



**Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance**

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

December 2025

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

The chilly mornings we have been having lately definitely indicate that winter has arrived and have set the scene for all our Christmas activities. The children have enjoyed sharing the songs, readings or parts they have learned at the Key Stage 2 Christingle, Key Stage 1 Nativity and finally the Year R Christmas Sing-song. We hope you enjoyed the performances and they helped to put you in the Christmas mood. Doing these is an important part of how we build the children's confidence, so thank you for your support in learning lines or providing a costume etc. where needed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Lower Halstow School (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 putting on events to not just raise funds but to support the children and enrich their time at school. The scarecrow trail, refreshments for the nativity performances, Christmas card and gift orders, wrapping Santa presents, the Santa Run, the Christmas shopping evening as well as the Christmas Fair have all been huge successes. If you would like to join the FOLHS committee or are willing to help out at any events, please let the office know and we will pass on your details.

A few reminders

Please could we ask you to name your children's uniform. Each week the lost property pile is growing despite the items being held up each Friday. If the items were named, they could easily be returned.....saving you money on having to replace lost items too!

Long hair should be tied back, even on days that there isn't any PE, earrings should be studs and nail varnish or acrylic nails are not 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 6th January.

Best wishes,
Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Small Coins, Big Impact

Our school had a fantastic time supporting Children in Need by coming to school in our cosiest pyjamas, an idea voted for by the School Council. The whole day was filled with fun, smiles and lots of colourful bedtime outfits. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our pupils, families and staff, we raised an amazing £213.18. Every penny will help make a real difference to children who need support the most. Thank you to everyone who took part and donated—you helped turn a comfy day into a truly meaningful one!



As part of our annual fundraising efforts, we sold a range of poppies and themed stationery to support the Royal British Legion. We proudly raised an impressive £202.47! Your kindness helps support those who have served and their families, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed.



Inspiring Minds, One Expert at a Time

One of the highlights of Term 2 was our annual 'Meet the Experts' Careers Day, where the children had the opportunity to learn about a variety of fascinating professions. Our visitors included a lift engineer, midwife, paramedic, foster carer, police officer, firefighter and prison officers — who even brought along their amazing sniffer dog, Faith!

The children were thrilled to watch Faith demonstrate how she searches for contraband. It was a wonderful day that inspired our pupils to think about their future careers and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.



Scoring Big with Our Gillingham FC Partnership!

We were thrilled to announce earlier this term that Lower Halstow School has become an official partner of Gillingham Football Club, joining the GFC Foundation as their fifth school partner!

As part of this partnership, Gillingham coach, Keoin Young is visiting the school each week to help our pupils develop their football skills and enjoy learning from a professional coach. We've also booked an exciting stadium tour for our Year 6 pupils, and the school has been presented with a Gillingham football shirt signed by all the players — a fantastic memento of this new partnership. Our link sports ambassador is striker Sam Vokes; he has already sent a video message to the children and will be visiting Lower Halstow School soon.

We are really looking forward to working together and seeing our pupils grow both on and off the pitch!



Honouring Courage and Remembering Together

It was an honour to attend the Brickfields Remembrance Service once again this year. Our children represented the school with pride and respect, taking part in laying poppy crosses and observing the two-minute silence to pay tribute to those who served.



Jingle All the Way: Our Santa Run!

What a festive frenzy we had in the lead-up to Christmas! One highlight was our Santa Run, raising money for the FOLHS. The excitement kicked off in style with Santa himself starting the run! Thankfully, the rain took a break on Tuesday, letting the children don their FOLHS-provided Santa hats and dash around the Daily Mile track, lap after lap. With Christmas tunes filling the air, there was plenty of singing, laughing and holiday cheer. We're still counting up the funds raised, but one thing's for sure—everyone had a truly merry time!



Teddies, Treats, and Festive Fun!

The FOLHS Christmas Fair was a festive hit! The children had a blast decorating wooden decorations, trying their luck at hook-a-duck, and of course, one of the biggest favourites—winning a cuddly teddy or in some cases a potato! Laughter and cheer filled the air, making it a truly magical afternoon. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the fair so special!



A Magical Visit from Father Christmas!

The big man in red made a very special stop at Lower Halstow School! His cheerful elves transformed the Lodge into a festive grotto, where every child had the chance to meet Father Christmas, share their Christmas wishes, and receive a gift. A huge thank you to FOLHS for making this magical visit possible!



Festive Fun at the Friends of Lower Halstow Christmas Shopping Evening

The Friends of Lower Halstow School Christmas Shopping Evening was a wonderful festive success. Parents and families enjoyed browsing a fantastic variety of stalls while warming up with refreshments including mulled wine and hot chocolate. The stalls offered something for everyone, with beautiful wood carving, paintings, knitted baby clothes, decorated chocolate oranges, personalised slate engravings, chocolates, tree decorations and a range of games to take part in. The event was very well attended, and it was lovely to see so many families from the village coming together to support the school. We were also extremely lucky to receive a generous donation of two bird boxes for the school from Jack at Axeworks Arts, for which we are very grateful.



School Attendance

The whole school attendance stands at 95.3%, this is a drop from Term 1 however it is still higher than the last 2 years' Term 2 attendance. Your support in encouraging your children to come to school even if they aren't quite 100% is making a difference, not just to attendance but to progress as well. 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%
2	92.8%	94.3%	95.3%



Dates for your diary

Date	Event
5.1.26	Staff Development Day – children do not attend
6.1.26	Start of Term 3 – children return
7.1.26	Year 5 Swimming continues
15.1.26	Comfy Pyjama Day All Day Breakfast dinner – please sign up via the Parent Pay app. Let us know if you are having difficulty. 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
23.2.26	Start of Term 4 – Children return
2.3.26	Book Week starts – details to follow
2.3.26	Year 5 Wildwood Rainforest workshop trip – details to follow
5.3.26	World Book Day - Dressing Up
9.3.26	Science Day – details to follow
18.3.26	Year 3 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

2025-2026 Staff Development Days:

- Friday 19th December 2025
- Monday 5th January 2026
- Friday 19th June 2026

Date	Event
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
11.5.26	Year 5 Kent Life Maya Technology and Temples workshop - TBC
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
1.6.26	Start of Term 6 – Children return
Wk beg 8.6.26	Year 6 Activity week – details to follow
10.6.26 pm	Sports Afternoon – details to follow
16.6.26	Year 4 Viking day with Newington Year 4 at Lower Halstow School
17.6.26 pm	Reserve Sports Afternoon
19.6.26	Staff Development Day – children do not attend
23.6.26 pm	Year R to the Gulbenkian Theatre – details to follow
30.6.26	Year 1 trip to Tyland Barn – details to follow
July	Try Something New month
3.7.26	Year 2 to Leeds Castle – details to follow
3.7.26 at 2.00pm	FOLHS AGM
7.7.26	Year 3 to Tyland Barn – details to follow
10.7.26 at 3.30pm	FOLHS Summer Fair
15.7.26 1.20pm	Year 6 Performance to parents
16.7.26 at 6.00pm	Year 6 performance to parents
17.7.26 at 4.30pm	FOLHS Summer Disco
21.7.26 at 2.15pm	End of Term 6