Honesty, Respect, Kindness, Perseverance	# Lower Halstow School Newsletter May 2026 **www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk**
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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

It is hard to believe that Term 5 has come to an end and that the close of the academic year is fast approaching. We still have so much to fit in, so Term 6 will be a super busy one, especially as Lower Halstow School begins to celebrate its 150th birthday, also known as a ***sesquicentennial***! More information about this and the other events planned for Term 6 can be found in the main body of this newsletter as well as the calendar section.

As we moved through this busy term, we were so proud of the dedication and enthusiasm our pupils continued to show across the school. We want to say a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils, who worked incredibly hard in the build up to their SATs. Their focus, resilience and positive attitudes have been truly impressive, we're so proud of each and every one of them! A big thank you also goes to all our staff, throughout the school, who have supported the children at every stage of their learning journey. The majority of the SATs papers actually test content that isn't covered in Year 6 so it is definitely a team effort.

Term 6 brings statutory phonics screening for our Year 1 pupils (and some Year 2 pupils) and multiplication screening checks for our Year 4 pupils. We are sure they will confidently take these in their stride. EYFS will also be benchmarked next term, but hopefully they will be oblivious to the assessment processes as they continue to 'play to learn' as usual!

A few reminders

* Please apply sunscreen before school, bring in a sunhat and a water bottle.
* End of year reports will come out when data is released to us (final full week of term).
* Nail varnish, false nails, fake hair pieces are not permitted.
* Trainers should be plain black.
* Any jumpers that are worn should be royal blue, no other coloured jumpers are permitted.
* Snacks for breaktime should only consist of the following:

KS1 – Fruit or vegetables (these are provided by the school, but home fruit/veg is also fine).
KS2 – Healthy snacks (low sugar/salt): no crisps, chocolate, sweets, cakes or biscuits.

* Please, please continue to listen to your child read at home. Practising reading with your child will help them to remember what they have learned in school and make this stick.

Best wishes
Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Mini Marathon, Mighty Effort!

At the start of Term 5 we were proud to join thousands of schools across the country in taking part in the TCS Mini London Marathon in Schools. Pupils embraced the challenge with great enthusiasm, running, jogging or walking their way through two miles. There were plenty of rosy cheeks and out-of-breath moments, but even more smiles as each child crossed the finish line. Every effort was celebrated, with all children taking part and receiving a certificate. In total, 198 pupils, along with many members of staff, joined in. The school was full of excitement, with posters displayed and bunting decorating the running track to create a real event atmosphere.

A Natural Masterpiece for a National Treasure

Our pupils recently came together in a wonderful celebration of creativity, teamwork and nature to honour the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough.

Children from across the school worked collaboratively to create a giant "100" using only natural materials. They gathered leaves, sticks, petals, stones and other treasures from both the school grounds and their homes, thoughtfully arranging them into a beautiful piece of natural art. The project not only encouraged creativity but also helped the children connect with the natural world—something Sir David has inspired generations to protect and appreciate.

Once completed, a photograph of the stunning artwork was proudly sent to David Attenborough as a special birthday tribute from our school.

To mark the occasion, pupils also took part in a live assembly, joining other schools online to learn more about Sir David's incredible achievements and lifelong dedication to wildlife and conservation. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to celebrate together, reflect on his impact and feel part of a much bigger community.

We are incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm, teamwork and thoughtful effort in creating such a meaningful tribute. What a wonderful way to celebrate 100 years of inspiring the world!

Going Wild for Nature – Silver Success!

We are delighted to share that our school was one of only 13 schools in Kent to have been awarded the Silver Wilder Kent Award in 2026 in recognition of our commitment to being environmentally friendly. This achievement reflects the hard work and enthusiasm of our pupils, particularly our dedicated Eco Ambassadors, ably led by Mrs Long.

They have played a key role in leading initiatives across the school, over the past year, the children have taken part in litter picks, carried out energy-saving actions around the school and have learnt more about how they can help protect the environment. They have also been busy planting trees, bulbs and plants to encourage wildlife, as well as collecting rainwater and exploring sustainable ways to care for our surroundings. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and of the positive impact they are making. This award is a wonderful recognition of their commitment to helping care for the natural world.

Sunshine, Smiles and Teddy Bear Picnics

What a wonderful day we had at our recent Teddy Bears' Picnic! After several chilly and rainy days, the weather was finally kind to us and the sun made a very welcome appearance just in time for our special event. Children and staff came to school in non-uniform, bringing along their favourite teddy bears to join in the fun. It was lovely to see so many well-loved companions enjoying the day alongside the children!

Everyone had a fantastic time eating hotdogs together outside on picnic blankets, making the most of the sunshine and the chance to picnic with friends. A particular highlight of the day was the ice cream station, enthusiastically run by Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe. The children were delighted to choose from a range of delicious toppings and sauces, all carefully selected by our school council.

The day was filled with laughter, smiles and a real sense of community. It was a joy to see everyone relaxing, enjoying the outdoors and sharing such a special time together.

150 Years of Learning, Laughter and Legacy

As mentioned in our introduction, this year marks an incredibly special milestone for our school as we celebrate our 150th birthday—a true sesquicentennial celebration! We are excited to share the many ways our children and community are coming together to honour the rich history of Lower Halstow School.

The celebrations are already well underway, with all pupils taking part in an ambitious drone photograph on the school field, where they gathered together to form the numerals 150. This was a memorable experience for everyone involved, and we are pleased that every child will receive a copy to keep as a lasting reminder of this historic occasion courtesy of the Friends of Lower Halstow School.

Creativity is also shining through as children submit their entries for our commemorative logo competition. Pupils have been tasked with designing a special "150" school logo, with the winning design being proudly featured on t-shirts that children can wear as part of their school uniform.

As part of the celebrations, children will also be learning about the fascinating history of our school, with sources of evidence dating all the way back to the 1800s. To mark this moment in time, pupils will be contributing to a time capsule, filled with memories and items that represent life at our school today. This will be buried in the school grounds for future generations to discover.

A highlight of our celebrations will take place on Friday 17th July, when we will come together to bury the time capsule and enjoy a street party on the playground. The day will be filled with music,

food and games for all to enjoy. Parents and Carers will have the opportunity to book a picnic lunch from Caterlink—further details will be shared soon. **On this special day, children are invited to come dressed in costumes/period dress from any period between 1876 and the present day (nothing scary, please).**

For the autumn term celebrations - we are creating a commemorative history booklet, filled with memories from past and present pupils and staff about their time at Lower Halstow School. We would love to include contributions from our wider school community too—if you have a memory you would like to share, please submit it to the school office.

We will also be potentially opening up the school one evening in Autumn for the community to have tea and tours, and to come together to remember times gone by.

This is a truly special time for our school, and we are so proud to celebrate 150 years of learning, growth and community together. Here's to the next chapter in our story!

Improving Attendance Together

The whole school attendance stands at 95.1%, this is slightly down on last term however still higher than at this point in the last two years so well done everyone for working together on this, it shows the positive impact of everyone's efforts—thank you to all families and pupils for your continued support in making attendance a priority.

While this is encouraging, we know there is still room for improvement. Our aim is to ensure every child is in school as often as possible so they can make the most of their learning opportunities, build strong friendships and feel part of our school community every day. Even small improvements in attendance can make a big difference over time. Arriving on time each day and avoiding unnecessary absences really helps children to keep up with their learning and feel confident in the classroom.

We will continue to celebrate good attendance across the school and support families where needed. Together, we can build on this positive progress and aim even higher in the months ahead—every day really does count!

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%
5	94.3%	94.4%	95.1%

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
1.6.26	**Start of Term 6 – Children return**
1.6.26 am	Class Photos – new date due to the previous company cancelling
Wk beg 1.6.26	Class Charity Week activities – see separate letter for details
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
8.6.26	Year R – 5 French Day
9.6.26 am	Year R Hearing and Vision screening
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**
22.6.26 am	Chelsea Football Club coaches working with children in Year 1 - 6
23.6.26 pm	Year R Gulbenkian Theatre Trip – letter already sent
30.6.26	Year 1 Tyland Barn Trip – details to follow
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
8.7.26 am	The Art of Brilliance Workshops – Year 4 - 6
10.7.26	Try Something New Activity Day including cheerleading, Kung Fu and lots more
10.7.26 at 3.30pm	FOLHS Summer Fair
14.7.26	Transition morning
17.7.26	Street Party Day Dress in a period of costume between 1876 and present day
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!!!

Academic Year 2026-27

Date	Event
2.9.26	Term 1 begins
SDDS 2026-27	
1.9.26	
23.10.26	
4.1.27	
21.6.27	
21.7.27	