



**Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance**

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

April 2024

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Update from Mrs Deevooy and Miss Crowe

The Lodge

As well as the curriculum activities detailed below we are very excited as other developments have been taking place in school. We now have an additional learning space which has been built, in the form of our new log cabin, which we have fondly named 'The Lodge'. This extra space will be used for interventions, speech and language sessions, as well as a quiet space for some calm time. The floor has been laid over Easter and the children are excited about heading in to see what it is like inside. Thanks to the money donated from the Scarecrow Trail we have managed to purchase a range of furniture, beanbags and toadstool seats to make the Lodge an inviting space for everyone.



St George's Day – 23.4.24

We are inviting all children and adults involved with any local clubs to wear their full club uniform to school on Tuesday 23rd April, St George's Day. Did you know that St. George is also the patron saint of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides? We feel that we should celebrate this special day by wearing our local club uniforms; we will all be thinking about the theme of belonging. Local sports club uniforms are permitted as long as the child is a member of the club. The children may bring in a change of clothes if they are due to do PE that day.

Statutory Testing

With the warmer sunnier weather, comes statutory testing. Please ensure your child gets enough sleep when they are due to sit tests in school. We are fairly relaxed in school as tests are simply a snapshot, but seeing a child struggle to focus on tasks they usually find straightforward due to a lack of sleep is very disheartening for everyone involved and does them no favours.

A few reminders

Please send your child to school appropriately dressed. With our active uniform children can wear plain black sports/cycling shorts as well as plain black or navy blue leggings or tracksuit bottoms.

Please ensure that the children wear their normal school jumper and not branded hoodies.

Nail varnish is not permitted.

We are a sun safe school so please apply sunscreen before school and remember to bring a hat. As the weather heats up water bottles are also really important, so please don't forget them!

Best wishes

Mrs Deevooy and Miss Crowe

Comic Relief

Thank you to everyone who made a donation towards Comic Relief this year by wearing non-uniform to school, as decided by our School Council following their vote.

We raised an impressive £178.74 for this very worthwhile charity, thank you for your generosity.



School Attendance

Term 4 attendance stands at **94.1%** which is exactly the same as last term, it is brilliant that it has not dropped off despite some nasty bugs going around. At this point last year we were at 93.5% so it is also great that we are now 0.6% higher. We are really hoping that by working together, we will soon be in line with the national expectation of **96.5%**. Even if your child has a cold, they can still come to school. Did you know we are able to administer most medications during the day so that your child can still be in school?

Please remember that all holidays should be booked during school breaks and not in term time.

Termly Breakdown:

Term	2022-2023	2023-2024
1	94.2%	94.2%
2	92.9%	92.8%
3	95.2%	94.2%
4	93.5%	94.1%

Book Week

There are few weeks in the school calendar that are more exciting than Book Week. The week got off to a great start when author, Monty Marsh, visited every class to read excerpts from his books, talk about the process of writing a book and answer questions from the children. In addition to this the children have enjoyed taking part in a bingo book quiz at home, bringing in a book from home to swap with

other children in the class and dressing up as a character for World Book Day. The week ended with a whole school Book Quiz in which representatives from each house went head to head to be the speediest at answering questions about texts that they had studied in class. This year Hever House were crowned the winners. We had some brilliant costumes on World Book Day, including Mary Poppins, Alice in Wonderland, several Harry Potters and a beautiful Angelina Ballerina to name just a few.



Year 4 Kent Life Trip

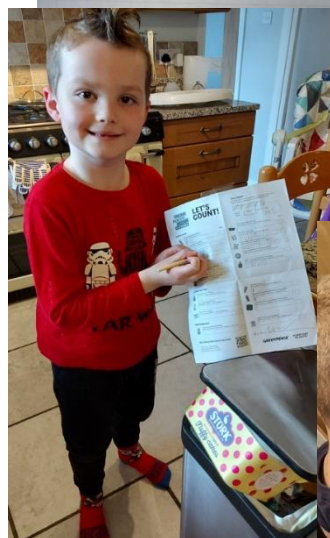
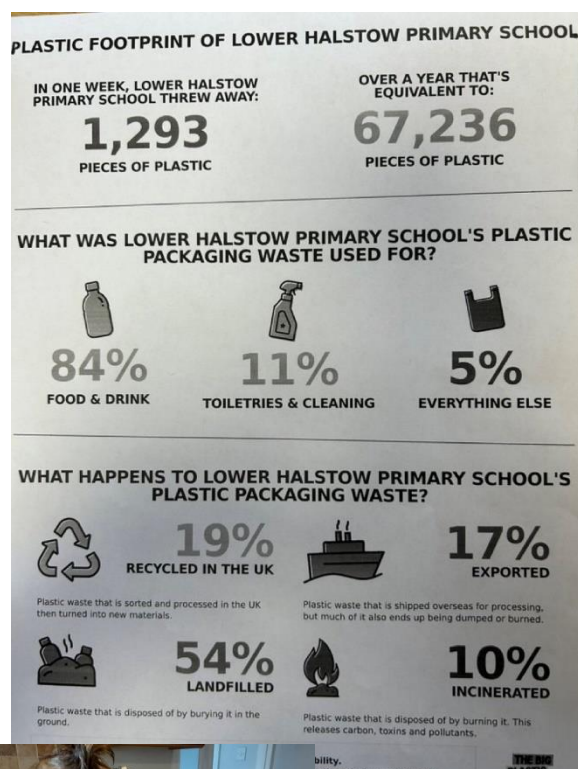
Hawthorn Class spent a fantastic day at Kent Life; enjoying an Egyptian Experience, where they participated in a day of workshops focused on what life was like in Egyptian times. They learnt dances to perform to the Pharaoh, wrote healing spells to Sekhmet, built pyramids and learnt about how the Egyptians prepared for the journey to the afterlife – a great day was had by all!



Science Week

Science week was a real hit with everyone! A range of experiments took place in school with children choosing to do additional testing at home. One of the themes was adaptation; for this the children created specially adapted moths that camouflaged themselves in various places around the school.

During this week the school also took part in the Big Plastic Count. Families joined in too with several helping out by counting the plastics that they recycled at home. The school results were submitted to the Big Plastic Count website and here are our school results:



Easter Eggs

An annual tradition at the end of the term is for the children to have a visit from our very own Easter bunny, aka, Teddy the school dog in disguise. This year the real Easter bunny also accompanied him! The PTFA bought a chocolate egg, chick or bunny for every child. The children loved seeing Teddy dressed up and were pleased to receive their chocolate treat!



Easter Service

Our term ended with a lovely Easter Service at St Margaret's Church led by John Guest. The children shared Bible readings and prayers, reading beautifully, but the highlight was definitely the singing of Spring Chicken which is always a popular request!

Year 6 Team Building Day

Year 6 took part in a Team building day which aimed to build their resilience and encourage them to work together as a team to solve a variety of logical and physical challenges where they were required to plan, communicate, work together and stay motivated to solve the problem.



Year 5 Swimming Sessions

This term Year 5 completed their block of swimming sessions at Sheerness Swimming Pool. This follows the Government's expectation that swimming and water safety lessons are taught to all primary school children. By the end of primary school each pupil is required to be able to swim 25 metres unaided and use a range of strokes effectively. They have enjoyed their sessions and the majority of children have received certificates after they reached the required standard – we are very proud of them all!



Dates for your diary

Date	Event
15.4.24	Term 5 begins
15.4.24 and 16.4.24	Year 5 Bikeability (<i>don't forget to check your bike is road worthy</i>)
16.4.24 and 18.4.24	Maple Parent Consultations (2.30-5.30pm)
18.4.24	Georgie in for the Golden Ticket winners
18.4.24 – 23.5.24	Year 3 Wild estuary every Thursday morning
23.4.24	St Georges Day – Club uniform can be worn as above
Week beg 29.4.24	Year 1 Parent phonics sessions
2.5.24	Year R Vision and Hearing checks
6.5.24	Bank Holiday
Week beg 6.5.24	Year 5 CAT testing
9.5.24	Class Photo Day
13 - 17.5.24	Year 6 SATs testing week
16.5.24	Year R trip to Curly's Farm – details to follow
16.5.24 pm	Year 1 – 6 Birds of Prey Show
22.5.24 3.15 - 4.00 pm	Open Classrooms
23.5.24	Break the Rules Day – Year 4
24.5.24	Break the Rules Day (not Year 4)
24.5.24 pm	Year 4 to Hulked Sound Project VIP launch event
24.5.24	Term 5 ends

Date	Event
3.6.24	Term 6 begins
June	Year 4 times table statutory national screening check
Week beg 3.6.24	Charities Week
10.6.24 - 14.6.24	Year 1 phonics statutory national screening check week
Week beg 10.6.24	Year 6 Activity Week
17.6.24	Year 1 trip to Tyland Barn – details to follow
18.6.24	Athlete in School
19.6.24 pm	Sports Afternoon
21.6.24	Staff Development Day – children do not attend
25.6.24 – 9.15 am	Year 4 Class assembly to parents
26.6.24 pm	Reserve Sports Afternoon
1.7.24	Staff Development Day – children do not attend
3.7.24	Year 3 trip to Tyland Barn – details to follow
4.7.24	Year 2 trip to Leeds Castle – details to follow
8.7.24 am	First Aid Training for Year 6
Week beg 8.7.24 am	Outdoor Cooking – whole school, details to follow
15.7.24 – 1.30 pm	Year 6 Performance to parents
16.7.24 - 6.00 pm	Year 6 Performance to parents
17.7.24 3.20 – 4.00 pm	Open Classrooms
19.7.24 4.30 – 6.00 pm	PTA Disco
22.7.24 am	Inflatable Assault Course for winning House team – details to follow
23.7.24 – 2.00 pm	Year 6 Leavers' Service
23.7.24	End of term 6

