



**Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance**

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

June 2024

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

As the end of the academic year fast approaches, there is so much still to fit. This means Term 6 will be a super busy one! More information on this can be found in the calendar at the end of the newsletter.

National tests are just a small snapshot of everything that goes on in school, but for Year 6 they are a culmination of 7 years of learning. A huge well done to them for tackling their week of assessments positively and showing great resilience. Our Year 2 children also had their usual drink and biscuit groups for their 'tests'. Thank you to parents and carers for the support that you have given – they have all done us proud! This term it is phonics for our Year 1 pupils (with a few retakes for some Year 2) and multiplication screening checks for our Year 4 pupils. We are sure they will take these in their stride confidently.

We are pleased to announce that at the recent PTFA AGM a new committee was voted in. The new chairpeople are: Rachael Dyke and Lucy Jessey, the new secretary is Stacey Marsh and the new treasurer is Claire Parsons. We would like to thank them for stepping forward and ask for you all to support them as much as you are able with forthcoming events and fundraising. As well as voting in the new PTFA committee we were also able to celebrate and thank two outgoing committee members for their hard work and fantastic fund raising efforts. We would like to say a big thank you to Clare McLaughlin for the many years that she served as the secretary and also to Kerry Ward for stepping up to chair the committee in the interim. You will know that Kerry is involved in many local activities and we are grateful for her taking even more onto her plate last year to allow all the wonderful events to continue. Look out for further updates about new events as well as old favourites.

As you will see further down in the newsletter, our school attendance is really improving which is excellent news. It is clear that good progress and good attendance are closely linked, so thank you for your support with this. We have however noticed that several children are regularly being taken out of school early. Whilst they have got their register mark, they are still missing learning for the afternoon and these gaps will affect them going forwards. We understand that there are occasions where a child may have an appointment, however we are seeing some children collected early on a regular basis. Moving forwards we will be required to make note of the reason they are leaving early as well as the time that has been missed.

A few reminders

- * Despite the May break not being very summery, there is still hope for some warm, sunny school days next term. With this in mind please apply sunscreen before school, bring in a sunhat and a water bottle.
- * Don't forget to order your school photos directly through the Carmel Jane photography website
- * End of year reports are currently being written and will come out in the last week of term when the latest assessment data is made available to us.
- * Please, please continue to listen to your child read at home, even just a couple of minutes. Practising reading with your child is important to help them remember what they have learned in school and make this stick.
- * Snacks for breaktime should only consist of the following:
KS1 – Fruit or vegetables (these are provided by the school, but alternatives can be brought in from home)
KS2 – Healthy snacks (low sugar/salt): no crisps, chocolate, sweets, cakes or biscuits.

Best wishes
Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Eco Week

A key highlight of this term was the work the school completed during our annual Eco Week, we have submitted an application to achieve the Wilder Kent Award and we hope that our efforts will be recognised.

Every class took part in a litter pick either in the school grounds or around the village of Lower Halstow – our local area is now looking so clean, tidy and litter free. In addition to this, we had a whole school assembly focusing on Earth Day and everyone made a promise of something they were going to do to help the environment. Year 6 made Eco badges, which they gave to Year 1 to remind them about looking after their environment, they also investigated how long different materials take to decompose and what we can do to recycle or save our precious resources. As well as receiving and wearing their badges, Year 1 children created pictures of our world and made door hangers to raise awareness and celebrate our wonderful planet. The Year 4 children used paper plates and hand silhouettes to create a display showing what they have all pledged to do for our environment. The week was rounded off by everyone wearing something green to remind us of how important it is to look after our world.



St George's Day

We celebrated St George's Day by wearing club uniforms to school, focusing on the theme of 'belonging'. In classes, the children explained about the clubs they attend and what they are involved in. It was really interesting to see the wide range of clubs the children attend outside of school.



Birds of Prey

As part of our enrichment programme, we had some special feathered friends visit us to demonstrate their flying skills. Several owls flew in accompanied by their handlers. The children learnt lots of owl facts and were treated to a spectacular flying demonstration.



Golden Ticket Prizes

From feathers to fur! The children who won Golden Tickets in Book Week enjoyed spending time with Georgie the Cockerpoo. They got to dress her up, do tricks with her as well as a cuddle and a pose for the camera!



Year 5 Bikeability

Each year, our Year 5 pupils participate in Bikeability safety training.

This year, the children managed to dodge the showers and took their Level 1 and 2 Bikeability course. All successfully passed and were awarded with Bikeability certificates and badges certifying that they could demonstrate that they were able to ride safely in the school grounds and on the roads around the village.



School Attendance

Term 4 attendance stands at **94.4%** which is a slight increase. Thank you for helping to make this happen. At this point last year we were at 93.6% so it's great to see an improving picture of attendance at Lower Halstow School. We continue to hope that by working together, we will soon be closer to the national expectation of **96.5%**. Even if your child has a cold, they can still come to school. We are happy to provide a little extra TLC when they are under the weather and we are able to administer most medications during the day so that your child can still be in school. Rest assured, we will always call you if we feel they are too unwell. 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%
5	93.6%	94.3%

Class Trip Summary

As the weather has started to improve a little, several of our classes have headed out on class trips to a variety of venues.....

Year 5 – The Turner Contemporary

Year 5 travelled to Margate to visit the Turner Contemporary. They discussed art in the gallery, got creative making their own art, and even spent some time on the beach! Great fun was had by all along with a chance to show off their creative flair.



Year 3 Wild Estuary

Our Year 3 children had the most wonderful time learning about our local estuary each week this term as part of the Wild Estuary project. From crabbing to bird spotting, plant identification to environmental impacts, they have thoroughly enjoyed it. The hands-on learning has been a very special experience for the children and we cannot thank Belinda from Wild Estuary enough.



Year R – Curly’s Farm

Acorn Class tried their hand at being farmers for the day. They learnt what it takes to care for the livestock, where our food comes from and engaged in lots of hands-on learning activities, including feeding the animals.



Charity Week

Term 6 begins with our annual charity week. The classes have all chosen their preferred charity and have planned out what they want to do to raise the money. The two charities that the children have chosen to support are Happy

Endings Animal Rescue and Mercy Ships. Please see the table below for each class’s event.

Further details will be added to individual Class Dojos.

Class	Charity	Activity	Planned date
Year R – Acorn	Mercy Ships	Sponsored 10 laps of the Trim Trail Please wear activewear	Friday 7th June 2024
Year 1 – Rowan	Happy Endings Rescue	Dance-a-thon and non-uniform day	Friday 7 th June 2024
Year 2 – Willow	Happy Endings Rescue	Non-uniform day	Friday 7 th June 2024
Year 3 – Maple	Happy Endings Rescue	Film afternoon	Thursday 6 th June 2024
Year 4 - Hawthorn	Mercy Ships	Renting out fluffy the hamster to other classes	Week beginning Monday 3 rd June 2024
Year 5 – Beech	Mercy Ships	Cake Sale	Wednesday 5 th June 2024
Year 6 - Oak	Mercy Ships	Free Choice Afternoon	Tuesday 4th June 2024



Dates for your diary

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 (and Year 2 retakes) 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
17.6.24 pm	French Workshops for Years 2-6
18.6.24 pm	Athlete in School
19.6.24 pm	Sports Afternoon – details to follow
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 am	Transition morning – children to meet new teachers.
26.6.24 pm	Reserve Sports Afternoon
28.6.24 pm	Fantastic Fred PSHE sessions
1.7.24	Staff Development Day – children do not attend
2.7.24 am	Transition morning
3.7.24	Year 3 trip to Tyland Barn – details to follow
4.7.24	Year 2 trip to Leeds Castle – details to follow
Week beg 8.7.24 am	Outdoor Cooking – whole school, details to follow
8.7.24	Year 5 Trip to Forest – details to follow
8.7.24 am	First Aid Training for Year 6
15.7.24 – 1.30 pm	Year 6 Performance to parents
16.7.24 - 6.00 pm	Year 6 Performance to parents

Date	Event
17.7.24 3.20 – 4.00 pm	Open Classrooms
18.7.24 pm	Music Performance to parents – details to follow
19.7.24 4.30 – 6.00 pm	PTFA 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

2024-2025

- Term 1 begins: 3.9.24

2024-2025 Staff Development Days:

- 2.9.24
- 25.10.24
- 6.1.25
- 20.6.25
- 11.7.25

