



**Honesty, Respect,  
Kindness, Perseverance**

## [Lower Halstow School](#)

### [Newsletter](#)

**February 2023**

**[www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk](http://www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk)**

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#### **Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe**

Welcome back to Term 4. We have finally said goodbye to the temporary heating in each classroom as KCC have installed a brand new boiler in the main school building. In typical fashion, this is ready just as the weather warms up! The Sports Hall boiler is still awaiting parts, so all the mobile heaters have been moved in there for the time being meaning assemblies should be a little more toasty from now on.

The snagging works on the new outdoor installations (seating & performance space and outdoor classroom) are now complete and these will be in use from this term. Please do NOT allow your children to play on these after school. This is particularly important for younger siblings.

As well as our new outdoor installations, we also need to celebrate the increased rates of reading practice across the school. This still varies from class to class but it is clear that those children who are now practising the skills they are learning in school every day at home are making great progress towards reading fluency. We'll be sending out more information about reading later this term.

There will be information coming out soon regarding an election for a parent governor. If you are able to commit to up to 9 meetings a year (evenings), undertaking training (a mixture of face to face and online) and regular visits to the school for your area of responsibility then please consider standing. Our governors hold an important legal and strategic position in the federation and their support and challenge is valued.

#### **A few reminders**

Please leave the playground immediately after pick up to allow after school clubs to come out promptly. Feel free to chat in the car-park if you wish.

The weather remains changeable so please ensure your child has a suitable coat, even if the morning is sunny and warm.

Children should only bring rucksacks to school if they are going to stay at a different house that evening. These should be handed to the school office.

Any change of clothes for after school clubs should be in drawstring bags and kept on pegs.

Black leggings or jogging bottoms can be worn on any day along with plain BLACK trainers. Normal trainers are fine for PE days only. All school shoes should be suitable for running and sports.

If you think your child may have conjunctivitis, please see a pharmacist and start treatment before sending them into school. If in doubt please get checked out.

Best wishes

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

## PTA Fundraising

The PTA have been very busy arranging various events to fund raise for the school. Their annual Christmas Shopping event raised £249.70 whilst the Christmas School Disco raised £531.60. The disco was extremely well attended and good fun was had by all. Thank you to all those who organised and helped out at the two events.



## School Attendance

We are really pleased that this year school attendance has improved compared to the last 2 years; thank you for working with us. Please don't forget to ring or e-mail us on each day of your child's absence. If your child is given medication (4 times a day) but is well enough to be in school, we are happy to administer medication at set times to avoid further absences.

Here are our attendance figures (non cumulative) so far this year:

Term	2021-2022	2022-2023
1	94.4%	94.2%
2	88.0%	92.9%
3	92.9%	95.2%

There's still much more to do to get our attendance figure up to at least the national average (over 96.5%) and in line with national expectations for primary pupils, so let's continue this positive trend by securing an even higher percentage at the end of Term 4. Our current total attendance for the year to date stands at: **94.0%**

It is clear from our data that those who attend regularly are making good progress. So thank you for your help and hard work in getting your children to school, even on those days when staying under the duvet seems more appealing!



## School Pantomime

As part of our enrichment curriculum, the whole school were treated to a pantomime entitled Jack, Jill and the Beanstalk. This was followed by a special 'Magic Bean' dinner. A great day was had by all, even the adults joined in with the 'it's behind you!' chants.



## Chinese New Year

To celebrate Chinese New Year, the children in Acorn class created dragon masks and had a special Chinese New Year banquet. Some of the children really got the hang of using chopsticks – not bad for four year olds!



## School Trips

Several classes have headed out and about on various school trips this term. Year 1 visited the Edith May Barge and Year 3 took a train to

Rochester and visited the Cathedral, Guildhall Museum, and even climbed all the steps to the top of the castle! Year 2 spent a day at Leeds Castle investigating the grounds and castle as well as dressing up and acting out a story, while Year 5 enjoyed a performance of Hamlet at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury with some members of the class being invited to join the actors on stage.



Year 1 investigating the Edith May and the surrounding area as part of their local history topic.



Eben admiring the view from the top of the castle and several Year 3 class members acting out an historical scene in the cathedral.

Well done to all of the children for being brave and having the energy to climb all of those steps – I am sure that the view made it all worth it!



Members of Year 2 acting out a traditional tale inside Leeds Castle.



Two of our brave Year 5 children who took to the stage to join in with the production of Hamlet at the Gulbenkian theatre.

### Children's Mental Health Week

For the final week of Term 3 we promoted Children's Mental Health week by completing a range of different activities all based around this year's theme: 'Being Calm'. Classes completed activities such as discussing the hidden message in the text 'The Invisible String', learning a dance and singing 'We're All in this Together' and various teamwork games. The week culminated in some calm



time on Friday afternoon where everyone completed 'mindful' colouring whilst listening to a range of calming music.



Year 5 working together to move the hoops around the circle without letting go of each others' hands.



Year 1 listening to 'The Invisible String'

### **Sporting Achievements**

In the sports department our Year 5 and 6 boys' football team have won several matches and have been gradually moving up the league table. We are so proud of their 'never quit' attitude even if the match isn't going their way and the excellent sportsmanship they show one another and their opponents. Good luck to them with the remaining matches of the season.



Our younger junior pupils in Year 3 and 4 participated in an indoor 'Sports Hall' competition and came runners up. Ms Brougham was so proud of how they all participated – their behavior was outstanding too!



Lastly our youngest pupils in Years 1 and 2 took part in an indoor cricket tournament. The aim was to encourage young people to get involved in the game. All children who went put in 100% effort – Ms Brougham and Mr Cerullo couldn't believe how tired they were on the way back to school!



### Dates for your diary

Date	Event
20.2.23	Term 4 begins
21.2.23 pm	Pancake Races – children only
24.2.23	Year 3 Dinosaur Workshop
24.2.23	Year 5 swimming begins ( <i>don't forget swimsuits and towels!</i> )
Wk beg – 27.3.23	Book Week – details to follow
2.3.23	World Book Day – (dressing up!) – details to follow
17.3.23	Comic Relief – details to follow
20.3.23	Special visitors arrive in eggs!
21.3.23 at 9.15	Year 4 Class Assembly
23.3.23	Year 1 and 2 Art workshop – details to follow
28.3.23 at 9.15	<b>Year 3 Class Assembly – please note this is a change of date.</b>
28.3.23	Year 4 trip to Kent Life – Viking Day
28.3.23	Parents' Evening – early – ping to follow
29.3.23	Parents' Evening – late – ping to follow
30.3.23	PTA Easter Egg hunt – details to follow
31.3.23	Easter Services at St Margaret's church – details to follow
31.3.23	Term 4 ends

Date	Event
17.4.23	Term 5 begins
19.4.23	Year 5 trip to Leeds Castle – details to follow
Wk beg – 24.4.23	Year 5 Bikeability ( <i>don't forget to check your bike is road worthy</i> )
25.4.23	Year 3 trip to Horton Kirby River – details to follow
26.4.23	School Book Fair to begin

May 2023	Year 2 SATS testing & assessment window
1.5.23	Bank Holiday
4.5.23	Year 3 and 4 trip to Living Land Show Detling – details to follow
8.5.23	Bank Holiday – King's Coronation
9 - 12.5.23	Year 6 SATs testing week
12.5.23 pm	Coronation Street Party in the playground – details to follow
15.5.23	Year R trip to Curly's Farm – details to follow
16.5.23 pm	Year 6 to Safety in Action event – details to follow
18.5.23	Class Photos
22.5.23	Bach to the Future Music Show
24.5.23 3.15-4.00	Open Classrooms
26.5.23	Term 5 ends (Year 5 Swimming ends)

Date	Event
5.6.23	Term 6 begins
June	Year 4 times table statutory national screening check
12 - 16.6.23	Year 1 phonics statutory national screening check
14 – 16.6.23	Year 6 Kingswood Residential
19.6.23	Year 6 money workshop
20.6.23 at 9.15	Year 5 Class Assembly
21.6.23	Sports Day (PM)
22.6.23	Year 1 trip to Wingham Wildlife – details to follow
23.6.23	Staff Development Day ( <b>Children do not attend</b> )
28.6.23	Reserve Sports Day (PM)
3.7.23	Staff Development Day ( <b>Children do not attend</b> )

More dates to follow.....