Army.

The children sang and read brilliantly, we were so proud of them. I have been Headteacher for 10 years and I would go so far as to say it was our best Harvest festival yet!! Miss Turner videoed all of the individual class performances and these have been uploaded to Tapestry.

Parents evenings

We hope that you found these useful and informative. The feedback we have received so far has been extremely positive. Thank you for taking the time to complete the short form.

Art Gallery

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Art Gallery in the hall after school today. The children have been working hard all week, learning about the artist Claude Monet and replicating some of his greatest works. Please do join us.

Poppies

We will be raising funds for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies and other merchandise on the playground and in the office after half term, to coincide with Remembrance Day on November 11th.

Photos

Unless ordering online, photo proofs need to be returned to school by **no later than Tuesday 3rd November**.

School Applications reminder

Reception and Year 3 applications open on 2nd November 2026 - [Hertfordshire County Council school admissions](#)

Clubs

Please see information below regarding clubs for next half term.

Have a lovely half term break. We will look forward to welcoming you all back to school on **Monday 2nd November**.

Nicola

Nicola O'Connell Headteacher

Our Harvest Festival





Our Whole School attendance
so far this year is 94.1% 🎉



Well done to Hazel class - this
week's best attendance - 95%



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
89%	94%	95%	91%	92%	93%

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
2	0	1	1	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 *Blue*

Upcoming dates

Day	Date	Time	Event
Friday	23 rd Oct	3.10pm	Art Gallery in the hall after school
Friday	23 rd Oct		Children finish for half term break
Monday	2 nd Nov		All children return to school

Holtsmere End Infant and Nursery School

Autumn 2 Club Information

Football Clubs



Both football clubs remain with existing participants.

Girls football has extra spaces.

(Boys football has only run for 3 weeks).



Yoga and Choir



Existing participants can remain on Yoga and Choir club with extra spaces now added.



All other clubs



will reopen for new bookings.



Bookings open

6pm on
Friday 23rd October

Bookings close

9am on
Wednesday
4th November

Club limit

1 1 club per child

(except for Girls football as we pay Watford FC to run it).

Choose a different club



Children who have already participated in a club will need to select a different club.

Get ready to book!



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

Attendance Ladder



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.holtmereinfants.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.

Ghoulish gingerbread

Ingredients

Serves 8

- 115g plain flour
- ¼ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp ginger
- 25g soft brown sugar
- 25g olive oil spread
- 2 tbsp honey
- Icing pens to decorate

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/gas mark 5 and line 2 baking trays with greaseproof paper.
2. Place the flour, bicarbonate of soda, cinnamon and ginger into a bowl and stir.
3. Heat olive oil spread, sugar and honey until they dissolve, then stir into the dry ingredients to form a dough.
4. Roll out the dough to ½cm thick and cut out gingerbread men using a cutter. You could try other ghoulish shapes too!
5. Place the gingerbread men onto the trays and bake for 5-7 minutes until golden.
6. Decorate with a white icing pen - have fun and get creative!



Beezee top tip:

You don't have to stick to skeletons!
You could try ice ghosts,
mummies and zombies.
Get spooky and have fun.



Beezee
FAMILIES

24-3446

Low cost activities to try during half term

[https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/fifty-thrifty-october-2026?](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/fifty-thrifty-october-2026?dm_i=5ESZ%2C1HD50%2C6NSMY1%2C647DA%2C1%2C0%2C0%2C0)

[dm_i=5ESZ%2C1HD50%2C6NSMY1%2C647DA%2C1%2C0%2C0%2C0](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/fifty-thrifty-october-2026?dm_i=5ESZ%2C1HD50%2C6NSMY1%2C647DA%2C1%2C0%2C0%2C0)

Parenting courses

https://www.hertfordshirefamiliesfirst.org.uk/assets/1/autumn_26_hertfordshire_parenting_and_relationship_support_offer_newsletter_-_accessible.pdf

Ready to turn over
a NEW leaf?

Beezee
by maximus

Sign up to one of our FREE healthy lifestyle services today to start your journey.

Beezee FAMILIES

- Free, fun, family-focused support
- Learn about healthy eating
- Get moving more
- Connect with other families.

Beezee YOUTH

- 13-17 year olds can talk about topics that matter to them
- Build confidence
- Get expert support
- Join a safe space.

We be-leaf in you!


Hertfordshire

Our team are here to support you and your family make healthy changes that last for GOOD. We'll learn about healthy eating, moving more, and have fun while doing so!

Ready to get started?

Start your health journey today



hrt.maximusuk.co.uk



hellohertfordshire@maximusuk.co.uk



01707 248 648



KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) OCTOBER HALF TERM 2026

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN

Kids Eat Free October 9th - 31st via Perks App

BANANA TREE

Kids eat free this october with an adult

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main

BILLS

Kids Eat Free Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

BREWDOG

Kids eat free this Oct with KIDS EAT FREE bookings

CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

CHIQUITO

Kids eat FREE during all school holidays

COCONUT TREE

Kids eat free Sun 18th Oct - Sun 1st Nov 2026

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FARMHOUSE INNS

2 Kids eat free during the October Half Term

FLAMING GRILL

1 Kid eats free weekdays this October half term

FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids eat FREE during school holidays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

HARVESTER

Kids eat for £1 until November 1st 2026 via App

HUNGRY HORSE

2 Kids eat for £1 this October Half Term

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MARSTON PUBS

kids eat for £1 during the october half term

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TESCO

Kids Eat free weekdays with an adult purchase

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TOBY CARVERY

Kids eat for £1 until November 1st 2026 via App

TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

TURTLE BAY

Kids eat free with a £15 adult spend via app

VILLAGE HOTELS

Kids eat free via the village app

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

ZIZZI

Kids eat free weekdays in school holidays