



Honesty, Respect,  
Kindness, Perseverance

## Lower Halstow School

### Newsletter

November 2023

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

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

We have had a smooth start to the school year and have been so fortunate that we have no RAAC concrete in school meaning that we were able to start the term on time. The weather was lovely this term which enabled us to be outside wherever possible, learning, playing and making the most of the warm temperatures. The trim trail has got a lot of use!

Term one has been full of activity and hopefully you've seen what the children have been up to on your child's Class Dojo story feed. A few highlights are also contained in this newsletter. May we also take this opportunity to thank you for your support with the various events that have taken place this term, whether this has been through supporting the book fayre, helping your children with the dress up events or donating cakes to the Macmillan coffee morning.

#### **A Few Reminders**

##### **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. General hoodies and tracksuit tops are not permitted.

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

PLAIN black, navy or grey leggings, joggers or sports shorts can be worn on any day. Traditional skirts or trousers should be dark grey.

##### **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 practice 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.

##### **Money and permission slips**

Please could all money and slips be handed to the staff on the gate each day or be posted in the safe outside the office window hatch. Money sent with the children or placed in book bags often gets missed and occasionally becomes lost.

We look forward to seeing you at the many events planned for Term 2.

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 Julian who led our service. Each class wore a different colour of the rainbow and brought in a food donation to match - all of the food was donated to the Swale Food Bank. 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. This year we teamed up with members of the local community from Lower Halstow village and enjoyed a joint coffee morning. We were really impressed by the quantity of cakes that were sent in. Our Year 6 pupils were amazing hosts and enjoyed giving advice on which cakes to buy. We managed to raise an impressive £149.18 for Macmillan. It truly was a community event - thank you for your support.



### **National Safety Week**

The whole school celebrated Safety week; Year 5 headed off to the Railway Safety Centre at Margate where they learnt about how to keep safe near railways through interactive workshops and activities. Meanwhile back in school our Year 1 and 2 children learnt how to be safe when riding their scooters. They even got to head out around the local area to practise what they had learnt.





### Creed Team Building Day

Our Year 6 pupils had a great team-building day at the Creed Outdoor Adventure Centre, they spent the day climbing, doing archery and completing various outdoor challenges in teams. Their resilience was certainly put to the test and it was lovely to see the children try something new and achieve something they did not think they were able to do.



### School Attendance

The whole school attendance stands at **94.2%** which is better than at this point last year, however we still need to work together to get in line with the national expectation of at least 96.5%.

We ended last year with an attendance of **93.6%** - let's work together to see if we can improve on that total this year!

Term	2022-2023	2023-2024
1	93.8%	94.2%

### Times Tables Rockstars Day

We relaunched the Times Table Rockstars and Numbots program with a dress up as a rockstar day. Great fun was had by all and competition on our Numbots and Times Table Rockstars learning platforms, between individuals and classes, has begun. There is

currently a whole school (Year 1-6) boys versus girls tournament which lasts until the end of Thursday 2nd November. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you don't have a log on and remember to **practise as often as possible**.



### 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 created Queen Elizabeth II and Mr Wright even turned the school gates into the gates of Buckingham Palace! Thank you to Judy Haynes for organising this event again and to all of the local community for getting involved to make it such a success.



### **Dates for your diary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
30.10.23	Start of Term 2 – Children return
2.11.23	Whole School Dogs Trust assembly Year 3 – 6 workshops
3.11.23 pm	Swimming begins for Year 6
10.11.23	PFA non-uniform event - bring in chocolate for the PFA raffles
17.11.23	Children in Need – bring in a bear for a donation
25.11.23	Year 6 Parliament Trip – details to follow
24.11.23	PFA non uniform event – please bring bottles (inc alcohol)
29.11.23	Flu Vaccinations day – whole school
1.12.23	Staff Development Day
4.12.23 – 2pm	Year 1 and 2 Nativity to parents
5.12.23 – 2pm	Year 1 and 2 Nativity to parents
6.12.23 9.30 and 11.00	Christingle Service in church, parents invited – details to follow.
6.12.23 1.00 - 4.00	Christmas Fayre for children (parents can join from 3.15)
8.12.23 am	Sponsored Santa Fun Run – children to wear sports clothes/red. Further details to follow.
8.12.23 – 2.15pm	Year R Christmas Song Performance to parents
12.12.23 – am	Year 1 to the Marlowe Theatre
13.12.23 am	Year 2 to the Marlowe Theatre
13.12.23 3.20 – 4.00	Whole School open classrooms
14.12.23	Christmas jumper day Christmas dinner day Christmas parties – pm Further details to follow
15.12.23	Term 2 ends

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
2.1.24	Staff Development Day
3.1.24	Start of Term 3 - Children return
24.1.24	Drama workshops for Years R, 2 and 4
1.2.24 – 9.15	Year 5 Class assembly to parents
2.2.24 – 4.30 - 6.00	PFA School Disco
9.2.24 am	Annual Pancake races (children only)
9.2.24	End of Term 3
19.2.24	Start of Term 4 – Children return
Week beginning 4.3.24	Book Week – details to follow
7.3.24	World Book Day dressing up – details to follow
15.3.24	Comic Relief – details to follow
19.3.24	Year 4 to Maidstone Museum of Kent Life
21.3.24 – 9.15	Year 3 Class assembly to parents.
28.3.24 9.30 and 11.00	Easter Services at the church, parents invited – details to follow.
28.3.24 – 3.20	PTA Easter Egg hunt
28.3.24	End of Term 4

### **Staff Development Dates:**

- Friday 1st December 2023
- Tuesday 2nd January 2024
- Friday 21st June 2024
- Monday 1st July 2024

