



Honesty, Respect,  
Kindness, Perseverance

## Lower Halstow School

### Newsletter

April 2025

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

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#### Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

##### Instagram

As we reach the end of another a very short term, we hope that you are looking forward to the Easter Holidays. We are sure that you have kept up to date with your child's class Dojo, however don't forget that you and extended family members can also follow us on Instagram, follow us on @lowerhalstowsch

##### Ofsted Report

We are pleased to share that our most recent Ofsted report is now available for parents and carers to view. Whilst the new style reports are much shorter, it still provides a valuable insight into the strengths of our school and the area we need to continue to develop to ensure the best education for our children. To read the full report, please visit the Ofsted website at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) and search for our school name. Alternatively, you can find a direct link on our school website under the "About Us" section.

##### Statutory Testing

With the warmer, sunnier weather, comes statutory testing. Please ensure your child gets enough sleep when they are due to sit tests in school. We are fairly relaxed in school as tests are simply a snapshot, but seeing a child struggle to focus on tasks they usually find straightforward due to a lack of sleep is very disheartening for everyone involved and does them no favours.

##### A few reminders

Please send your child to school appropriately dressed. With our active uniform children can wear plain black/grey/navy shorts or cycling shorts as well as plain black/grey/navy leggings or tracksuit bottoms. Please ensure that the children wear their normal school jumper or hoodie every day. Pupils will be asked to removed branded sports hoodies. Nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted.

We are a sun safe school so please apply sunscreen before school and remember to bring a hat. As the weather heats up water bottles are also really important, so please don't forget them!

The lost property pile is growing in line with the warm weather. PLEASE NAME ALL CARDIGANS AND JUMPERS. This way they can be quickly reunited with their owners.

We wish all our families a happy and restful Easter break.

Best wishes

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

## Comic Relief

Thank you to everyone who made a donation towards Comic Relief this year by wearing their pyjamas to school, as decided by our School Council following their vote.

We equaled the amount raised last year and have paid in an impressive £178.53 for this very worthwhile charity, thank you for your generosity.



## School Attendance – an upward trajectory!

Term 4 attendance stands at **94.4%** which is an improvement on last term, it is brilliant that we are now back on track heading towards the government target. At this point last year we were at 94.1% so it is also great that we are now 0.3% higher. We are really hoping that by working together, we will soon be in line with the national expectation of **96.5%**.

Please remember that all holidays should be booked during school breaks and not in term time.

Termly 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%
4	93.5%	94.1%	94.4%

## Book Week – a celebration of reading

Book Week was a fantastic celebration of stories, imagination and the joy of reading! The week was packed with exciting activities, all centered around this year's featured book, *Float* by Daniel Miyares—a beautifully illustrated story about adventure, resilience and the magic of a simple paper boat.

One of the highlights of the week was World Book Day, where children and teachers

brought their favorite book characters to life! From classic fairytale heroes to modern literary icons, the creativity on display was incredible.

Our Inter-House Book Quiz added a competitive edge to the week. Teams from each house put their book knowledge to the test, answering questions about a wide range of stories. It was a close battle, but in the end, Rochester House took the trophy!

Throughout the week, every class also took time to enjoy reading for pleasure, creating quiet moments to immerse themselves in books. Inspired by *Float*, students explored stories about adventure, nature and discovery, reminding us all how powerful a single book can be. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and made Book Week such a success.



### **Science Day – exploring change and adaptation in action**

Our school was buzzing with excitement as we celebrated Science Day, linking in with British Science Week! This year's theme was Change and Adaptation, and each class took part in fascinating experiments to explore these concepts further.

From investigating how different types of sugar dissolve in water to experimenting with magnets and their invisible forces, our young scientists were fully engaged in hands-on learning. Some classes even explored the magic of coloured water, observing how liquids mix and change in surprising ways! It was wonderful to see so much curiosity and enthusiasm as the children asked questions, made predictions and recorded their findings.



### **Pancake Race Day – a flipping good time!**

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with our annual Pancake Races, which were a fantastic success, with children from the four houses competing against each other in order to be crowned this year's champions. With the sun shining brightly, we were able to take the excitement outdoors, where laughter and cheers filled the air.

Each house gave it their all, racing while expertly flipping their pancakes along the way. It was a close contest, but in the end, Dover House emerged victorious!



### **Chance to Shine Cricket Sessions**

This term, children from Year 2 to 6 have had the fantastic opportunity to take part in cricket coaching through the Chance to Shine programme. Each week, we have welcomed Tom, our dedicated coach from Kent Cricket Club, who has been teaching our pupils the essential skills and techniques of the game.

The sessions focus not only on fundamental cricket skills and movement patterns but also emphasise important life lessons such as teamwork, resilience and perseverance. Through engaging and fun activities, children are developing both their sporting abilities and self confidence.



### **'Eggs'citing Visitors**

This term, the children had a truly wonderful experience—welcoming baby ducklings into our school! It all began with a set of eggs nestled safely in an incubator. The children watched with excitement and curiosity as the eggs began to hatch, revealing tiny, fluffy ducklings.

Each day, the children were able to observe their growth, and were amazed at how quickly they changed. They had the opportunity to gently hold and pet the ducklings, learning about their needs and how to care for them. From keeping their water and food topped up to ensuring they were warm and comfortable, our young duckling carers took their responsibilities seriously.

After spending precious time with us, the ducklings returned to the farm, where they will continue to grow and thrive in their natural environment. This hands-on experience not only brought joy to our school but also taught our children about life cycles, responsibility, and the importance of caring for animals.



**A Sweet surprise - Easter Eggs for everyone**

The wonderful Friends of Lower Halstow School brought extra joy to the school by donating delicious Easter eggs for every child! But the real magic happened when it was time for the special delivery...

With his tail wagging and ears flopping, school dog, Teddy, dressed up as the Easter Bunny to help spread the Easter cheer. He ‘hopped’ from class to class, delivering treats and spreading smiles! The children were overjoyed to receive their chocolate eggs and had a fantastic time celebrating this egg-citing occasion. A huge thank you to the Friends of Lower Halstow School for their generosity and for making the day ‘eggs-tra’ special!



**A joyful Easter Service at St Margaret’s church**

Our term ended on a wonderful note with a special Easter Service at St Margaret’s Church, led by John Guest. It was a lovely opportunity for our school community to come together in reflection and celebration.

The children did a fantastic job sharing Bible readings and prayers, reading beautifully and with great confidence. Their thoughtful words added to the warmth and meaning of the service. But without a doubt, the highlight of the morning was the enthusiastic singing of Spring Chicken! This much-loved song had everyone joining in with big smiles and joyful voices—it’s always a firm favourite!



**Golden Ticket Winners Enjoy a Pawsome Treat with Georgie!**

Excitement filled the air at Lower Halstow Primary School as lucky children unwrapped their chocolate bars to discover a special surprise – a Golden Ticket! The lucky winners were treated to an exclusive playtime with the school’s much-loved furry friend, Georgie the Cockerpoo.

Organised by the Friends of Lower Halstow School, the event gave the Golden Ticket holders a wonderful opportunity to dress Georgie up in fun outfits, teach her tricks in exchange for tasty treats, and of course, shower her with cuddles. Georgie, as always, lapped up the attention and performed her tricks with wagging enthusiasm!



## Dates for your diary

### Term 5

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
28.4.25 – 1.5.25	Year 5 Bikeability – further details to follow
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

### Staff Development Dates (2025-26):

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



### Term 6

Date	Event
2.6.25	Term 6 begins
June	Year 4 times table statutory national screening
3.6.25	Fire Safety Sessions
Wk beg 9.6.25	Year 1 phonics statutory national screening check
Wk beg 9.6.25	Year 6 Activity week
11.6.25	Willow Class trip to Leeds Castle – further details to follow
17.6.25	Hawthorn Class trip to Maidstone Museum of Kent Life
18.6.25 (pm)	Sports Day
19.6.25	Skip 2 B Fit Day
20.6.25	<b>Staff Development Day (Children do not attend)</b>
25.6.25	Reserve Sports Day (PM)
27.6.25	Break the Rules Day
2.7.25	Year R Vision and Hearing checks
4.7.25 at 3.30pm	FOLHS Summer Fair
Wk beg 7.7.25	Outdoor Cooking Week (whole school)
7.7.25	Rowan Class trip to Tyland Barn
8.7.25	Indian Drumming workshop
9.7.25	Maple Class trip to Tyland Barn – details to follow
11.7.25	<b>Staff Development Day (Children do not attend)</b>
15.7.25 2pm	Music Extravaganza performance – details to follow
16.7.25 3.20-4.00	Open Classrooms
18.7.25	Leavers' Disco – details to follow
22.7.25 1.30pm	Leavers' Service
22.7.25	Last Day of term <b>Finish at 2.15pm</b>