



Honesty, Respect,  
Kindness, Perseverance

## Lower Halstow School

### Newsletter

February 2024

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

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

It has been a very short term, however we have managed to fit such a lot in. We are sure that you have kept up to date with your child's class Dojo, however have a read below for a whole school summary of what the children at Lower Halstow School have been up to this term.

Thank you for coming to the Term 3 Open Classrooms, it was lovely to see so many of you and for the children to share their work. The lovely comments regarding the children's progress were appreciated by everyone and show that our value of perseverance is certainly paying off.

In the last newsletter we shared with you that we were going to have a new 'Lodge' built. We can now share that the building for this will begin in the first week of March. We have already had a new PE shed built and the old leaky one taken away. The Lodge will provide some much needed space and capacity for break out spaces and interventions. Watch this space for updates and photos.

In Term 4 we will be sending out a parent survey so please look out for this when it arrives; it would be lovely if you could share your thoughts so that we can look to improve in areas that need focusing on as well as celebrate successes and things we do well at.

#### **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.
- Earrings should be studs and not hoops or sleepers.
- Nail varnish should be removed before coming to school.

Best wishes

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

## Trips and in school Workshops

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!



Our Year R pupils were excited to have had their first trip on the school minibuses in a trip over to Newington CEP School where they had a talk about Guide Dogs and then were lucky enough to meet and stroke some Guide Dog puppies in training.

Back in school Year R, 2 and 4 participated in some drama workshops focusing on materials, light and sound and the Hungry Caterpillar story.

## Sporting Events

The sporting fixtures are beginning to filter through and so we were very pleased to have received our new school sports kits, sponsored by **BJL Electrical**. Miss Brougham put them to good use when she took some Year 6 pupils to a Sportshall Athletics event and then Year 2 entered a Rapid Fire Cricket competition. Thank you to **BJL Electrical** for sponsoring our kits.



## RSPB Big Bird Watch

On Friday 26th January Lower Halstow School took part in the annual RSPB Big Bird Watch; the whole school headed out and took up position at various points around the school. With pens, clipboards and cameras at the ready, they waited quietly to observe and tally the birds that were spotted in the Lower Halstow School grounds. They managed to see: sparrows, blackbirds, crows and pied wagtails.



## Village Litter Pick

Still on the theme of the environment; we received a kind donation of litter pickers, gloves and sacks from the parish council. Year 4, Hawthorn Class, were the first to put these to good use as they headed out to complete a litter pick around the village.

Each term a different class will complete a litter pick around the village as well as all classes taking a turn collecting litter in school.



## Maths Week

One of our themed weeks this term was 'Maths Week' with our focus being on shape. Every class focused on a range of shapes and looked at their properties. Miss Holderness then created a whole school Maths display using the shape characters that the classes had all created, along with facts that each class had learnt.



## School Disco

The PTA have been a busy bunch as always and organised a Valentine's disco for the children. This was well attended and the children enjoyed dancing, eating snacks and purchasing trinkets. As usual, some of our Lower Halstow School Alumni came back to help, serving hot dogs and drinks.



## Annual Pancake Races

As Shrove Tuesday fell in half term this year, we decided to hold our annual Pancake races at the end of Term 3. The whole school enjoyed the races that took place with the children competing against one another in their House Teams. The children gradually mastered flipping and running simultaneously! A few pancakes were lost on the way; however, Dover House were crowned winners at the end of the morning having won the most races.



## School Attendance

The whole school attendance stands at **94.1%**. This has **risen by 0.6%** since the end of Term 2, thank you for helping to make this happen!

We ended last year with an attendance of **93.6%** - if we continue as we have done in this term we will hopefully be able to get our attendance above where we were at the end of last year and as close to the Government's national expectation of 96.5% as we can. Currently we are **2.4% below** where we would hope to be.

Let's continue to work together to make it happen!

Term by Term breakdown:

Term	2022-2023	2023-2024
1	93.8%	94.2%
2	92.5%	92.8%
3	95.3%	94.2%

## Dates for your diary

### Term 4

19.2.24	Start of Term 4 – Children return
23.2.24	Year 6 Team Building day
23.2.24	Year 5 Swimming begins (all term)
Week beginning 4.3.24	Book Week
4.3.24	Year 3 Roman workshop
7.3.24	World Book Day dressing up
15.3.24	Comic Relief – details to follow
19.3.24	Year 4 to Maidstone Museum of Kent Life – details to follow
21.3.24 – 9.15	Year 3 Class assembly to parents.
26.3.24	Early Parents' Evening – Ping to follow
27.3.24	Late Parents' Evening – Ping to follow
28.3.24	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

### Term 5 and 6

Date	Event
15.4.24	Start of Term 5 – Children return
15.4.24 – 16.4.24	Year 5 Bikeability
23.4.24	St Georges day – wear club uniforms – details to follow
Week Beg – 29.4.24	Year 1 phonics sessions for parents – separate invitations being sent
2.5.24 am	Year R Vision and Hearing checks
9.5.24	Class Photo day
Week beginning 13.5.24	Year 6 SATs week

20.5.24	Year 5 CAT testing week
22.5.24 – 3.20 – 4.00	Open Classrooms
24.5.24	PTA Break the Rules day
24.5.24	End of Term 5
3.6.24	Start of Term 6
Week Beginning 3.6.24	Charity Week
10.6.24	Year 6 Activity Week
18.6.24	Athlete visit to the school
19.6.24	Sports Afternoon
21.6.24	Staff Development Day
25.6.24 – 9.15	Year 4 Class assembly to parents
26.6.24	Reserve Sports Afternoon
1.7.24	Staff Development Day
4.7.24	Year 2 trip to Leeds Castle
Week Beginning 8.7.24	Outdoor Cooking Week
8.7.24 am	First Aid training for Year 6
17.7.24 3.20 – 4.00	Open Classrooms
19.7.24 – 4.30	Leavers' Disco
22.7.24	Inflatable Assault course for the winning house
23.7.24 – 2.00	Year 6 Leavers' Service (in school)
23.7.24	Last Day of Term 6

### **Staff Development Dates:**

- Friday 21st June 2024
- Monday 1st July 2024

