

The Henry Moore Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

6th February 2026

Head Teacher Commendations

I am delighted to be presenting the first of the Head Teacher Commendations this year. Well done to these children who have earned 10 Merits.

Well done to:

Yahya C
Emily G
Olivia B
Millie W
Sienna B
Hunter N



Sportshall Athletics



A big well done to the Year 5 & 6 athletics team who competed in and won the cross town Sporthall Athletics competition. Now on to represent in the county competition!

Values Education

As a school we teach 'Values Education' and believe it to be a strong and powerful influence on our ethos, climate and all round standards.

A different value is promoted each month. This month's value is...Confidence.



Safer Internet Day

The children will take part in Safer Internet Day through class activities and assemblies focused on staying safe and respectful online. These sessions will help build confidence in using the internet responsibly, with this year's key theme exploring the sensible and safe use of AI.

Polite Reminders:

Change of Details

Please remember to keep us up to date with any change of details. You are able to update your details via the Arbor app, such as change of address or contact number. Once these have been accepted by the admin team, your child's profile will be automatically updated. Many thanks.

Parking in Residential Areas/Near to the School

Please could I remind parents and carers to park legally, safely and respectfully towards our neighbours when parking near to the school.

Please do not:

- Drive up and park on the spur road to the school
- Park on or near the mini roundabout on the spur road to the school
- Block driveways
- Block roads
- Park on the kerb or grass verge (these are getting particularly muddy)

Thank you.



Kidstop

To ensure the safety and proper staffing ratios for your child, it is essential that Breakfast Club and After School Club are pre-booked before the day.

In the event of persistent unforeseen work commitments or collection problems, same-day bookings will be charged at a premium rate:

- Breakfast Club £6
- After School Club (up to 4pm) £5
- After School Club (up to 5:15pm) £12
- After School Club (up to 5:45pm) £13

Children not collected from their classroom on time will be sent directly to After School Club and the premium rate will be charged up to 4pm. School finishes at 3:20pm, so please ensure prompt collection to avoid additional charges. Many thanks.

Arbor – Top tips

Check the items you have paid for in invoices/payments

- Click three white lines bottom left hand corner
- Underneath the grid select Payments/invoices



Meet the Governors



Hello, my name is Kristin Dockar, and I would like to introduce myself as Governor responsible for monitoring Safeguarding and SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) across HILT Academies.

I have taught in many Primary and Secondary schools across Harlow including Milwards, and my daughter was also a pupil there. It is rewarding to be part of the Governing Body supporting both schools to grow and thrive, and to help deliver the very best outcomes for pupils.

Governors Needed

Our Trust (The Harlow Inspirational Learning Trust) is seeking to appoint new governors to the different committees below.

- Local Governing Body
- Trustees
- Members



If you, or someone you know, is interested in supporting our Trust and its schools - Milwards Primary School and Nursery and The Henry Moore Primary School - please let the school office know.

If you would like to know more about the role/s, one of the Head Teachers would be happy to discuss this with you.

Thank you.

OPAL Play Update

We are excited to share how brilliantly our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey has begun this term. Children have embraced the new approach to play with huge enthusiasm, and the playground is already buzzing with creativity and energy.



We launched OPAL in November 2025, by introducing a range of open-ended resources such as brushes, cardboard boxes, table tennis, music, and chalks. These simple additions immediately inspired imaginative play and teamwork. Since then, we've continued to expand the equipment available, including obstacle course pieces, large spinning tops the children can sit in, bats and balls, skittles, throwing and catching games, Swingball sets, a variety of new loose-parts resources and quiet zones. These have helped create exciting opportunities for children to explore, collaborate and try new things every day.

A key part of OPAL is helping children understand how to use equipment safely and responsibly. To support this, both staff and pupils have taken part in assemblies where new items are introduced and modelled. This helps children think about the benefits of active play, how to manage risks and how to look after our shared equipment.

Leadership from our pupils has been fantastic:

- **School Council** is gathering children's ideas and helping shape the development of new zones.
- Our **Global Ambassadors** have become the OPAL "paparazzi", capturing photos and moments that show how play is evolving.
- **Play Leaders** have supported the setup of new areas such as a *Small World Zone* and are helping reorganise the *Mud Zone* using donated tyres.

Behind the scenes, the **OPAL Working Group** has been meeting regularly with our OPAL mentor. They began by creating a detailed action plan and have continued to meet to review progress, decide which zones will be introduced next, and think about the best ways to keep children, staff and families informed throughout the journey.

Thank you to parents and our wider local community, who have been incredibly generous in donating resources. These contributions have played a key part in helping OPAL get off to such a successful start, and we are truly grateful for the ongoing support.

We are already seeing children more active, more imaginative and more engaged during playtimes. OPAL is transforming our outdoor spaces—and this is only the beginning. We can't wait to share more developments with you over the coming months.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Over the past few weeks, The Henry Moore Primary School has been buzzing with Fairtrade energy! We've been learning all about the importance of Fairtrade — how it empowers farmers, promotes ethical practices, and helps build a more just global economy. Our Global Ambassadors took the lead by visiting Tesco to purchase Fairtrade products and their enthusiasm inspired many others to get involved. They showcased these products in a powerful assembly focused on farmers and the many benefits Fairtrade brings to communities around the world.



We also launched a Fairtrade competition where many of our children purchased Fairtrade products at home with a chance to win the items that were learned about in assembly. The creativity and commitment shown were truly impressive! Lastly, all key stage 2 children took part in creating a beautiful Fairtrade mosaic - a vibrant symbol of unity and our shared values. We hope to continue making choices that make a difference!

As a result of all the children's hard work, we have been recognised by the Fairtrade Foundation as a FairActive school!



Worried About Your Child's Learning or Development?

Scan the QR code to access our SEND Support Padlet – a helpful guide from our SEN Team with advice, available support, and who to speak to in school.



Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, when they're unwell. For further information, click on the NHS link below.



[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

Kind regards

Sarah Cowley
Head Teacher

Spring Term Calendar 2026

Monday 9 th February	Parent First Aid Course run by ACL
Friday 13 th February	School closes for Half Term – normal finish times
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	Half Term
Monday 23 rd February	Children return to school
Wednesday 25 th February	Open Classroom for Year R – Year 6 3:30-5:00pm
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day Book character dress down £1 Book Sale
Tuesday 3 rd March	Parent Consultations for Year R – Year 6 (Details to follow) Teachers will be in touch regarding one planning meetings
Wednesday 4 th March	
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day Dress down day £1 Tuck Shop 30p - Donations of cakes/biscuits please
Thursday 12 th March	Friends of Henry Moore Mother's Day Stall
Friday 13 th March	
Thursday 26 th March	Easter Bonnet Parade (Details to follow)
Friday 27 th March	School closes for Easter Holidays 1:30pm finish
Mon 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April	Children return to School



Essex Fire Museum

Open Day

2026



17th and 22nd Of February

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



Book Now 
Free Entry



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk