



9TH 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.

Harvest Festival

A reminder that bookings open for this on Arbor at 6pm TODAY. 2 places (for grandparents) per child. Please see details below.

Cauliflower Cards - Christmas Cards

A reminder that the deadline for your child to design a Christmas Card is **Wednesday 14th October**. Please return their design to school by this date.

Parents evenings - dates below

Please book your timeslot to meet with your child's teacher to find out how they are settling in to their class, how they are progressing with their learning and how to help them at home. There will also be opportunities to look at their books and ask any questions that you may have. Please book on Arbor as soon as possible as booking closes on Wednesday 14th Oct at 9am.

Choir/Singing Club

Choir club still has a few spaces left. Please contact the office if your child would like to join (each Wednesday at 8.15am).

Healthy School

As a Healthy School we do not permit the giving of sweets to celebrate a child's birthday. This is following advice from Hertfordshire County Council in response to concerns about children's allergies. We have previously suggested that if you want to give a treat to child's friends that you purchase a book for the class which can be shared during the 'end of the day' story time. The school has an Amazon book/wish list if you would like to purchase one from there and indicate which class it is for: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/18808JK4ZJYFA?ref=wl_share

Medicines

In line with our Medicines Policy, medicine can only be given if prescribed by a doctor and the form completed. Any other medicines can only be given by parents coming into school to give it.

Years 1 and 2 'How we learn' sessions

It was lovely to see parents availing of these informative sessions. We hope that you found them useful. Due to relatively low attendance Miss Turner will be running another Year 1 session on Thursday 22nd October at 8.15am

Have a lovely weekend.

Nicola

Nicola O'Connell Headteacher

Year 2 have been identifying landmarks of each of the capital cities of the UK in their Geography lessons this week.





Well done to Oak class - this week's best attendance - 99% 🎉



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
94%	96% 🎉	93%	99% 🎉	93%	96% 🎉

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	1	1	2

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



Happy Birthday!



Winning house *Blue*

Upcoming dates

Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	14 th Oct	9am	Toilet training workshop for parents of our Nursery and Reception children
Thursday	15 th Oct	6pm	New to Reception tour - for children starting school in September 2027
Friday	16 th Oct	8.20 - Reception and KS1 8.30- Nursery	Reading Breakfast
Tuesday and Thursday	20 th and 22 nd Oct		Parents' Evening
Wednesday	21 st Oct	9.15am	Harvest Festival - Grandparents only
Friday	23 rd Oct	3.10pm	Art Gallery in the hall after school

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.



Early Years ♥ Toilet Training Workshop

Support, advice and strategies for parents
whose child is finding toileting challenging
at home and/or school.



WEDNESDAY
14TH OCTOBER



9AM



TEA AND
COFFEE

♥ COME ALONG! ♥

♥ Informal with no judgement ♥

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2:



Infant and Nursery School

Harvest Festival

Wednesday 21st October
at 9.15am



Traditionally grandparents are invited
to this event.
2 spaces per child.

We are limited due to health and safety regulations in the hall,
so please only book the allocated 2 spaces per child.
We kindly ask that this event is for grandparents.
We appreciate your support in respecting this.



Booking will open on Arbor on
Friday 9th October at 6pm
and close on Tuesday 20th October at 9am.
Bookings can be made via the School Shop on Arbor.

We politely request donations of
tinned and toiletry items
such as shower gel, toothpaste,
shampoo etc.

The donated items will be given to



our own
community
cupboard

Happy learners aiming high

FREE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS
LIVING IN DACORUM

Raise Resilience

Helping you support your child
through life's ups, downs and
everything in between.

“

Practical tools.
Stronger connections.
Resilient families.

**Six sessions**

A complete introduction
to resilient parenting

**One hour each**

Practical and manageable
around family life

**Completely online**

Join comfortably
from home

**Flexible access**

Join live or catch up
on demand

You'll gain practical, evidence-based tools to help you:



Understand your
child's thoughts,
feelings and
behaviour



Navigate difficult
moments with
greater confidence



Build resilience
and stronger
connections
together



STARTS
14th October
Every Wednesday
for 6 weeks



TIME
8:00pm – 9:00pm
One hour per
session



WHO IS IT FOR?
For parents and carers
living in Dacorum
Places are available to
eligible parents and carers.



Visit the webpage to learn more and register:

bounceforward.com/raise-resilience-for-parents-in-dacorum/



Free for
parents and
carers living
in Dacorum

DSPL8

Delivering Special
Provision Locally

DSPL8 SEND Parent & Carers Information Fayre

Tuesday 13th October 2026

9.30am until 12.30pm

At the the Grove Hill

Adventure Playground

Redbourn Road, HP2 7BA

BOOK YOUR SPOT

*This **FREE** event is for Parents and Carers of Children
with SEN or Disabilities; we will have local
services/providers information stands, activities for
children & refreshments!*





ADD-vance
The ADHD and Autism Trust



FREE ONLINE AUTUMN 2026 WORKSHOPS FOR HERTS PARENTS/CARERS

Online Workshops funded by Hertfordshire County Council	Day	Date	Time
Identifying ADHD and/or Autism	Mon	7.9.26	19:00 - 20:30
Understanding Autism	Wed	9.9.26	10:00 - 11:30
Understanding Autism for Parents/Carers of Girls	Mon	14.9.26	19:00 - 20:30
Understanding ADHD and Autism in the Early Years	Wed	16.9.26	10:00 - 11:30
Understanding PDA	Mon	21.9.26	19:00 - 20:30
Understanding ADHD	Wed	23.9.26	10:00 - 11:30
Understanding Neurodivergent Teens	Mon	28.9.26	19:00 - 20:30
Supporting Siblings	Wed	30.9.26	10:00 - 11:30
Understanding Challenging Behaviour	Mon	5.10.26	10:00 - 11:30
Tips & Tools to Manage Anger	Wed	7.10.26	10:00 - 11:30
Understanding Sensory Differences	Mon	12.10.26	19:00 - 20:30
Tips & Tools to Manage Sensory Differences	Wed	14.10.26	10:00 - 11:30
Preparing for Adulthood (14+)	Mon	19.10.26	19:00 - 20:30
Understanding Self-Harm	Wed	21.10.26	10:00 - 11:30
Half Term			
Support for Dads and Other Male Carers	Mon	2.11.26	19:00 - 20:30
Applying for an EHCP	Wed	4.11.26	10:00 - 11:30
Understanding Anxiety	Mon	9.11.26	19:00 - 20:30
Tips & Tools to Manage Anxiety	Wed	11.11.26	10:00 - 11:30
Tips & Tools to Manage School Absence	Fri	13.11.26	10:00 - 11:30
Working in Partnership with School	Mon	16.11.26	10:00 - 11:30
Tips & Tools for Toileting	Wed	18.11.26	10:00 - 11:30
Tips & Tools to Support Communication	Mon	23.11.26	19:00 - 20:30
Tips & Tools to Support Social Skills	Wed	25.11.26	10:00 - 11:30
Tips & Tools to Build Self-Esteem	Mon	30.11.26	10:00 - 11:30
Tips & Tools to Support Emotional Development	Wed	2.12.26	10:00 - 11:30
Tips & Tools for Positive Behaviour	Mon	7.12.26	19:00 - 20:30
Tips & Tools to Manage Everyday Changes	Wed	9.12.26	10:00 - 11:30

"What a fantastic workshop - thank you so much!
I've taken away a wealth of information"

"Absolutely incredible workshop, it has
been extremely beneficial to my child"

📞 01727 833963

✉️ herfs@add-vance.org

🌐 <http://www.add-vance.org/>

Book your FREE ticket on <http://add-vance.eventbrite.com/> or visit our website

These workshops are funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund and are open to residents of Hertfordshire only

Recordings are sent to all registered participants to view for 7 days, even if you don't attend live.