



HEADLINES

By James Saunders

Happy Friday everyone, and wishing you all a restful two week half-term. When we return, November will be in full swing and Christmas will be on us in no time. In the meantime, there is much for us to do in school. I don't know about you but whenever I hear the word 'lockdown' I am taken back to that fateful day in March 2020. The concept of lockdown has therefore become a familiar part of our language. However, these days, in schools at least, it has come to refer to something else. Just like a fire drill, a lockdown drill has become a part of the safety measures that are routinely used in schools. This is of course, not because of specific heightened risk but because it is always prudent to plan for emergency situations.

People often go straight to one place when they hear about the need for a lockdown - it's usually influenced by the types of lockdowns we sometimes see in the US. Those sorts of emergencies are not commonplace in the UK so our lockdowns tend to cover a broader range of emergencies.

The safety of the learners in our school, as well as the safety of the school staff and visitors is very important to us. In order to maintain a safe environment for our children to learn, it is necessary that we practise our emergency and crisis response plans from time to time.

I am letting you know about this now as when we return we will hold a lockdown drill at some point before Christmas. Unlike fire procedures, which in most cases mean evacuating to an external assembly area, this will most likely require 'invacuation' to a safe area(s). A lockdown procedure is perhaps better described as an 'invacuation' - using temporary refuge areas, these are places that are safer than immediately evacuating the school in an emergency. This could be in response to an internal or external incident so that the incident may be managed more effectively whilst maintaining safety.

The types of emergencies that could require a lockdown are:

- A hazardous spill where there is a risk from poisonous fumes
- A dangerous situation taking place in the vicinity of the school
- A civil disturbance
- The presence or possible unauthorised person(s)
- In instances, including domestic breakdowns, where estranged parties are attempting to take pupils without authorisation.
- In instances where people on the school site become a threat to the wellbeing of others.
- If a dangerous animal is on the premises.
- In an extreme weather event causing the pupils to be at risk.

We do understand that a lockdown drill could be a cause of some anxiety, especially for our more vulnerable learners. Talking about the drill at home with your child may also help to alleviate unnecessary anxiety. Depending upon the nature of the lockdown, learners will need to remain in the room they are in and staff will ensure that windows and doors are closed/locked with learners positioned away from possible sightlines. Phones and entrances will not be manned. Staff and learners on corridors at the time of the lockdown will be told to enter the nearest room where there are adults present. Once sufficient time has elapsed, the all clear signal will be given.

In the event of a real lockdown

In the event of a real lockdown event we will notify you as soon as practicable via the school's message service, website and Facebook. To ensure everyone's safety, we ask that, in the event of a real lockdown, parents and carers refrain from coming onto site; this may hinder any emergency services action that needs to take place.

Our procedure aims to minimise disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all learners and staff.

In the same way that we hold practice fire drills, we will be holding a lockdown drill during this next half term. I am sure you will want to discuss this with your child to reinforce the message that the school is a safe place and that the drill is to ensure everyone knows what to do in a real situation.

Information will be shared at the earliest opportunity following the lockdown and our review of it.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. Have a safe half term.

James Saunders

PARENTS' TIME

Mon - Thurs
3pm - 4pm

You are always welcome to come into school to see a member of the Leadership Team during Parents' Time and do not need to make an appointment. You can arrange to meet any other member of staff by making an appointment at a mutually convenient time.



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Honywood Youtube

TRUST RESPECT
EQUITY EXCELLENCE

SAFEGUARDING AT HONYWOOD SCHOOL

OUR NEW MONTHLY SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly safeguarding newsletter. We plan to provide an update at the end of each month containing reminders about how we approach safeguarding at Honywood as well as useful links to support families out of school.

To view the Newsletter - [click here](#)

Visit the safeguarding section on our website at www.honywoodschoo.com



HONYWOOD SCHOOL

C9 PARENT EVENING

TRUST - RESPECT - EQUITY - EXCELLENCE



Thurs 13th November
3.30 to 6:30PM

More details to follow soon

NON LEARNER DAY

MON 3 NOVEMBER 2025

STAFF ONLY IN SCHOOL

ALL LEARNERS
RETURN TO SCHOOL

TUES 4 NOVEMBER 2025

WEAR A POPPY WITH PRIDE

A show of support for the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, veterans and their families.

Poppies will be on sale during LS5 after half term.

Please show your support and give your child some change to donate.



STARTING AFTER
HALF TERM

LUNCHTIME SCHOOL CLUBS



GET INVOLVED!

LEARN NEW SKILLS

MAKE NEW FRIENDS



LEARN



PLAY

Our Clubs help with

- Improving social skills ✓
- Social inclusion ✓
- Friendships ✓
- Individual learning ✓
- Develop new interests ✓
- Teamwork ✓
- Collaboration ✓
- Wellbeing ✓
- Physical Activity ✓

C11 MOCK EXAM TIMETABLE

24 NOV-12 DEC

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

REMEMBER TO
Fall Back!

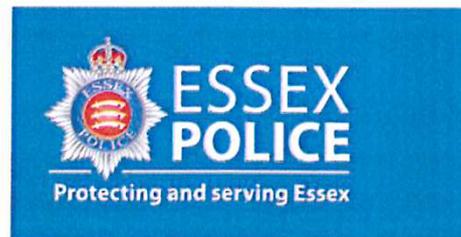
SET YOUR CLOCK
BACK ONE HOUR

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER - 2AM

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS



Honywood
School



Insp Phil Jackson
Braintree Police station
Blythe's Meadow
Braintree CM7 3DJ
13th October 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we approach the Halloween period and the half-term break, I would like to take this opportunity to share a message from Essex Police regarding community safety and anti-social behaviour.

Halloween can be a fun and exciting time for many young people, and we want everyone to enjoy it safely and respectfully. However, we also recognise that this time of year can bring challenges, particularly around incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB).

We are asking for your support in speaking with your child about the importance of being considerate to others in the community. What may seem like harmless fun can sometimes cause distress or alarm, especially to vulnerable members of our community such as the elderly or those living alone.

Anti-social behaviour can include actions such as vandalism, harassment, or causing unnecessary disturbance. If such behaviour escalates, it can lead to criminal offences, which may result in police intervention and serious consequences for those involved.

To help keep our communities safe, Essex Police will have additional officers patrolling during the Halloween period. Our aim is to provide reassurance, prevent incidents, and respond swiftly where needed.

We encourage parents and guardians to:

- **Know where your child is and who they are with.**
- **Talk to them about behaving responsibly and respectfully.**
- **Remind them that causing fear or distress to others is not acceptable.**

Let's work together to ensure Halloween is enjoyable for everyone. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our communities safe.

Yours sincerely,

Inspector Phil Jackson
Neighbourhood Policing Team
Essex Police

Report non-emergency crime and anti-social behaviour online at www.essex.police.uk or ring **101**

If a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger, always ring **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000** or the **999 RSI** app

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is the time of the year for tricks, treats and good-humored frights. Follow these safety tips to keep yourself and family safe during the festivities.



Plan a route

Stick to familiar areas that are well-lit.



Keep Alert

Avoid costumes that may block your vision or cause a trip hazard. Beware of candles in pumpkins



Stay in groups

Children should trick or treat in groups, not alone. Establish a plan if you get separated.



Make sure children are visible in the dark

See and be seen. Reflective clothing, torches or glow sticks make children visible to drivers.



Never enter a house

Never enter a house or vehicle. Don't walk off with strangers. Stay in your group.

Treats!

Always be aware of what you are eating! Be allergy aware! Don't eat anything not commercially wrapped.



Drive Safely!

Children are excited on Halloween, please slow down and look out for children crossing the road.



HONYWOOD SCHOOL

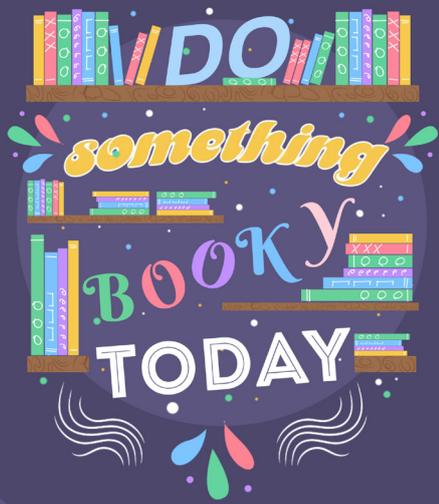


BE CREATIVE

PUMPKIN
CARVING COMPETITION
PHOTOGRAPH YOUR ENTRY
DEADLINE 5 NOVEMBER

CREATE YOUR MASTERPIECE, PHOTOGRAPH YOUR PUMPKIN AND SEND THE PHOTO TO CHOWARD@HONYWOODSCHOOL.COM

KEEP
 READING



DO something BOOKY TODAY

VISIT OUR LIBRARY!

WE RETURN ON WEEK B

Dates for the Diary

Wed 5 Nov- Thurs 6 Nov	C7 Geography walks to Coggeshall
20 October - 31 October	Half term holidays (2 weeks)
Mon 3 November	Non Learner Day - Staff only in school
Tues 4 November	Flu Vaccinations Day 2 (please ensure consent is given)
Fri 7 November	C11 v Staff Remembrance Football Match
Thurs 13 November	C9 Parents Evening
Fri 14 November	C11 Deadend Theatre Performance