20TH NOVEMBER 2026

HOLTSMERE END INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2 2026

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

Children in Need
Thank you for all your donations last week, we raised £196 for the Children in Need charity.

Attendance
Miss Razzaque and I had our termly mornitoring call with OFSTED yesterday, with attendance as the sole focus. I am pleased to say that we are making good progress and attendance is improving, however, there is still a way to go to ensure that we are matching the national standard.
Thank you to all of those parents who bring their child to school when they are well and on time.

Stay and Play
It was lovely that so many of you joined us for the Early Years Stay and Play sessions this week. I hope that they gave an insight into how your child engages in play and who with.

HSA Christmas artwork fundraiser
Orders should be with us by Monday 23rd November and will be sent home with your child on the day they arrive.

Parliament week
Next week the children will be taking part in national Parliament week, they will be learning about democracy and having and using your voice. The teachers have created their video manifestos and the children will visit the 'polling station' in the hall where they will vote for the end of term 'winning house treat'.

Christmas 'Pop up'
Please see details below of our Christmas Popup, where children will be selling items they have made as part of our 'financial opportunities' learning.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.
Nicola O'Connell Headteacher




Forest school is back and the children are loving it!






Well done to Pine class - this week's best attendance - 98%



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%	94%	96%	97.5%	93%	98%

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
0	0	0	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 weeks Winning house yellow

Upcoming dates

Day	Date	Time	Event
Thursday	3rd December	2.30	Year 2 Learning Celebration
Friday	4th December	2.30	Year 1 Discovery learning
Thursday	10th December		Xmas jumper day, Xmas Indoor picnic and Deco Day

Please don't worry if your child doesn't have a Christmas jumper, we have some spares jumpers. We don't want anyone having to spend unnecessarily just before Christmas.


Hollsmere End School
Christmas Pop Up
Wednesday 16th December 2026
After School
As part of the children's financial opportunities learning, our house teams have been planning and creating a range of Christmas items to sell.
The children have thought carefully about:
the cost of the resources,
how much to sell the items for,
the profit they will make, and
how to spend the profit on something that will benefit the whole school.
Items £1 or less
You can pay by cash or card.
We would love you to join us!

Holtsmere End School

♡ Christmas at Holtsmere ♡



Thursday 10th December

Christmas Jumper Day

This is a national event.

Children to come in to school wearing a Christmas jumper instead of their school sweatshirt, all other uniform items worn.



Thursday 10th December

Christmas Indoor Picnic Day and Deco Morning

Our popular Deco morning is a morning where parents come in and help the children make Christmas decorations, cards and all things Christmassy.

There will be 3 time slots available for your child's class:

9.15 | 10.15 | 11.15



Tuesday 15th December

Year 1 Performance of Knock Knock – The Nativity

9.30

2 adults per child



Wednesday 16th December

Our Carol Concert with Rev Austin

Led by Year 2 children

9.15

Year 2 parents only



Nursery Festive Sing Along

Wednesday 16th December at 11.45



Thursday 17th December

Reception Carol Concert

9.15

2 adults per child



End of Term

Friday 18th December

Nursery finishes at **12 noon**

Reception, Years 1 and 2 finish at **1.30 pm**

Bookings for all events (Nursery don't have to book) will open on Friday 20th at 6pm on Arbor.

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2027.

HOLTSMERE HSA PRESENTS.....

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2026

RAINBOW HAMPER RAFFLE

Donations greatly appreciated for our Christmas Hampers

RECEPTION RED DONATIONS

YR1 ORANGE DONATIONS

YR2 YELLOW DONATIONS

YR3 GREEN DONATIONS

YR4 BLUE DONATIONS

YR5 PURPLE DONATIONS

YR6 PINK DONATIONS

LOTS OF FABULOUS PRIZES

ANY COLOUR DONATIONS



Coloured bottles also accepted, please leave in the school office.

TURNING FROWNS UPSIDE DOWN :)

Holtsmere End Association

Merry Christmas

Rotary
Hemel Hempstead

Visit HemelHempsteadRotary
Facebook for regular updates

Santa's Sleigh

Come out and say hello to Santa and his elves – they'd love to see you. Santa will be nearby even if he doesn't pass your house.

Visit our *Santa Sleigh Website* for the Calendar, route maps and Streetfinder at www.hemelsantasleigh.co.uk

Every evening you can track Santa's progress at Christmas.trackit247.com



Monday 14th December

Woodhall Farm

Route 20

Street by Street collections start at 17.30, generally finishing at 19.30.

Supported by Waterways Experiences

Route sponsored by XXXXXXX

HELP US SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES

Put coins in buckets or donate contactless on the night

Text £2

Text HEMELSANTA2 to 70085 to donate £2
Text HEMELSANTA5 to 70085 to donate £5
To donate a different amount insert that amount after HEMELSANTA

Text £5

Texts cost the amount of the donation plus one standard rate message.

Visit our *Just Giving* page at justgivingsanta.hemelrotary.com

Merry Christmas

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.



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