



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

[Lower Halstow School](#)

[Newsletter](#)

February 2026

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

It has been a very short term, however we have managed to fit 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.

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. The theme this year was 'This is My Place' and we focused on belonging. We also revisited internet safety as this can negatively impact mental health.

Thank you for coming to the Term 3 Open Classrooms, it was lovely to see so many of you giving your child the opportunity to talk through and show off their hard work. The lovely comments regarding the children's progress were appreciated by everyone and show that focusing on our value of perseverance is certainly paying off.

A few reminders

Uniform – no hooped earrings, studs only and please remove or tape these on PE days. All pupils are able to wear black/navy/dark grey jogging bottoms or black/navy/dark grey leggings on any day. These should be PLAIN – no Nike swoosh, 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. Nail varnish and fake nails are not permitted.

Reading – please remember to read regularly at home right up to Year 6. Reading practice is how children develop prosody (the rhythm and fluency that 'good' readers have). This in turn helps comprehension (the understanding of what has been read). In school, we teach them to read, but they still 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. This is an ever-lasting lifelong gift you can give your child.

Parking – PLEASE

Be mindful of our neighbours and fellow parents and carers when you are parking. Do not use the access road to drop off and pick up, particularly at busy times. Do not stop/park on the zig zag lines as this is dangerous and also illegal. Do not block driveways or pavements. Do not block each other in, as some parents and carers have to get away quickly for drop offs or pick ups at other schools for older / younger siblings.

Have a lovely February break and enjoy seeing the spring flowers begin to bloom.

Counting our Feathered Friends

On Friday 23rd January, Lower Halstow School proudly took part in the annual RSPB Big Bird Watch. The whole school headed outdoors, spreading out across the grounds to take up observation points. Armed with pens, clipboards and Ipads, the children waited patiently and quietly to spot and record the birds visiting our school. During the watch, they were delighted to see blue and great tits, blackbirds, gulls, magpies and robins.

The children in Acorn Class also made their own pinecone bird feeders to help attract birds into the school grounds. A key rule of the Big Bird Watch is that birds can only be counted if they land—so plenty of patience (and excitement!) was required as everyone waited for their feathered visitors to touch down.



Putting the Pieces together!

This term we enjoyed our annual Maths Day. The classrooms were filled with children wearing clothes that they had found in their wardrobes with a Maths connection – parallel strips, repeated patterns, numbers, the list goes on and on. It was a wonderfully simple way of getting the children to look for Maths in the world around them. The school's Maths challenges were all based on puzzles. The children from Reception to Year 5 all enjoyed various challenges based on tangram puzzles and our Year 6 children had the additional challenge of trying to master pentominoes. Puzzles were completed, created and used in artwork. It was wonderful hearing the children's

reactions to the day and how excited they were when completing their challenges.



Rocking the School Hall!

The whole school enjoyed an energetic Rocksteady band performance, showcasing the fantastic musical progress made by our pupils this year. The bands treated us to well-known favourites such as Sweet Caroline and Shake it Off, with children confidently performing on guitar, keyboard and drums— with some children bravely stepping up to sing. The performance was led by Jack, who has been teaching and inspiring the Rocksteady groups throughout the year. It was a wonderful celebration of teamwork, confidence and musical talent, and the audience loved every moment. The following bands performed in this term's show:

- Rockin' Reapers of Rock – Shake it Off
- The Rolling Stones – Sweet Caroline
- The Loud Raptors – Shut up and Dance
- Terrific Toxic Tiger Dragons – Golden
- Rolling Fireballs - Dynamite



Bending the Rules with Big Smiles

The children had great fun taking part in our recent 'Break the Rules' Day, which helped raise money for the Friends of Lower Halstow School. For one day only, pupils were allowed to bend some of the usual school rules in return for a donation. This included wearing non-uniform, make-up, nail varnish and temporary tattoos, as well as bringing in an unhealthy snack for break time. The day was filled with excitement, laughter and lots of colourful looks, all while supporting a fantastic cause that benefits our whole school community.



Wishing a fond farewell to a familiar and friendly face

At the start of Term 4, we will be saying a very fond farewell to Miss Bower, who has been a much-loved member of our school community for an amazing 21 years.

During her time at our school, Miss Bower has supported many children, working both one-to-one and as a class teaching assistant. She has always shown great kindness, patience and care, helping children to feel supported, confident and ready to learn. Miss Bower has been a familiar and reassuring face to generations of pupils and has worked with many different classes over the years.



Miss Bower has enjoyed her time at Lower Halstow School but has made the decision to leave as she is looking for a new challenge. While we understand her decision, she will be greatly missed by children, staff and families alike.

We would like to thank Miss Bower for everything she has given to our school over the years. We wish her all the very best and send her our warmest good wishes for the future.

School Attendance

The whole school attendance stands at **95.1%**, this is a very slight drop from Term 2 however it is still higher than the last two years' Term 3 attendance so well done everyone. This improvement is particularly noteworthy considering the horrible cold that has gone round the younger year groups and year 3 having a few Scarlet Fever cases this term.

Your continued support in encouraging children to attend school, even on days when they may not be feeling quite themselves, is having a real impact. Not only is it improving attendance, but it is also supporting children's learning and progress. If you are unsure, we encourage you to give school a try—please be reassured that we will always contact you if we feel your child is too unwell to remain in school. The only time your child should not try to come into school is if they have a high temperature.

We would also like to thank all families for their ongoing commitment to good attendance. Being in school every day plays a vital role in children's development and well-being. By continuing to work together, we can build on this positive progress and further strengthen attendance as the year goes on.

Termly Breakdown:

Terms (cumulative)	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
1	94.2%	95.2%	96.3%
2	92.8%	94.3%	95.3%
3	94.2%	93.6%	95.1%

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
23.2.26	Start of Term 4 – Children return
24.2.26	Year R Vision and Hearing screening with the NHS
27.2.26	Whole school Kurling taster day.
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
10.3.26	Year 6 Electric Car demonstration
16.3.26	Year 4 Egyptian Life trip at Kent Life – details to follow
18.3.26	Year 3 Rochester trip – details to follow
20.3.26	Comic Relief – details to follow
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
23.4.26 at 3.20pm	Year 6 SATs chat meeting
27.4.26 – 29.4.26	Year 5 Bikeability
4.5.26	Bank Holiday Monday – school closed
Wk Beg: 4.5.26	Year 5 CAT testing week
5.5.26	Key Stage 2 Meet the Lifeguard Workshops
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
19.5.26 at 9.15am	Year 4 Class assembly to parents
20.5.26 – 3.15 – 4.00pm	Open Classrooms
21.5.26	Non Uniform Day Teddy Bears’ picnic
22.5.26	FOLHS Non-uniform day, bring a bottle for the tombola
22.5.26	End of Term 5

Date	Event
1.6.26	Start of Term 6 – Children return
Wk beg 1.6.26	Year 4 Multiplication Screening Check
Wk beg 1.6.26	Year 1 Phonics Screening check and Year 2 retakes
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
1.7.26	Year 6 Parliament trip – details to follow
3.7.26	Year 2 to Leeds Castle – details to follow
3.7.26 at 2.00pm	FOLHS AGM
10.7.26	Cheerleading Taster Day
10.7.26 at 3.30pm	FOLHS Summer Fair
15.7.26 at 1.30pm	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 1.30pm	Year 6 Leavers’ Service
21.7.26 at 2.15pm	End of Term 6

