

Lower Halstow Primary School



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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

We have certainly had a busy year again, with many changes occurring around the school. This year we have seen the installation of our amphitheater and outdoor classroom which have provided additional outdoor seating and learning spaces. The PTA donated funds for the trim trail which is being used extensively and proving very popular.

Our Forest School has been developed with extra shrubs and a new covered area. The area has really been put to good use with Year R and 1 children having regular slots. Other year groups have accessed the Forest School through after school clubs, however from September Mrs Atkins, our Forest School leader, will be released from class one afternoon a week to allow further classes to continue their learning within the Forest School.

A large amount of money has been spent on early years with Acorn class receiving a complete revamp. Their classroom has been painted, new flooring laid and the old brightly coloured worn furniture replaced with natural wood. The room is now so tranquil and all resources are more easily accessible to the children. The change in their engagement, creativity and levels of independence has been really impressive.

The teachers have all been busy ensuring that they get the best out of the children and gaps left from Covid continue to be filled using interventions and other catch up support. As always the staff have gone above and beyond to provide exciting learning opportunities and continued support for the children in their care as befits our school vision.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the Lower Halstow team. We wish you a very restful summer and we look forward to seeing all of you on Monday 4th September.

Kind regards

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe



KINDNESS

PERSEVERENCE

RESPECT

HONESTY

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NOTE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

On behalf of the governors, I would like to say thank you to all the staff and senior leaders for their hard work this year in helping the children reach their full potential.

This year we have secured additional income and been able to make significant improvements to our outside area including; the installation of the amphitheater, outside classroom and the development of our forest school area.

As ever, your role as parents is very important and looking at data it is clear that the children who attend regularly have continued to achieve well in school. Your support with ensuring your children are in school has made a significant improvement to our overall attendance. We hope that next year we can build on this to further improve our attendance to ensure that we are in line with government expectations.

This year reading has still been a focus for the school; I would like to thank you all for the support that you have given your children with reading at home. I hope that this continues into next year for all children. We do have a number of kind volunteers who listen to children in school where possible, but nothing can truly replace the support of a parent or carer.

I look forward to welcoming you back to school in September.

Have an enjoyable break and stay safe and well.

Peter Marshall

UNIFORM

The 'active' inform, which was introduced this year, has worked really well both for saving time with children not getting changed for PE, as well as saving parents money buying two sets of uniform for class based learning and PE. This has also enabled greater levels of other activity as part of lessons outside of just PE.

Our active uniform consists of the following:

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| Footwear | PLAIN black trainers or shoes suitable for sport (optional black plimsolls or plain white trainers on PE days if you wish) |
| Tops | Plain/logoed white polo shirt (optional white T-shirt on PE days if you wish)
Plain/logoed royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan/fleece |
| Bottoms | PLAIN black or navy blue leggings, shorts or jersey jogging bottoms
Grey trousers, skirts, shorts (optional blue shorts on PE days if you wish) |



We continue to ask pupils to wear their blue sweatshirts or cardigans everyday including PE days. **No other sportswear is permitted.**

Summer dresses /playsuits are still part of our uniform.

No item of uniform has been stopped, so you can still hand items down if you have siblings in school.

This year we have seen some trainers with colourful logos or soles creeping in as well as branded sportswear hoodies and sweatshirts. **These are not permitted uniform and will not be allowed in September.** We encourage ALL pupils to wear PLAIN black trainers to school daily as we undertake the Daily Mile, yoga, dance and now have active playtimes with a variety of sports on offer. Plain black school shoes are still permitted if you prefer these but they *should be suitable for active playtimes* and sporting activities, including PE lessons. Given the fact we now have the trim trail, black trainers are even more important and often shoes do not provide enough grip on this type of equipment.

Forsters www.forsterskent.co.uk offer all these items but plain items, including footwear are also available from all supermarkets.

Our 'New to You' uniform is still available and offers a range of items in different sizes. If there are any items that you are interested in please send an e-mail into the school office and then Mrs Fox will prepare some items for your perusal.

STAFFING

There are a few role changes at Lower Halstow this year. Unfortunately this year there are a few goodbyes to be said. Mr and Mrs Cerullo have decided to relocate out of county in order to be near family so they are heading off at the end of August. We wish Mrs Cerullo good luck with her new Year 1/2 class in her new school. Miss Barnett will also be leaving us; she is travelling further afield to Germany, as she has taken up a teaching post there with a Year 2 class. We are welcoming Miss Drayson, who is now married and is called Mrs Harris, back from maternity leave. She will be working 2 days a week covering classes. We have appointed Miss Steadman, who is a familiar face, as our new Year 5 teacher. In addition, we are welcoming 2 new teaching assistants to the team – Mrs Hart-Nibbs and Miss Chapman.

Goodbye

Hello!
😊

VOLUNTEERS



Our volunteer readers and club leaders have a key role to play and we all benefit from them giving freely of their time. They deserve a special mention as they make a real difference to the children they work with. It was lovely to be able to invite them in, as special guests, to various events during the year including the Coronation Street Party and the Year 6 end of year show.

PARENT AND TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

The PTA have done an amazing job of raising money for the school. This year they had topped up the bank account so much that they were able to purchase a trim trail for the school. This will certainly be a legacy for several of the PTA members who have now stepped down from their roles as their children leave the school to head off to secondary, we would like to thank them for all of their hard work. A special thank you needs to go to Judy Haynes for being the chairperson and for her work in organising the Lower Halstow Scarecrow trail and to Lisa Hart for doing the treasurer's role for 9 years. Kerry Ward has been voted in as the new chairperson with Clare McLaughlin kindly agreeing to carry on the role of the secretary for the time being. They are still looking for a treasurer so if you or anyone you know would be interested in the role please let the school office know. As well as the Trim Trail the PTA have also contributed £5 per child towards trips again, given each class £20 to make craft items to sell at the Crafts Fayre, organized school discos, purchased the leavers' hoodies, purchased new books for each class and lots more. Please do offer to volunteer to help out at an event if you can, as these events can only run with your support.



HOUSE POINT WINNERS



On sports day Dover scored 128 points, just beating Rochester by 3 points to be crowned this year's winners.



But this year the overall winners were Rochester with a huge 12,612 points!

1 st	Rochester	12,612
2 nd	Dover	12,493
3 rd	Leeds	12,381
4 th	Hever	12,063

This year the winning house were treated to an afternoon of fun on the MFSE's inflatable assault course. House points are hotly contested and a great source of pride for houses. The system reflects our commitment to our values and vision as the children can earn house points in a range of ways, not just for academic success.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB



Tetita (Mrs Collins and Ms Brougham) will be running the Summer Holiday club this year from Monday 24th July until Friday 18th August. Please see the information that has already been sent out on School Ping re details and booking.

SEPTEMBER INFORMATION

BREAKFAST AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

Tetita will be running the breakfast and afterschool club as usual in September. For more information and contact details please go to www.tetitachildcare.uk

Extra-Curricular after school clubs will be running from the second week of term.



ENTRY TO SCHOOL

Classrooms will open at **8.30am** and pupils need to be in school by **8.45am** at the latest.

Y1 – Y6 please continue to drop your children at the main gate. New YR parents will be dropping on the playground and we want to keep things calm and quiet on site at the start of the day for everyone. Please only come onsite if you wish to speak to someone on the gate or if you are helping your child with their belongings or their bike/scooter.

PICK UP FROM SCHOOL

3.15pm pick-up for Y1 – Y6. New reception pupils will be finishing at 3pm for the first 2 weeks. Please can everyone continue to pick up from the main playground and remember to stand where the class teacher can see you to allow us to dismiss the children quickly. If you want your child to walk home please ensure you have emailed the office with permission for this.

SNACKS

Tuck shop for KS2 pupils will be starting from Monday 11th September run by Year 6. Everything is 20p. Details of what is on offer will be in a ping at the start of term. Please provide a suitable break-time snack for the first week back – fruit, savoury crackers, breadsticks etc. EYFS & KS1 are provided with fruit by the school, so no break-time snack is needed.

PACKED LUNCHES

Please save the chocolate and sweets for home. These will be removed from packed lunches as they adversely affect afternoon learning, so please do not put them in lunchboxes as this causes unnecessary upset. Please use common sense, for example, cereal bars containing a few chocolate drops & Fruit Winders are fine, but snacks such as chocolate covered raisins are not as these melt and cause a mess. Plain raisins are just as sweet.

BAGS

Book bags & drawstring bags only. Just a reminder about this rule. If your child brings a large rucksack the contents will be emptied into a named carrier bag which they can hang on their peg and the rucksack sent to the office to be collected by parents. As the school population has grown we are really pushed for corridor hanging space and this measure has helped keep corridors safe and clear for everyone. Thank you for continuing to help with this.

WATER BOTTLES

Year 2 - 6 pupils need to bring their own clearly named water bottle – any bottles with juice will be emptied and replaced with water so please only send water in. Juice boxes etc. can be included in packed lunches. We will be providing water bottles for Year R and 1 and these will stay in school.

OTHER UNIFORM REMINDERS

Please remember that only small **stud** earrings are allowed in school and pupils must be able to remove these themselves for PE. If your child arrives at school with hooped hearings, they will be asked to remove them, this includes **sleepers**.

Long hair should ideally be tied back for school – this is essential on PE days due to health and safety.

Please also ensure your child has coat, hat, sunscreen as appropriate for the weather as we will continue to use the school grounds for outdoor learning and the British weather is notoriously changeable.



Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 4th September