

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 – Celebrating Diversity and Kindness Together

Anti-Bullying Week takes place from 10th–14th November, and we're looking forward to another engaging and thought-provoking week here at Harris. The week will begin on Monday 10th November with Odd Socks Day – a fun and meaningful way to kick things off!

We've been taking part in Odd Socks Day for the past few years, and it has become a wonderful opportunity for our community to celebrate diversity and individuality. By wearing odd socks, we show that everyone is unique and that our differences should be celebrated, not judged. It's a simple, light-hearted act that carries a powerful message: it's okay to stand out, be different, and express who you are – and we value and support each other for it.

This year, we'd love for parents to join in too! Why not wear your own odd socks to work on Monday and encourage your colleagues to do the same? Together, we can help spread the message of inclusivity, respect, and kindness far beyond the school gates. We'd also love to see photos of your workplaces taking part – please send them in, and we'll feature some in our next newsletter!

Throughout the week, students will be engaging in a range of activities and discussions based on key issues raised in our recent student anti-bullying survey. Our prefects will be visiting Year 7 Forms to lead sessions on cyber safety and how to stay safe online, and we'll also be inviting Form representatives to volunteer for a new student-led Anti-Bullying Group, which will help steer future initiatives.

Following the week, staff will take part in training sessions informed by the ideas and discussions that take place, ensuring that our anti-bullying work continues to evolve in ways that are truly student-centred and responsive.

We're excited to see our school community come together once again to champion respect, celebrate individuality, and take a stand against bullying in all its forms.

Let's make Anti-Bullying Week 2025 our most inclusive and inspiring one yet – and don't forget those odd socks!

Sock it to the bullies

DOUBLE ACT
Craig David

STARR TURN
Ringo is backing campaign

A REALLY ODD PAIR
Ant & Dec's message to pupils from Celeb castle

BIT OF STYLE
Gemma

FUNNY MIX
Comic Keith Lemon

Stars mis-match to unite against thugs

BY MATT ROPER
KIDS are standing up to playground thugs... by wearing odd socks.
On Monday, pupils around the country will turn up in mis-matched footwear as part of Anti-Bullying Week.

The event, now in its fourth year, will include an online assembly fronted by CBeebies presenter Andy Day.
Celebrities who have posted their odd socks online include Ant and Dec, Ringo Starr, singer Craig David, comic

Keith Lemon and singer Harry Styles' sister Gemma. The Anti-Bullying Alliance says a third of children have been victims in the past six months.
matt.ropers@mirror.co.uk
@mattropbr



Careers at Harris

Parental engagement is an important part of our career programme, and we are looking forward to inviting parents to have their own dedicated Unifrog account, making it easier for parents to access resources to support their child. Unifrog is an online school platform for students to explore their interests in applying for post school opportunities. It provides tools to compare and search for courses and apprenticeships and has its own subject and careers library. Students can build a CV and a personal statement with online templates, which can be accessed after students leave school.

Work Experience placements in Year 10 will be uploaded and monitored through Unifrog. Students will upload their secured placement and Unifrog will generate forms for the employer and feed them back to the careers department.

Comments, workshops and interactions such as Career guidance meetings will be recorded for all year groups so parents are updated and can help support their child's career progression.

Parents will have access to dedicated accounts where they can

- See their child's tasks and upcoming events
- Explore the student tool themselves
- Find guides and events such as 'How to support your child with Work Experience'
- See interactions and comments added by their teachers/career advisor

A link will be sent out to all parents in the near future so parents can log in to their own dedicated account.





MY FAMILY COACH

Powered by **TEAM TEACH**

Supporting You Through the Teenage Years: Reintroducing My Family Coach

Parenting a teenager can be one of the most rewarding—and at times, most challenging—journeys we face. As children grow and become more independent, it's natural for new questions, worries, and situations to arise. Whether it's navigating friendship drama, social media pressures, emotional ups and downs, or simply trying to keep communication open at home, support and reliable advice can make all the difference.

That's why we're pleased to reintroduce My Family Coach — a free online resource created to support families through every stage of parenting.

What is My Family Coach?

My Family Coach is a trusted website designed to help parents and carers understand and support their children as they grow. The platform offers practical advice, short videos, podcasts, and articles on a wide range of topics—from managing screen time and building confidence, to handling anxiety, friendships, and behaviour challenges.

Why we recommend it:

- 🗞️ Practical guidance: Real-world advice you can put into practice right away.
- 💬 Expert insight: Articles and resources written by child development and education specialists.
- 🤗 Supportive tone: No judgement—just understanding, empathy, and encouragement.
- 📱 Easy access: Quick, accessible information for busy parents and carers.

We know that raising teenagers comes with its fair share of ups and downs. My Family Coach is there to remind you that you're not alone and that help, reassurance, and great ideas are just a click away.

You can visit the site anytime at www.myfamilycoach.com to explore the resources and discover ways to strengthen communication, boost wellbeing, and make family life that little bit easier.

Together, we can support our young people to grow into happy, confident, and resilient adults—one conversation at a time.

Take a look at the range of topics available [here](#).

Sign up [here](#)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

Harmonious Aspirational Responsible Respectful Inspirational Sociable

Notice for parents to be shared in school newsletters.

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that Harris keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

Harris requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Attendance

It is really important that we all recognise the importance of good attendance and understand the significant negative impact that poor attendance can have on our students' futures.

The evidence is clear and compelling. The link between attendance and attainment is at its strongest in secondary school. Year 11 students with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar students attending 90-95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days a year reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around half. Improving attendance by just 5% makes a significant difference to academic attainment.

With this in mind, we are running the 97% attendance challenge in school, as our aim is for all students to have good attendance. We know that events come along in life, children become unwell, and medical appointments need to take place. The DfE suggests good attendance is 95%, which allows for these life events. In a school year of 190 days, this is around 10 days absence. However, attendance that falls below 95% becomes a concern, because it can easily slip to 90% - just another 9 days absence. This is the equivalent to 1 day in every 2 weeks.

For us, attendance of:

- 94%-95% is starting to cause a concern
- 96-97% is good attendance
- over 97% is excellent – this is our target for your child

Number of days off school a year	Percentage attendance	Number of lessons missed	Level of concern
0 days	100%	0	Perfection
2 days	99%	10 lessons	Excellent
5 days	97%	25 lessons	Good
10 days	95%	50 lessons	Slight concern
20 days	90%	100 lessons	Concern
30 days	85%	150 lessons	Significant concern

As I'm sure you're aware, students who do not attend school regularly tend to have poorer academic outcomes, and the attendance patterns established in term one are particularly important in creating the positive routines that support long-term improvements in attendance throughout the year.

We need to make sure that good attendance at school remains a high priority. We already ask that families only keep children off school when they are genuinely too ill to attend. You can send paracetamol in with your child to self administer if they are well enough to be in school. We ask that you book medical appointments and holidays outside of school time whenever possible. And we ask that you talk to us if you're having difficulties with attendance. Because every day at school gives your child a better chance of good attainment, and greater earning power in adulthood. To support this drive we are introducing a new system that will automatically send out attendance letter to provide parents with the information about their child's attendance to enable them to support their child's improved attendance. This change will happen after half term.

In addition to attendance, lateness to school can also provide additional stress to pupils, who find it difficult to walk into lessons late, meaning time missed from lessons is an issue. Next term we are trialling a breakfast club to encourage students to arrive early for school. Students who arrive between 8.00am and 8.20am will have access to a toaster to make toast and support a positive start to the day. Please ensure you give your child the best start by ensuring they are in school every day and on time.

ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.
Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.
The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 2 parents =
£1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

4

2ND TIME

2 parents and
1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

Harris CofE Academy Sports Centre

Multi Sport Holiday Clubs for 5-12 year olds



Holiday Club 9am – 3.45pm
Early drop off from 8.15am
Late Pick up until 4.30pm



To book your place or for more information;
Email: pdm@harris.covmat.org
Phone: 01788 818925
Or call in to Harris Sports Centre, Mellish Rd, Rugby, CV22 6BB

Please also ask about our Bikeability
courses that run during holidays.
Cycling Proficiency for the modern age!

All staff are fully qualified,
DBS checked and First Aid
trained

Holiday Club dates for 25/26



October Half Term

Monday 27th Oct to Thurs 30th October 2025 (4 day camp)

May Half Term

Tuesday 26th May to Thursday 28th May 2026 (3 day camp)

Christmas 2025/26

Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th Dec 2025 (2 day camp)



Summer 2025

Week 1 – 27th to 30th July (4 day camp)
Week 2 – 3rd to 6th August (4 day camp)
Week 3 – 10th to 13th August (4 day camp)
Week 4 – 17th to 20th August (4 day camp)
Week 5 – 24th to 27th August (4 day camp)



February Half Term

Monday 16th to Thursday 19th February 2026 (4 day camp)

Easter 2026

Wk 1 – Mon 30th March to Thurs 2nd April 2026 (4 day camp)
Wk 2 – Tue 7th to Thurs 9th April 2026 (3 day camp)



Price per child

£17.50 per standard day (9am to 3.45pm)
£2.50 per wrap around session or £21 for complete day



Vacancies

We currently have the following opportunities:

- Assistant Headteacher SENDCo
- Pastoral Assistant (Attendance)
- Teacher of Food Technology
- Science Technician Apprentice

More details can be found on our website, under NEWS / Vacancies

<https://www.harris.covmat.org/vacancies/>

Car Parking / Safety

For safeguarding reasons, when dropping children off to school or picking them up please can you not drive onto site, and if you are parking in residential streets please be respectful to the neighbours when parking, please do not park in the drive way. Also, please avoid parking in the passing bays down Harris Drive.

If you are picking your child up from a detention or an extra-curricular activity after 4pm, please collect them from the front of the school as Mellish Drive gates will be closed at that time.



Ministry
of Defence

Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding

2025 Service Pupil Premium

Get extra school funding to support your Service child!

- Are you a parent of a Service child in a state school, academy or free school in England?
- Is your child in Reception Class to Year 11?

If the answer is yes, your child may be eligible to bring in an extra £350 funding for their school with the Service Pupil Premium (SPP).

Simply inform your child's school of your Service status by 2 October 2025, otherwise they will miss out on extra funding.

How will the funding support my child?

The SPP is provided to fund mainly pastoral support to help Service children with their education and wellbeing. But it's for the school to decide how the money is spent.

Pupils attract SPP if they meet one of the following criteria:

- A parent is serving in the regular armed forces or is on full commitment Full-Time Reserve Service.
- A parent died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.
- They have been registered as a 'Service child' in the most recent DfE school census or in the census in the past 6 years.
- A parent is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England.

For general queries:

Email the MOD Armed Forces Families and Safeguarding team:

People-AFFS-Education-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

For more guidance: Please scan the QR code:
(GOV.UK Guidance Service Pupils in Schools:
Non-statutory guidance)



Department
for Education

U13 BASKETBALL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

For players in school year 7 and 8



U13 Leamington Development

Day: **Mondays**

Location: **Campion School,
Leamington**

Time: **6 - 7.30pm**

U13 Warwick Development

Day: **Wednesdays**

Location: **Aylesford School,
Warwick**

Time: **6 - 7.30pm**

- **Beginners welcome**
- **Weekly training**
- **Competitive Games**

Please contact Louise Whiteley for more
information:
louise.whiteley@warwickshirehawks.co.uk





WARWICKSHIRE YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2026



Nominations start
13th October
2025

Nominations close
12th December
2025

How can you Nominate yourself:
Click [here](#) and follow the steps.

If you have any questions email:
vic@warwickshire.gov.uk

