



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

[Lower Halstow School](#)

[Newsletter](#)

February 2025

www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk

follow us on twitter [@Lowerhalstowsch](https://twitter.com/Lowerhalstowsch)

Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

It has been a very short term, however we have managed to fit such a lot in. We are sure that you have kept up to date with your child's class Dojo, however have a read below for a whole school summary of what the children at Lower Halstow School have been up to this term.

In deepest, darkest January, the school was filled with laughter and excitement on our circus skills day, funded by the Friends of Lower Halstow School. You may also have noticed the homemade bird feeders popping up around the site as our Reception class used their imagination and creativity to entice more birds to our grounds ready for the RSPB Big Bird watch. Given the time of year, and the post-Christmas blues felt by many, a focus on mental health was welcomed during Children's mental health week. We also revisited internet safety.

For the New Year we have a new social media platform. We have begun to move away from Twitter/X to enable us to maintain the security of our communications and because Instagram is becoming more widely used. Please ensure that you follow us on Instagram using the handle [@lowerhalstowsch](https://www.instagram.com/lowerhalstowsch)

Thank you to all the parents who filled out the new photo permissions form (including the option for Instagram). We are using more and more creative technology in school, such as video conferencing with our pen friends and the class Ipads for capturing work in drama, music and French, so it is important we have these permissions so your child doesn't miss out on this aspect of their learning. You'll get a reminder from the office if you haven't filled out the online survey on <https://forms.office.com/e/ATvrRhpqKP>

A few parents have begun asking about the Ofsted report as the inspection seems like such a long time ago now. The report should be with us for factual checking by 24th February. Ofsted reports go through a multi-stage process of quality assurance, but we hope to receive the final report for publishing by Easter. Fingers crossed!

Thank you for coming to the Term 3 Open Classrooms, it was lovely to see so many of you and for the children to share their work. The lovely comments regarding the children's progress were appreciated by everyone and show that our value of perseverance is certainly paying off. Seeing the progress on the mid year reports was a pleasure.

Have a lovely February break.

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

RSPB Big Bird Watch

On Friday 24th January Lower Halstow School took part in the annual RSPB Big Bird Watch; the whole school headed out and took up position at various points around the school. With pens, clipboards and cameras at the ready, they waited quietly to observe and tally the birds that were spotted in the Lower Halstow School grounds. They managed to see: sparrows, blackbirds, crows, wood pigeons and pied wagtails.

The children from Acorn Class made their own pine cone bird feeders to encourage the birds to come into our grounds. The birds could only be counted if they landed!



Circus Skills Day

The children enjoyed a day of fun and learning during Circus Skills Day. The whole school had the chance to step into the spotlight and try their hands at some classic circus activities. It was a day full of laughter, teamwork and impressive new skills.

Each class were able to explore different circus arts. Some took their first steps on stilts, feeling the thrill of being up high and balancing with confidence. Others became jugglers, tossing balls and/or scarves into the

air with surprising skill, showing off their co-ordination and focus.

The children also worked hard to master the art of balancing spinning plates on sticks. And to top it off, a brave few even tried walking the tightrope! Though wobbly at times, their determination and bravery shone through as they balanced their way across.

It was a day full of challenges, but also one of enjoyment and fun, as the children worked together to support each other, laugh at their mistakes, and celebrate their successes. Everyone left the day with a new appreciation for the circus arts, and maybe even a few future performers in the making!

Thank you to the Friends of Lower Halstow School who funded this exciting and memorable day.



Children's Mental Health Week

This Children's Mental Health Week, we came together to raise awareness and support young minds. The theme this year was 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. As part of this week the children completed work to help them understand what makes them tick, including their likes and dislikes, strengths, fears, hopes and dreams.

As part of the introduction assembly they watched clips from Inside Out 2 where we 'met' and discussed the characters. We appreciated that everyone enthusiastically engaged in activities and meaningful conversations.

To recognise this important cause, we all wore the colour yellow, symbolising hope, happiness and resilience. This simple act helped raise awareness and show solidarity for children's mental health.

School Attendance

The whole school attendance stands at **93.6%**. This is our lowest Term 3 attendance in 3 years. We understand that there are specific reasons behind this, but hopefully we can work together to get back to the positive improvements we were making as a school.

We ended last year with an attendance of **94.3%** - we are currently **0.7% below** this figure, we are also well below the national average of 96.5%. Currently we are **2.9% below** where we would hope to be but are confident that as the weather improves and sniffles disappear this will help.

Term by Term breakdown:

Terms (cumulative)	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	93.8%	94.2%	95.2%
2	92.5%	92.8%	94.3%
3	95.3%	94.2%	93.6%



Dates for your diary

Date	Event
24.2.25	Term 4 begins
25.2.25	Year 5 to Wildwood
27.2.25 at 9.15	Year 4 Class assembly to parents
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!)
10.3.25	Science Day – details to follow
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
23.4.25	Year 3 Cleaner Coast workshop – details to follow
Wk beg – 28.4.25	Year 5 Bikeability
5.5.25	Bank Holiday
Wk beg – 5.5.25	Year 5 CAT testing week
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 pm	Acorn Class trip to the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury
16.5.25 at 3.30	Teddy Bears' Picnic – 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 – details to follow
11.6.25	Year 2 trip to Leeds Castle
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
Wk beg 7.7.25	Outdoor Cooking Week (whole school)
9.7.25	Year 3 to Tyland barn – details to follow
11.7.25	Staff Development Day (Children do not attend)
16.7.25 3.20-4.00	Open Classrooms
18.7.25 4.30 – 6.00	Leavers' Disco
22.7.25 2pm	Year 6 leavers' Service
22.7.25	Term 6 ends

Staff Development Dates:

- Monday 1st Sept 2025
- Tuesday 2nd Sept 2025
- Monday 5th January 2026
- Friday 19th June 2026

