



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

Term One 2024

www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Despite the weather not being able to make up its mind, we have still had a lovely start to the autumn term: learning, playing and making the most of being back together. We have enjoyed welcoming our new Reception children to the school and Year 6 have demonstrated how mature and caring they are by being their buddies; helping them to settle into the routines of school life and most importantly making sure playtimes are lots of fun.

By now you will have seen what your child has been up to on the Class Story on Dojo. A few highlights are also contained in this newsletter. We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with the various whole school events that have taken place this term, whether this has been through supporting the book fayre, wearing red or donating items to the Dogs Trust and Harvest Festival.

A Few Reminders

Uniform

Trainers or shoes should be PLAIN black. White or coloured trainers are not school uniform.

All school shoes should be suitable for running and going on the trim trail.

School jumpers or fleeces should be worn every day including PE days. General hoodies and tracksuit tops are not school uniform.

White polo shirts are now worn by most children 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 are now worn by most children daily as we are in the third year of rolling out our active uniform, but dark grey traditional skirts or trousers can still be worn on non-PE days if preferred (Y1 upwards only).

Reading

We are still seeing children in KS2 struggling with their reading fluency (these children can all read but not quickly or easily enough for them to comprehend the text). Fluency only comes with practice so please continue to read with your child daily in KS2 to help build their reading muscles. Re-reading a few sentences several times aloud to develop accuracy, speed, expression and prosody (reading rhythm) is a useful activity if you are short of time. Related to reading, we are always grateful to our small army of volunteers who step in to provide additional reading practice. However, we always 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 or be posted in the safe outside the office window hatch. Money or slips sent with the children or placed in book bags often get missed and occasionally become lost.

Enjoy the half term break and the scarecrow trail around the village.

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. We joined together to sing harvest themed songs with the favourite being 'Cauliflowers Fluffy'. It was particularly special as Acorn Class joined us for their first harvest festival. Thank you for all your kind donations of food, we collected 135.65kg of food and the Swale Food Bank were very grateful.



The Dogs Trust

As part of our Safety Week, Phil from The Dogs Trust paid us a visit and led a whole school assembly all about how to be safe around dogs. The children in Year 1 – 6 then all received a workshop about dog safety, dog breeds and the role of the Dogs Trust. Teddy got to meet Larry, the Trust's Labrador dog – but he couldn't quite work out why he wasn't wagging his tail!!

We followed this up with a short, sponsored walk. Thank you for your kind donations of money or dog supplies essential to looking after unwanted dogs at The Dogs Trust.



Visit to the Edith May

As part of Heritage month the whole school had the opportunity to visit the Edith May barge courtesy of Tiller and Wheel. Each of the classes visited the sailing barge and learned all about the history of the barge and the links between Lower Halstow and barges in general. Whilst below decks, they were able to ask about what life had been like for those sailing around the coast, transporting goods both locally and around Britain.



Meet the Experts

Based on the responses from the annual children's aspirations survey, various professionals were invited to our school as part of our first 'Meet the Experts' event. In previous years this was run as a Year 6 'World of Work' event but we wanted to open this more widely to our younger pupils as well. Our visitors inspired many of the children with their passionate explanations of their job and interesting demonstrations.

The children had many questions for the range of experts. From nurses to authors, firefighters to farmers, policemen to road builders, everyone was asked about what their job entailed and why they would recommend it as a profession. There aren't many children who can say they have quizzed the Kent Police Crime Commissioner about his role or been able to learn how to inject medicine into an arm (on a very realistic dummy!) We already have a list of experts we need to secure for next year, so Mrs Jeffery has already started planning.



School Attendance

The whole school attendance stands at **95.2%** which is 1% better than at this point last year. Thank you for all your support in encouraging your children to come to school even if they aren't quite 100%, if in doubt the best policy is to always give it a try. Please be assured that we WILL call you if we feel your child is too poorly to be at school.

We ended last year with a school attendance of **94.3%** - which was an improvement on the previous year, but was still below the national average for primary schools. In order to get the best possible educational outcomes for the children it is important that we continue to improve on this and we thank you for your continued support.

Term	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	93.8%	94.2%	95.2%

Scarecrow Trail

We hope that over the half term break you are able to visit the annual Lower Halstow Scarecrow Trail. Mrs Beer and her helpers have created a scarecrow version of Teddy, our school dog.

Thank you to The Friends of Lower Halstow School for organising this event and to all of the local community for getting involved to make it such a success.



Swale Libraries

There are lots of activities and events going on at your local library, please click on the link below to find your local library information and opening times. The details for libraries across Swale can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/SwaleDistrictLibraries>

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
4.11.24	Start of Term 2 – Children return
6.11.24	Acorn Class to visit Sittingbourne Library
8.11.24 pm	Swimming begins for Year 6 (additional sessions group)
Week Beg 11.11.24	Anti-Bullying Week
15.11.24	Children in Need – details to follow
21.11.24	Flu Vaccination Day
27.11.24	No Pens Wednesday – details to follow
6.12.24	FOLHS non-uniform day – please bring chocolate
13.12.24 am	Santa Run (children only)
13.12.24 1pm	FOLHS Christmas Fair – details to follow
16.12.24 2.15pm	Year R Christmas songs to parents
17.12.24 2.00pm	Year 1 and 2 nativity to parents
18.12.24 am	Christmas Church Services – details to follow
18.12.24 2.00pm	Year 1 and 2 nativity to parents
18.12.24 3.20–4.00pm	Open Classrooms
19.12.24	Christmas jumpers, Christmas dinner and parties day
20.12.24	Last day of Term 2
7.1.25	Start of Term 3
10.1.25pm	Swimming begins for Year 5 (additional sessions group)
14.1.25 – 9.15	Year 5 Class Assembly to parents
28.1.25	Year 3 Roman workshop trip – details to follow
29.1.25	Maths Day – details to follow
Week beg: 3.2.25	Children’s Mental Health (CMH) week
5.2.25	Year 3 trip to Rochester – details to follow
7.2.25	CMH Awareness Day – wear yellow to school
11.2.25	Internet Safety Day

12.2.25 at 9.15	Year 3 Class assembly to parents
14.2.25	Staff Development Day
24.2.25	Term 4 begins
Week beg 3.3.25	Book Week
6.3.25	World Book Day – dressing up – details to follow
6.3.25 after school	Golden Ticket selling event – details to follow
10.3.25	Science Day – details to follow
21.3.25	Comic Relief – Red Nose day – details to follow
26.3.25 at 3.30pm	FOLHS - £20.25 selling event – details to follow
1.4.25 and 2.3.25	Parents’ evenings
4.4.25	Easter Church Services – details to follow
4.4.25	End of Term 4
22.4.25	Term 5 begins
Week beg 22.4.25	Eco Week
28.4.25 – 1.5.25	Year 5 Bikeability
8.5.25	Class Photo day
Week beg 12.5.25	Key Stage 2 SATs
16.5.25	Non uniform – FOLHS Bring a Bottle day
16.5.25 at 3.15	Family Teddy Bears’ picnic – details to follow
21.5.25 3.20 – 4.00pm	Open Classrooms
23.5.25	End of Term 5

Staff Development Dates:

- Monday 6th January 2025
- Friday 20th June 2025
- Friday 11th July 2025

