



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

March 2026

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

As we come to the end of Term 4, it has been lovely to finally enjoy some warmer, sunnier weather. The brighter days have certainly lifted spirits across the school, and it has been wonderful to see the children making the most of their time both in and outside the classroom.

This term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities through our themed weeks. Book Week was a fantastic celebration of reading, with children immersing themselves in stories and sharing their love of books in creative ways. Science Week sparked curiosity and enthusiasm, with pupils engaging in hands-on investigations and exploring the world around them with great interest.

Statutory Testing

With the warmer, sunnier weather, comes statutory testing. Year 1, 4 and 6 (details in the calendar) will all participate in these tests along with some pupils in Year 2 who will retake the phonics screening. As we head into Term 5 please ensure your child gets enough sleep when they are due to sit tests in school. We are fairly relaxed in school as these 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 blue school jumper, fleece or hoodie every day. Pupils will be asked to remove 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 as the weather changes. PLEASE NAME ALL CARDIGANS AND JUMPERS, so that if a day suddenly turns to summer and jumpers are flung off, they can be quickly reunited with their owners.

As we approach the end of term - we hope the Easter break will be a time for relaxation, enjoyment and spending quality time together.

Wishing all of our families a happy and restful Easter.

Best wishes

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

A Week of Wonderful Words and Wacky Costumes

Our recent Book Week was a wonderful celebration of reading, filled with creativity and excitement across the school. The fantastic costumes on display ranged from Chipmunks to Stickman, Dogman to the BFG and of course plenty of Harry Potter characters. This year, staff joined in the fun by dressing as different versions of Where's Wally and taking part in the annual costume parade in the hall. The children had fun guessing the different Wallies such as French Wally, Princess Wally, Builder Wally, Cowboy Wally, Witch Wally, Astronaut Wally and Disco Wally.

The children enjoyed a whole-school book quiz, where the houses competed to answer a range of book-related questions. After some very close competition, Hever House were crowned the winners. A particular highlight was a personalised video from author James Campbell, who answered questions sent in by the children about his series *The Funny Life of...* Throughout the week, teachers also swapped classes to share stories with different year groups, helping to create a truly memorable celebration of reading and a shared love of books across Lower Halstow School.

Discover, Question, Explore!

Science Week was an exciting and engaging time across the school, with this year's theme focusing on asking questions and being curious. Throughout the week, the children embraced their roles as young scientists, exploring the world around them through a wide range of hands-on activities and investigations.

Pupils explored how boats float and how planes fly, developing their understanding of forces and materials through practical experiments. Others investigated ecosystems, using identification apps to learn more about the plants and animals in their environment. On the school field, children enjoyed exploring biodiversity first-hand, using pooters to safely observe and identify a variety of minibeasts.

There were also opportunities to investigate how muddy water can be cleaned through filtering, encouraging pupils to think about real-world environmental challenges. Another popular activity involved observing how worms tunnel underground, helping children to understand the important role these creatures play in our soil.

Science Week provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to ask questions, test their ideas and deepen their understanding through exploration. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, curiosity and thoughtful discussion throughout the week.



Developing Oracy across the school

This year, building on previous work to develop vocabulary across the school, we have placed a strong focus on developing oracy. Oracy refers to the ability to express ideas clearly and communicate effectively through spoken language, this is an essential skill that underpins all areas of learning. In classrooms, we have placed a greater emphasis on pupil-to-pupil discussion, with children regularly working together to share ideas, explain their thinking and listening carefully to others. Teachers are also building in more purposeful thinking time, allowing pupils the opportunity to reflect before responding, which helps to deepen understanding and build confidence.

Strong speaking and listening skills support reading and writing development, enhance understanding across the curriculum, and help children to organise and clarify their thinking. Oracy also plays a key role in building confidence, resilience and social skills, enabling pupils to express themselves respectfully and engage positively with others. By nurturing these skills from an early age, we are equipping our pupils with the tools they need not only for academic success, but for effective communication in the wider world. We look forward to continuing to develop confident, thoughtful speakers across our school.

Sliding into Fun: Whole School Kurling Day!

Our whole-school Kurling taster day was a fantastic event, bringing energy and excitement to the school hall. Following the success of our Kurling team in the Winter Olympics, the children were inspired and eager to have a go themselves.



Throughout the day, every pupil had the opportunity to try their hand at Kurling, learning how to carefully aim and slide the stones towards the target. For many, this was a completely new experience, making it even more special as they explored a sport they would not usually get the chance to try.

The hall was filled with laughter, teamwork and encouragement as children supported one another and celebrated each other's efforts. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and engagement, and it's safe to say that good fun was had by all!

Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who supported Comic Relief this year by making a donation and taking part in our "Bring a Bear" day, where children exchanged cakes and biscuits for joining in. This event was chosen by our School Council following their vote. We are delighted to share that we raised an impressive £184.17 for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and continued support, in providing opportunities for the children to see how they can make a difference to the wider world with small actions.



Easter Joy Delivered!

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. This year he was joined by Georgie the cockerpoo, who made a special surprise appearance, dressed as a Spring lamb, to help give out the eggs, delighting the children even more! Together, they '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!



Golden Ticket Treats

There was great excitement across the school on World Book Day as children discovered golden tickets hidden inside chocolate bars sold by the Friends of Lower Halstow School. The lucky winners were in for a very special prize—spending time with Georgie the Cockerpool!

The seven lucky children enjoyed a fun and memorable experience, getting to know Georgie through a range of activities. They had the chance to dress her up, reward her with treats as she performed her tricks, and of course, enjoy plenty of cuddles. A big thank you to the Friends of Lower Halstow School for organising the competition. The School Council will be voting on future prizes so get your thinking caps on!



Baking Club

During Term 4 some children had the opportunity to join an after-school cooking club, this proved to be very popular. The club was run by Kaitlin (a parent) and Mrs Jeffery.



The children used a range of skills to make and decorate cookies, create wrap pizzas and make chocolate marshmallow cakes. All the children have shown great interest and enthusiasm and were keen to offer ideas for future 'bakes'.

A Fond Farewell (for Now!)

Mrs Ernst will be leaving us towards the end of Term 5 as she begins her maternity leave. Her cheerful and chatty presence in the office will be greatly missed by both staff and parents alike. Mrs Ernst has been a fantastic source of support, especially when it comes to all things MCAS—so be sure to make the most of her expertise while you still can! We wish her all the very best as she prepares to welcome her new arrival. Watch this space for her temporary replacement!



Improving Attendance Together

The whole school attendance stands at **95.2%**, this is a small increase from Term 3 and higher than the last two years' Term 4 attendance so well done everyone!

Thank you for your ongoing support in encouraging your children to attend school, even on days when they may not be feeling their best. This is making a significant difference—not only in improving attendance, but also in supporting children's learning and progress. If you are ever unsure, we encourage you to send your child into school, knowing that we will always contact you if we feel they are too unwell to stay. The only time we ask that children do not attend is if they have a high temperature.

We would also like to express our appreciation to all families for their continued commitment to good attendance. Being in school every day is essential for children's development and well-being. By working together, we can continue to build on this positive momentum and further strengthen attendance as the year progresses.

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%
4	94.1%	94.4%	95.2%

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
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
6.5.26	Year 3 Living Land Trip – details to follow
11.5.26	Key Stage 2 SATs week starts
11.5.26	Year 5 Kent Life Trip Maya Technology and Temples workshop
14.5.26 at 3.20pm	Year 5 Kent Test parents session
15.5.26 at 3.20pm	FOLHS Picnic on the Playground – details to follow
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	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
5.6.26	FOLHS Non-uniform day, bring a bottle for the tombola
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 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 Gulbenkian Theatre Trip – details to follow
30.6.26	Year 1 Tyland Barn Trip – details to follow
July	Try Something New month
1.7.26	Year 6 Parliament trip – details to follow
3.7.26	Year 2 Leeds Castle Trip– details to follow
3.7.26 at 2.00pm	FOLHS AGM
7.7.26 am	Transition morning
7.7.26 – 1.30 and 6.00pm	Year 6 Performance to parents
10.7.26	Cheerleading Taster Day
10.7.26 at 3.30pm	FOLHS Summer Fair
14.7.26	Transition morning
17.7.26 at 4.30-6.00pm	FOLHS Summer Disco
21.7.26 at 1.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Service
21.7.26 at 2.15pm	End of the year!!!

