



16TH 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.

It was so lovely to see so many families at our reading breakfast this morning. We have been very fortunate to have received some lovely new books from our Amazon wishlist (https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/18808JK4ZJYFA?ref=wl_share). We hope that you enjoyed sharing the books and stories with your child.

Harvest Festival - Wednesday 21st Oct

A reminder that **bookings close at 9am on 20th Oct** for grandparents to join us at Wednesday's Harvest festival. We would be really grateful if you could send in any donations of food or toiletries from Monday. Please see details below.

Parents evenings - dates below

Thank you to all of the parents who have booked their Parents' evening appointment. Please do try to be on time as lateness has an impact on the appointments that follow. There will be an opportunity to see your child's books after the appointment.

Art Gallery

Our popular art gallery will be taking place in the hall after school next Friday (23rd October). All of the children will be focusing on the art of Monet and each class will be creating their interpretation of some of his most famous works. We would love it if you could join us. I know that your child would love to share their work with you.

Wellies

Forest School will be starting after half term and we would be very grateful for any donations of well looked after wellies in any size that could fit Nursery and Reception children. Please drop them into the school office if you have any. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.

Nicola

Nicola O'Connell Headteacher

Our Year 2 children enjoyed a visit from Rabbi Solomons this week as part of their Religious Education learning focusing on faith leaders.

The children were extremely respectful.





Well done to Pine 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
89%	93%	94%	96% 🎉	94%	97% 🎉

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 🎉	1	0 🎉	1	0 🎉	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 *yellow*

Upcoming dates

Day	Date	Time	Event
Tuesday and Thursday	20 th and 22 nd Oct		Parents' Evenings
Wednesday	21 st Oct	9.15am	Harvest Festival - Grandparents only
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

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.

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



Support Groups



ADD-vance runs regular support groups which provide an opportunity for you to meet other local parents and discuss individual concerns with two specialist ADD-vance coaches. We welcome parents and carers who have a formal diagnosis for their child, as well as those who do not have a formal diagnosis but would like to learn more about neurodivergence.

FREE online support groups for Herts Parents/Carers

Sleep Support

Wed 4th Nov 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

OLLIE Support Group

Tue 10th Nov 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

Parents/Carers of 16 to 25 yr olds

Tue 17th Nov 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

General Primary Aged Children

Tue 24th Nov 2026 - 7.30-8.30 pm

General Secondary Aged Children

Tue 1st Dec 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

PDA Support

Tue 8th Dec 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

Open to residents
of Hertfordshire only

How to Book:

Scan QR Code

or visit

add.vance.eventbrite.com



01727 833 963



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

✉️ herts@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.