



**Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance**

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

October 2025

www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

We have been fairly lucky with the weather this term, which has meant that we have been able to enjoy several outdoor activities including outdoor cooking and Chance to Shine cricket. We have definitely made the most of being back together as a school. We have enjoyed welcoming our new Reception children, and Year 6 have demonstrated how mature and caring they are by being their buddies and helping them to settle into the routines of school.

Term 1 has been full of activity and hopefully you've seen what the children have been up to on your child's Class Dojo story feed or on our school Instagram feed. A few highlights are also contained in this newsletter. May we also take this opportunity to thank you for your support with the various events that have taken place this term, whether this has been through supporting the book fayre, helping your children with the dress-up events or donating bottles to the FOLHS collection for the Christmas Fayre tombola.

A Few Reminders

Uniform

Please name all clothing so it can easily be returned if lost. The majority of items in the Lost Property box are un-named.

Trainers or shoes should be PLAIN black.

Shoes should be suitable for running.

School jumpers or fleeces should be worn every day even on PE days. General hoodies and tracksuit tops are not permitted.

White polo shirts are now commonly worn for PE but white T-shirts can still be worn on PE days if preferred.

PLAIN black, navy or dark grey leggings, joggers or sports shorts can be worn on any day. Traditional skirts or trousers should be dark grey (Year 2 upwards).

Reading

We are still seeing children in KS2 struggling with their reading fluency (they can read but not at a speed sufficient for good comprehension). This only comes with practice so please continue to read with your child and write in their reading record. Reading the same short passage several times to develop accuracy, speed, expression and a 'reading rhythm' is worthwhile - quality not quantity.

Medical

Children may bring medicated lip salve in for chapped lips, however this must be handed to the class teacher and should not be lip gloss.

Photos

The children looked really smart for their school photos, please remember to order your photos via the Carmel Jane link or QR code. Please see our recent message regarding the quality of the photos and steps we are taking.

Have a lovely half-term break and don't forget to visit the now famous Lower Halstow Scarecrow Trail which has been organised by the FOLHS and supported by the families in the village.

Best wishes,

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Celebrating the magic of poetry

This term, we celebrated National Poetry Day with creativity and enthusiasm! Each class learned and performed a poem, and it was wonderful to see the children express themselves so confidently. We hope you enjoyed watching their performances on Dojo! Throughout the week, we also explored a variety of poems—listening, discussing and discovering the joy of rhyme and language together.



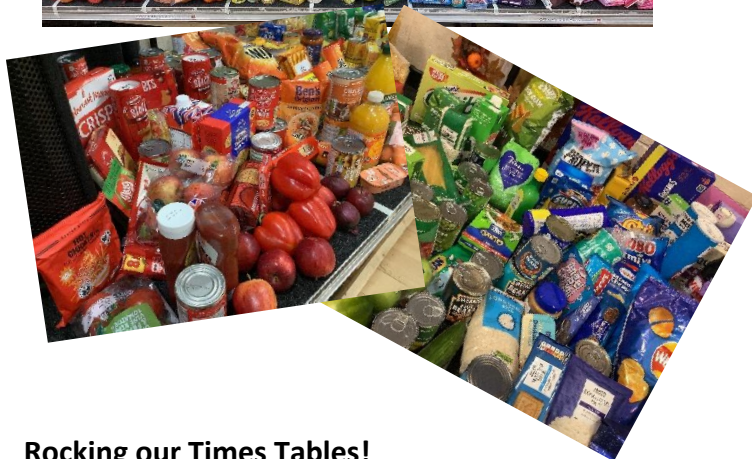
A Rainbow of Harvest Kindness

Our first whole-school event of the year was our annual Rainbow Harvest Festival, led by lay preacher, Teresa Parker. Each class represented a colour of the rainbow and brought in food donations to match, all of which were generously given to the Swale Food Bank.

The celebration included heartfelt prayers, poems, autumn descriptions and beautiful artwork from children in Year 1 and 2, as well as some wonderful singing from everyone. A highlight of the morning was joining together to sing our favourite harvest song, "Cauliflowers Fluffy."

It was especially lovely to have Acorn Class join us for the very first time. Thank you so much for your generous donations, the Swale Food Bank

were very grateful when they collected our donations.



Rocking our Times Tables!

We rocked out for TTRS Day this term, as we celebrated the biannual relaunch of our Times Tables Rock Stars program! Children came to school dressed as rockstars, showing off some truly amazing costumes. They spent the day taking part in exciting times table battles to improve their speed and accuracy with times tables.

It was a day full of fun and friendly competition, with children challenged to beat their own best times, and work as a team when classes battled against one another. Times Tables Rock Stars is a fantastic program that can also be used at home, giving children the chance to practise and improve their times tables anytime.





enthusiastic the children were and how willing they were to try new cuisines and flavours.



Heritage Month - A Journey Around the World through Music, Stories, and Food

This month, our school has been celebrating Heritage Month with a wonderful variety of activities that helped the children learn about and appreciate the many cultures that make up our school community and the wider world.

Our children have enjoyed listening to music from different countries, exploring the rhythms and instruments that make each culture unique, the classrooms have been filled with sounds from around the globe! Children have also been listening to stories and folktales from different traditions, discovering how people everywhere use stories to teach lessons, share values and celebrate their heritage.

One of the highlights of the month was when the whole school took part in outdoor cooking activities. Pupils worked together to prepare and cook traditional dishes from the countries we have been learning about. The air was filled with delicious aromas as everyone tried something new — from spicy curries to bubble and squeak, we were so impressed with how

Ready, Set, Learn – Inside Our Newly Refurbished Computer Suite!



The children have been enjoying using the computer suite which has undergone

refurbishment over the summer holidays! Thanks to the tireless work of Mr Saunders, our dedicated caretaker, and the generous support of the Friends of Lower Halstow, the space has been completely transformed. Their contributions have enabled us to purchase additional PCs, meaning there is now one computer per child — a fantastic step forward for our digital learning. The room has also been reconfigured with new desks to comfortably accommodate the extra equipment, and given a fresh new look with updated decor, smart new blinds, stylish stools and modern flooring. It's already proving to be a wonderful learning environment, and we are so grateful to everyone who helped make this possible.

Our Pupils Shine on the Cricket Pitch!

Pupils in Years 2 to 6 recently had the exciting opportunity to take part in Chance to Shine Cricket coaching, run by Kent Cricket Club. The sessions offered free coaching where children learned a wide range of skills suited to their age, including catching, fielding and bowling. Everyone had a fantastic time developing their cricket techniques while enjoying the fun of being active outdoors.

Our Year 6 pupils also had the chance to develop leadership skills, learning how to help, guide and support younger players in the future. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged, working together and enjoying the sport!



School Attendance

The whole school attendance stands at **96.3%** which is the best Term 1 we have had in several years. 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.

Thank you to all families who have continued to support good attendance. Every day in school really does make a difference to your child's learning, progress and well-being. Let's keep working together to improve our attendance further as we move through the year!

Termly Breakdown:

Terms (cumulative)	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
1	94.2%	95.2%	96.3%

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
27.10.25	Start of Term 2 – Children return
27.10.25 pm	Year 1 to Newington for Toy talk and workshop
29.10.25	Meet the Experts careers day
4.11.25 9.15am	Year 5 class assembly to parents
7.11.25 2.00pm	Year 2 shared reading event in the hall
10.11.25	Anti-Bullying Week starts
14.11.25	Children in Need – details to follow
28.11.25	FOLHS non-uniform day – please bring chocolate for the tombola
5.12.25 1.00pm	FOLHS Christmas Fayre – details to follow
10.12.25 2.00pm	Year 1 and 2 nativity to parents
11.12.25 5.30-7.30pm	FOLHS Shopping Event
12.12.25 2.00pm	Year 1 and 2 nativity to parents – details to follow
15.12.25 2.15pm	Year R Christmas songs to parents
16.12.25 pm	Santa Run (children only)
17.12.25	Christmas jumpers, Christmas dinner and Christmas parties day
17.12.25 3.15 – 4.00pm	Open Classrooms
18.12.25 am	Year 3-6 Christingle Church Services – details to follow
18.12.25	End of Term 2
19.12.25	Staff Development Day – children do not attend
5.1.26	Staff Development Day – children do not attend
6.1.26	Start of Term 3 – children return
15.1.26	Curling Taster Day
29.1.26	Maths Day – details to follow
6.2.26	FOLHS Break the Rules Day – details to follow
6.2.26	School Disco – details to follow
11.2.26	Internet Safety Day
11.2.26 3.15 – 4.00pm	Open Classrooms
13.2.26 pm	Pancake Races – children only event
13.2.26	End of Term 3

Date	Event
23.2.26	Start of Term 4 – Children return
2.3.26	Book Week starts – details to follow
5.3.26	World Book Day - Dressing Up
9.3.26	Science Day – details to follow
18.3.26	Year 2 Rochester trip – details to follow
20.3.26	Comic Relief – details to follow
20.3.26 3.30pm	FOLHS Apprentice Selling event
31.3.26	Parents' evening
1.4.26	Parents' evening
2.4.26	Key Stage 2 Easter Church Services – details to follow
2.4.26	End of Term 4
20.4.26	Start of Term 5 – children return
22.4.26	Earth Day – eco activities
27.4.26 – 29.4.26	Year 5 Bikeability
4.5.26	Bank Holiday Monday – school closed
11.5.26	Key Stage 2 SATs week starts
12.5.26	Year 4 to Newington for Anglo Saxon day
15.5.26 3.30pm	FOLHS Teddy Bears' Picnic
19.5.26 at 9.15am	Year 4 Class assembly to parents
20.5.26 – 3.15 – 4.00pm	Open Classrooms
22.5.26	FOLHS Non-uniform day, bring a bottle for the tombola
22.5.26	End of Term 5

2025-2026 Staff Development Days:

- Monday 1st Sept 2025
- Tuesday 2nd Sept 2025
- Friday 19th December 202
- Monday 5th January 2026
- Friday 19th June 2026

