



Honesty, Respect,  
Kindness, Perseverance

## Lower Halstow School

### Newsletter

November 2022

[www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk](http://www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk)

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

What a busy term it's been! Thank you to all the staff who went above and beyond during our two week covid staffing disruption to ensure that everything could run as planned. It was good to get back to normal and see so many of you at parents' evening at the end the term, where we had our highest attendance to date. There was lots of positive feedback about Class Dojo, where teachers post regularly about the learning happening in class including lots of great photos. If you haven't registered then please speak to your child's class teacher.

#### **A Few Reminders**

##### **Covid and other illnesses**

Given that Covid is clearly still circulating and is causing adults and some children to be unwell, please continue to take precautions. The latest guidance is that children should stay off for 3 days and adults 5 days following a positive test. Testing is now completely optional, but if your child is experiencing symptoms please consider either keeping them at home or testing them. We are also entering the season for other bugs, so please keep your child off for 48 following any sickness to prevent infections spreading. We are very concerned about attendance with persistent absentees (those below 90%) being closely monitored, but at the same time we want everyone to rest and recover quickly and not circulate germs.

##### **Uniform**

Trainers or shoes should be PLAIN black.

Shoes should be suitable for running.

School jumpers or fleeces should be worn every day even on PE days.

White polo shirts are now commonly worn for PE but white t-shirts can be worn on PE days if preferred.

PLAIN black leggings, joggers or shorts can be worn on any day.

##### **Reading**

We are still seeing children in KS2 struggling with their reading fluency (they can read but not at a speed sufficient for good comprehension). This only comes with practise so please continue to read with your child and write in their reading record. Reading the same short passage several times to develop accuracy, speed, expression and a 'reading rhythm' is worthwhile - quality not quantity.

Related to reading, we are always grateful to our small army of volunteers who step in to provide additional reading practise. However, we do need more, so if you know someone who is willing to give up a couple of hours of their time then please ask them to get in touch with the office.

Finally a thank you for the excellent response to our request for old games and puzzles to use at lunchtimes. These have proved very popular.

We look forward to seeing you at the many events planned this term.

Best wishes,

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

### **Harvest Festival**

The first whole school event of the year was our annual Rainbow Harvest Festival, where we were joined by Reverend Amanda who led our service. There were prayers, poems, Autumn descriptions and artwork shared by children from across the school, along with some lovely singing from everyone. It was particularly special as Acorn Class joined us for the first time. Thank you for all your kind donations of food, the Swale Foodbank were really grateful and it is lovely to know that the food will be shared with local families who really need it.



### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and biscuits for our Macmillan Coffee morning. We were really impressed by the quantity of cakes that were sent in.....Year 6 pupils were still selling (long date) cakes two weeks after the event! We managed to raise an impressive £263.03 for Macmillan. Thank you!



### **National Safety Week**

One of our themed weeks this term was Safety Week where the whole school focused on how to keep safe in everyday life, the topics included were: road safety, rail safety, internet safety as well as stranger danger. Year 5 were able to visit the Margate Rail Safety Centre, meanwhile, back in school, Year 1 and 2 pupils learnt how to be safe on their scooters.



### **Visit from Bishop Rose**

At the end of September we were lucky enough to receive a visit from Bishop Rose, the first black woman to become a Church of England bishop. She toured the school grounds and buildings with some pupils who answered her many questions. She then stopped for a drink and homemade biscuit before spending time in every classroom answering questions from the children. We felt very privileged that she came to visit us.



## **Culture Month**

October marked the start of our Culture month which is part of our 3 year rolling programme (last October was our Heritage month). The children experienced a range of activities to become familiar with different cultural art. This included a visit from an African drumming group, a whole school art project focusing on portraiture by artists from around the world and a visit from the poet Zohab Zee Khan who is the Australian Poetry Slam Champion. We still have events planned for Term 2 which include a textile fashion design session for each of our Key Stage 2 classes and a paper sculpture workshop for Year 5 and 6 with a local artist. Please see below for a flavour of what we have experienced and produced.



Year 1 experiencing African drumming



Zohab Zee Khan performing to the whole school



Year R portrait work in the style of Paul Klee

## **Scarecrow Trail**

We hope that over the half term break you were able to visit the Lower Halstow Scarecrow Trail. Mrs Saxton and her team had great fun making Humpty Dumpty, luckily with the help of Mr Wright, he didn't fall off his wall!

Thank you to the PFA Heroes for organising this again - it's definitely become a firm favourite in the annual calendar of events, not just for the school and village but much further afield as well.



## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
2.11.22	Year 3 Dinosaur workshop
4.11.22	Year 5 and 6 Paper Sculpture workshop
10.11.22	Year 5 Lego Challenge workshop
11.11.22	PFA non uniform event – please bring: Year R-2 – Gifts for the Christmas Gift Room Year 3-6 - Chocolate
18.11.22	PFA non uniform event – please bring bottles (inc alcohol)
18.11.22 5.30-8.30	PFA Christmas Shopping event
24.11.22	Flu Vaccinations
25.11.22	Year 6 Parliament Trip – details to follow
30.11.22	Family Trust Christmas Show for Year R-2
1.12.22 1.00-4.00	Christmas Fayre for children (parents can join from 3.15)
7.12.22	Year 1 Gulbenkian Theatre trip – details to follow
8.12.22	Year 4 Maidstone Museum Trip – details to follow
9.12.22	Year R Brooke Theatre Trip – details to follow
12.12.22 am	Christmas Church services – parents invited – details to follow
13.12.22 2.00	Year R, 1 and 2 Nativity to parents
14.12.22	Year 2 Gulbenkian Theatre trip – details to follow
14.12.22 3.20 – 4.00	Whole School open classrooms
15.12.22	Christmas jumper day Christmas dinner day Christmas parties – pm Further details to follow
16.12.22	Term 2 ends



Date	Event
3.1.23	Staff Development Day
4.1.23	Term 3 begins for children
31.1.23	Year 3 Rochester Trip – details to follow
2.2.23	Year 2 Leeds Castle Trip – details to follow
3.2.23	PFA School Disco – details to follow
10.2.23	Term 3 ends