



Honesty, Respect,  
Kindness, Perseverance

## Lower Halstow School

### Newsletter

January 2023

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

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#### Update from Mrs Deevooy and Miss Crowe

##### ***Happy New Year! New Year = New Stuff!***

We hope you all had a restful Christmas and are ready to start the New Year with a bang. You may have noticed some works commenced just before the holidays. This will be a performance area/play space for the children and an outdoor classroom. We are also working with the PTA to secure a trim trail at some point in the future and further develop our forest school area. We also have a new website [www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk](http://www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk) as our LA provider stopped its hosting service. We will be populating this and transferring everything across over time. Please get in touch if you notice something missing or any broken links.

##### ***A few reminders***

Uniform – no hooped earrings, studs only and please remove or tape these on PE days.

All pupils are able to wear black jogging bottoms or black leggings on any day (dark grey is also fine for the moment until we fully switch). These should be PLAIN black – no nike swoosh, white piping or similar. Likewise trainers on non PE days should be PLAIN black and velcro if your child can't tie their own shoelaces. We will be moving towards black trainers everyday from next year, so if you replace school trainers at any point, please buy black ones. Feedback on the activewear uniform option has been very positive (particularly for the younger ones).

Attendance - Lower Halstow continues to have one of the highest persistence absence rates in Swale (below 90% is classed as 'persistently absent' and is monitored by the Local Authority). This is mainly due to children having term time holidays in addition to the usual minor illnesses which is affecting the children's progress compared to their classmates. However, our overall attendance is still in line with national due to the majority of children attending school regularly.

Reading – please remember to read regularly at home right up to Y6! Reading miles are how children develop prosody (the easy reading rhythm and fluency that 'good' readers have). This in turn helps comprehension and how the children access materials in school. We will teach them to read, they just need time to practise in order to read quickly enough to develop this. Our army of volunteer readers provide additional help and we are very grateful to them, but nothing can replace daily reading at home for securing fluency.

Changes – Year R are now being dropped at the main gate. Can all parents please be mindful of this and keep the gate clear for the first few days until the children settle into this new routine.

Events – we are really looking forward to our magical 'Jack, Jill and the Beanstalk' themed day in January. Look out for details of the special Magic Bean Dinner that we will be having.

Best wishes

Mrs Deevooy and Miss Crowe

### Fundraising

Thank you for your huge support for the various fundraising events that have taken place this term, whether you have donated money, chocolate or gifts; we are appreciative of your generosity.

From the **Rag Bag Clothing collection** we raised £32.00, this was also a great eco activity to have completed as the clothes will be recycled or reused.



The annual **Scarecrow Trail** ended up raising a massive £1462.28 – well done to the PTA for organising such a successful event.



We had great fun completing the Big Doodle as part of **Children in Need Day**. Every child had the opportunity to add to the doodle which covered the length of the hall floor! From this event your kind donations raised £78.03.



Unfortunately our British Legion poppy parcel got lost in the post this year so we weren't able to give out the full range of items until the week of Remembrance, despite this we still raised £149.27!



### Brickfield's Remembrance Service

It was lovely to attend the Brickfield's Remembrance Service with an amazing group of children who represented the school wonderfully. We paid our respects and joined in with the 2 minutes silence.



### Litter Angels' Poster Competition

Beech Class took part in the annual Litter Angels poster competition again this year. There were some lovely designs entered, but this year it was Florence's poster that was chosen as our winner, Gordon Henderson visited the school to award Florence with her prize.



### Year 5 and 6 Recycled Art Project

Year 5 and 6 were lucky enough to receive a visit from Ideas Test, a group who connects artists and schools to work together. Under the direction of local artist, Patrick Walls, they produced some superb sculptures - all using recycled paper and cardboard.





### **Trips**

This term various classes headed off-site for their learning! Our Year 1 and 2 children visited the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury where they watched a performance of 'Under the Frozen Moon'. After the performance they had the opportunity to ask the actors questions which they had prepared back in school. It really was a fantastic experience to be able to watch live theatre and interact with the cast. Year R also headed off to the theatre, however they went to the Brook Theatre in Chatham to see 'The Lighthouse Cat's Christmas Adventure'. Again it was a great experience for the children as part of our enrichment curriculum.



In Key Stage 2 the older children were also off out and about. Year 6 experienced a day at the Houses of Parliament in London; they had a tour around the Palace of Westminster and considered democracy and the rule of law as they spoke to various representatives from the House. Meanwhile Year 4 headed off to the Maidstone Museum to learn about the Ancient Egyptians. Whilst there they examined artefacts and learnt about the mummification process, they even tried it out on an orange!



Don't worry Year 3 and 5, there are trips coming up for you in the next couple of terms! Y3 dates are in and Y5 dates TBC.

### **Christmas events**

In the lead up to Christmas we had a great time with several themed events. We raised money for the PTA with a Santa Run. Despite the wet weather, the children donned their Santa hats (provided by the PTA), dodged the showers and completed as many laps of the Daily Mile track as they could. We are still counting up the amount raised but everyone enjoyed the event, including singing along to the Christmas songs as they ran.



It was lovely to be able to put on a nativity performance again this year as we haven't been able to do a full one for a couple of years because of Covid. The children from Year R, 1 and 2 came together to learn the songs and perform their version of Shine Star Shine.



Date	Event
3.1.23	Staff Development Day (Children do not attend)
4.1.23	School term begins for children
19.1.23	Jack, Jill and the Beanstalk pantomime in school. Magic Bean special dinner – details to follow.
31.1.23	Year 3 trip to Rochester
2.2.23	Year 2 trip to Leeds Castle
3.2.23	PTA Disco - details to follow
10.2.23	Term 3 ends

Date	Event
20.2.23	Term 4 begins
21.21.23 pm	Pancake Races – children only
24.2.23	Year 3 Dinosaur Workshop
24.2.23	Year 5 swimming begins
Wk beg – 2.3.23	Book Week – details to follow
2.3.23	World Book Day – details to follow (dressing up!)
17.3.23	Comic Relief – details to follow
21.3.23 at 9.15	Year 4 Class Assembly
28.3.23	Year 4 trip to Kent Life – Viking Day
28.3.23	Parents' Evening – early
29.3.23	Parents' Evening – late
30.3.23 at 9.15	Year 3 Class Assembly
31.3.23	Easter Services at St Margaret's church
31.3.23	Term 4 ends

Date	Event
17.4.23	Term 5 begins
Wk beg – 24.4.23	Year 5 Bikeability
25.4.23	Year 3 trip to Horton Kirby River
26.4.23	School Book Fair to begin
May 2023	Year 2 SATS testing & assessment window
1.5.23	Bank Holiday
4.5.23	Year 3 and 4 trip to Living Land Show Detling
8.5.23	Bank Holiday – King's Coronation
9 - 12.5.23	Year 6 SATs testing week
18.5.23	Class Photos
22.5.23	Bach to the Future Music Show
26.5.23	Term 5 ends

Date	Event
5.6.23	Term 6 begins
June	Year 4 times table statutory national screening
12 - 16.6.23	Year 1 phonics statutory national screening check
14 – 16.6.23	Year 6 Kingswood Residential
19.6.23	Year 6 money workshop
20.6.23 at 9.15	Year 5 Class Assembly
21.6.23	Sports Day (PM)
23.6.23	Staff Development Day (Children do not attend)
28.6.23	Reserve Sports Day (PM)

More dates to follow.....