



25th September 2026

“Learning Together for Life”

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Great Start to the Year

We have had a really positive start to the new school year. The children have settled quickly into their new classes, and it has been lovely to see them embracing their learning. Thank you, as always, for the important part you play in this. The partnership between home and school makes such a difference to children's success.

We are very proud of our school and always encourage families to discover what makes Hartford Manor special. Our Open Day is on 3rd October 09:30-11:00, so please do spread the word amongst friends, family and neighbours who may be looking for a school for their child.

Two Simple Ways to Help Your Child

One of the questions parents often ask me is, “What can I do to help my child at school?” There are, of course, lots of things families do to support their children, but if I had to highlight two, they would be very simple: make reading part of every day and make every school day count.

We all know that modern family life is busy and there are more competing distractions than ever. Nationally, the number of parents reading daily with their children has fallen to around half. At Hartford Manor, we would really like to buck that trend and make reading part of every child's daily routine. Just ten or fifteen minutes together with a book can make a real difference, while also creating a lovely opportunity to slow down and enjoy some time together.

This week, we will be sharing Mrs de Wolff's 'Treat Your Shelf' newsletter. I know many families value the recommendations and ideas to inspire children's reading. I have even heard of families sharing it with relatives abroad, which is wonderful and shows how a love of books can travel well beyond the school gates.

Alongside reading, regular attendance and arriving at school on time are amongst the most important ways you can support your child's learning. Every day in school matters. Being here consistently helps children keep up with their learning, maintain friendships, feel part of their class and benefit from all the opportunities school has to offer.

We start every day at 8:40am with Early Bird Maths. These short, focused sessions give children valuable additional opportunities to practise and secure important maths skills. Arriving on time means children can benefit from an additional hour of maths each week, as well as having the opportunity to settle calmly and feel ready for the day ahead.

Our gates open at 8:40am, giving children plenty of time to come into school and be ready for the start of learning.

So, if you are wondering how you can help, two simple routines can have a big impact: read together every day and help your child to be in school, on time, every day they are well enough to attend.

Best wishes,

Simon Kidwell
Principal

<u>School Dinners</u>	Next week, we will be on menu 2. Please pay for your meals via School Gateway.
<u>Smartphone Free Childhood Group</u>	Childhood is changing rapidly in the digital age, and many parents tell us that navigating technology can sometimes feel challenging. We are grateful to parents who create opportunities for supportive discussion and the sharing of ideas. Some Hartford Manor parents have recently established a local Smartphone Free Childhood group. This parent-led initiative aims to support families who wish to delay giving their children a smartphone by providing information, encouragement and a sense of community. The school does not take a position on when a child should receive a smartphone, and we recognise that every family will make decisions based on their own circumstances and values. However, we are happy to share opportunities for parents to learn more and connect with one another. To find out more, please visit the official Smartphone Free Childhood website: Smartphone Free Childhood Hartford Manor families who are interested in joining the local parent group can do so here: Hartford Manor Delay and Play WhatsApp Group
<u>School Open day for Prospective Parents</u>	In the coming months, parents and carers will be applying for school places for September 2027. We are holding our first open morning for prospective parents on Saturday 3 rd October from 9:30am onwards. We would be grateful if you could share this information with any friends or family who have pre-school aged children.
<u>Secondary School Applications</u>	Many of our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been attending high school open days recently. A reminder that the deadline for Year 6 secondary school applications is 31st October 2026 . If you need any support with the application process, please don't hesitate to get in touch.
<u>Parking</u>	We have received concerns from parents and community members about parking on the pavement along Carriage Drive. Please be considerate when parking your vehicle near the school to ensure the safety of pedestrians and ensuring that local residents can access their properties.

Diary Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>						
Wednesday 14 th October 2026	Tempest Photography- Individual Photographs (children should wear full school uniform- no P.E kits)						
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	School closes for half-term						
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	FOHM Monster Mash Disco- ticket information to follow. <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <tr> <td>Year 1&2</td><td>3:30pm-4:15pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 3&4</td><td>4:30pm-5.30pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 5&6</td><td>5:45pm-7:00pm</td></tr> </table> There will be tickets available for every pupil to attend.	Year 1&2	3:30pm-4:15pm	Year 3&4	4:30pm-5.30pm	Year 5&6	5:45pm-7:00pm
Year 1&2	3:30pm-4:15pm						
Year 3&4	4:30pm-5.30pm						
Year 5&6	5:45pm-7:00pm						
Friday 23 rd October 2026	School Closed- INSET Day						
Monday 2 nd November 2026	School Opens						
Monday 2 nd November 2026	Reception-Year 6 Flu Vaccinations (Further information will follow)						
Wednesday 4 th November 2026	Tempest Photography- sibling photographs (children should wear full school uniform- no P.E kits)						

Monday 16 th November 2026-Thursday 19 th November 2026	Parents' evening week (further information to follow)
Wednesday 9 th December & Thursday 10 th December 2026	2:00pm KS1 Nativity (school hall)
Friday 11 th December 2026	9:00am and 2:15pm Nursery and Reception Nativity (school hall)
Tuesday 15 th December 2026	11:00am Year 3 & Carol Service (St John's Church) 2:00pm Year 5/6 Carol Service (St John's Church)
Friday 18 th December 2026	School closes for Christmas break
Monday 4 th January 2027	School re-opens

HOLIDAY DATES 2026-2027

HOLIDAY PERIOD	DATE OF CLOSING	DATE OF RE-OPENING
AUTUMN HALF TERM 2026	Thursday 22 nd October 2026	Monday 2 nd November 2026
CHRISTMAS 2026	Friday 18 th December 2026	Monday 4 th January 2027
SPRING HALF TERM 2027	Friday 12 th February 2027	Monday 22 nd February 2027
SPRING BREAK 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027
SUMMER HALF TERM 2027	Wednesday 26 th May 2027	Monday 7 th June 2027
SUMMER 2027	Wednesday 21 st July 2027 (1:30pm finish)	

INSET DAYS (Staff Training Days)
Friday 23 rd October 2026
Thursday 27 th May 2027
Friday 28 th May 2027