



Honesty, Respect,  
Kindness, Perseverance

## Lower Halstow School

### Newsletter

December 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**

The wet and windy weather that we have been having lately definitely indicates that winter has arrived! It has set the scene for our Christmas activities as we all wrap up warmly in our gloves, scarves and hats. We enjoyed learning and practising the songs for the Christmas Carol service and hope that you enjoyed it too.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the FOLHS committee, ably led by Rachael Dyke and Lucy Jessey, for their continued hard work in organising the various fundraising events. They have been so busy for the last two terms organising coffee mornings, the scarecrow trail, refreshments for the nativity performances, a school disco, the Santa Run as well as the Christmas Fair. If you would like to join the FOLHS or are willing to help out at any of their events please let the office know and we will pass on your details.

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

All pupils are able to wear black, navy or dark grey jogging bottoms or leggings on any day. These should be PLAIN black – no Nike swoosh, diamontes, 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 are currently seeing a variety of coloured trainers. Jumpers and fleeces should also be royal blue only, no other colours are permitted.

Reading – please remember to continue to read regularly at home right up to Year 6! 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 teach the children to read, they just need time to practise. 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 and confidence.

Changes – As usual, to encourage independence, from January our reception children will be 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 younger children settle into this new routine.

Have a lovely Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Best wishes

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

### Fundraising

The Paw Patrol sponsored walk for the **Dogs' Trust** ended up raising a massive £612.50 as well as donations of blankets, dog toys and other accessories for the trust. The children and staff (as well as Teddy and Georgie) enjoyed putting their best foot/paw forward to raise money for such a worthwhile cause.



The School Council helped have the final vote on what we would do for **Children in Need** this year; we had a 'Break the Rules' day. The children broke a range of school rules, including wearing make-up, nail varnish, tattoos and non-uniform as well as bringing in an unhealthy snack for break time in return for a donation towards this valuable charity - as a school we managed to raise **£261.09**.



As an annual fundraising event we sold a range of poppies and stationery items to support money for the **British Legion** and raised **£98.62!**



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the various fundraising events that have taken place so far this year. We know times are hard for families which is why the charities we support appreciate any contributions made.

### Brickfield's Remembrance Service

It was an honour to attend the Brickfield's Remembrance Service again this year, our children represented our school wonderfully. We paid our respects, laid poppy crosses and joined in with the 2 minutes silence.



### Rock Steady Band Performance

We had an enjoyable visit from the Music Band 'Rocksteady' who performed a range of rock songs to the children, this was followed by the children having the opportunity to get involved. Various children were brave enough to sing or play the drums, guitar or keyboard. It was such a success that we have now created our own school bands. Watch out – there may be future pop stars in our midst!



### 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 during the week, the heavy

rain paused for us on the Friday so the children were able to don their Santa hats (provided by the FOLHS), and complete 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.



### Christmas Fair

The FOLHS ran their annual Christmas Fayre for the children in which they could participate in a range of activities and games, including decorating cookies, hook a duck and win a teddy. Great fun was had by all – thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make it such a special event.



### Father Christmas

The big man in red made a special visit to Lower Halstow School. His elves set up his grotto in the Lodge and all of the children were able to visit, speak to him and receive a gift. Thank you to the FOLHS for providing these.



### Attendance

The whole school attendance stands at **94.3%** which is 0.8% 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. We do always send children home if they become too unwell for school.

We really need to work hard to improve on our overall attendance figure to meet the government's expectation of 96%+. 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.

Terms (cumulative)	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	93.8%	94.2%	95.2%
2	92.5%	92.8%	94.3%

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
6.1.25	Staff Development Day (Children do not attend)
7.1.25	School term begins for children
14.1.25 at 9.15	Year 5 Class assembly to parents
16.1.25	Circus Skills Day Special dinner – details to follow
5.2.25	Year 3 trip – Roman Workshop at the Guildhall – details to follow
7.2.25	Children's Mental Health awareness day – wear something yellow, details to follow
12.2.25 at 9.15	Year 3 Class assembly to parents
12.2.25 3.20-4.00	Open Classrooms
14.2.25	Term 3 ends

Date	Event
24.2.25	Term 4 begins
Wk beg – 3.3.25	Book Week – details to follow
4.3.25 pm	Pancake Races – children only
6.3.25	World Book Day – details to follow (dressing up!)
19.3.25	Year 3 trip to Rochester – details to follow
21.3.25	Comic Relief – details to follow
1.4.25	Parents' Evening – early Details to follow
2.4.25	Parents' Evening – late Details to follow
4.4.25 9.30 and 11.00	Easter Services at St Margaret's church – details to follow
4.4.25	Term 4 ends

Date	Event
22.4.25	Term 5 begins
Wk beg – 21.4.25	Eco Week including Earth Day
Wk beg – 28.4.25	Year 5 Bikeability
5.5.25	Bank Holiday
8.5.25	Class Photos
12.5.25	Year 6 SATs testing week
15.5.25	Kent Test Information Session – Year 5 parents – details to follow
16.5.25	FOLHS Non uniform day – bring a bottle
16.5.25 at 3.30	Teddy Bears' Picnic – details to follow
19.5.25	Year R trip to the Cathedral – details to follow
21.5.25 3.20-4.00	Open Classrooms
23.5.25	Term 5 ends

Date	Event
2.6.25	Term 6 begins
June	Year 4 times table statutory national screening
Wk beg 9.6.25	Year 1 phonics statutory national screening check
Wk beg 9.6.25	Year 6 Activity week
18.6.25 (pm)	Sports Day
20.6.25	Staff Development Day (Children do not attend)
25.6.25	Reserve Sports Day (PM)
27.6.25	Break the Rules Day
4.7.25 at 3.30pm	FOLHS Summer Fair
9.7.25	Year 3 to Tyland barn – details to follow
11.7.25	Staff Development Day (Children do not attend)

More dates to follow.....