

Lower Halstow Primary School



@LowerHalstowSch

Welcome to our School

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Our Federation Values: respect, honesty, kindness, perseverance

"One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say."

Bryant H. McGill



"No legacy is so rich as honesty."

William Shakespeare



"Perseverance, secret of all triumphs."

Victor Hugo



"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in giving creates love."

Lao Tzu



Our Vision

Respect Honesty Kindness Perseverance

We are a learning community working to make a difference to children's lives. Our schools are happy, vibrant, well cared for places where everyone is welcome.

We show good manners and honesty and treat each other with respect and kindness.

We work in collaboration to nurture growth and independence.

High expectations are the norm and we persevere to become the best we can be.

Welcome from Tara Deevoy, Executive Headteacher

I hope that this prospectus gives you a small flavour of the sort of education you can expect from our schools.

The leadership team and I share a very clear vision for education based on sound academic research, the highest of aspirations for all children and genuine warmth and care. Working together is key and we host termly open evenings for you to look at books and chat to your child's teacher alongside the usual parents' evening.

You'll also get regular invitations to express events and class assemblies, where the children share their work with a wider audience. We aim to ensure that your child leaves us with wonderful memories of their primary years, confident in themselves and with the skills needed to succeed in secondary education and life. High academic expectations are a given and we ask all our parents to reflect this at home by committing to reading regularly and supporting the learning of spellings and tables.

However, this does not mean that our schools are mini-exam factories focused purely on SATs and the Kent Test. Outstanding results come from fantastic teaching and an engaging curriculum. Our successful partnerships with many organisations mean our pupils get opportunities to explore their interests and the world beyond our school gates. If you haven't already, I would urge to visit one of our schools to speak to the staff and pupils about what it means to be part of our learning community.



Welcome from Miss Crowe, Head of School

I am very proud to be the Head of School at Lower Halstow Primary School, I believe that this is a great school to learn in and to experience new opportunities. We are a friendly, caring and welcoming school and are fortunate to have lovely grounds. This is mirrored inside with our creative displays and inviting classroom environments.

Our teachers work hard to make the curriculum exciting and engaging; check out our Instagram and you will see what our classes get up to. We pride ourselves on preparing children for their future whatever their interests and talents, we aim to equip our children for their next steps in education and beyond. Learning and development is at the heart of what we do and we ensure that every decision we make is centered on the children. I am fortunate to have a great team of staff and governors who all work towards making every child's time at our school the best that it could be.

I would like to thank you for reading our prospectus and taking the time to find out about the work we do to educate and care for the children who attend Lower Halstow Primary School. I hope that you will be able to see for yourself what a wonderful place it is to learn and work in.



Message from Peter Marshall, Chair of Governors

As chair of governors for the federation it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the fantastic work going on in our schools. The learning environments reflect the aspirations of our communities and the heart and soul of each school. Myself and the governors provide challenge and support for the leadership teams to ensure that we can confidently state that the education provided is of very high quality and that children in our schools are thriving.



Starting School

Transition: If you choose Lower Halstow as the school for your child we will invite you and your child to attend a couple of sessions in July where they will enjoy a story with their new class teacher, they can then stay and play in the classroom. Our staff will also visit your child at their nursery or pre-school setting wherever possible. We also have an evening just for parents where you can try school dinners, buy uniform, find out about our curriculum, meet the team and ask questions. In September all children begin school full-time, however, we operate a 'Flexible Fortnight' where you can choose to send your child to school part-time. We can accommodate part-time requests beyond this date via separate agreement.

Free fruit and milk: The government funds free milk for all under 5s; once your child turns 5 you are welcome to continue paying for the milk. At break times the children will also receive a piece of fruit or a vegetable to eat, this is also funded by the government until the children leave Key Stage 1 (Year 2).

Universal Free School Meals: Until your child reaches the end of Key Stage 1 they will also be entitled to have a funded school meal every day. If they choose to only have it on certain days of the week this can also be arranged.

Buddy System: To help your child settle into school we allocate each child a Year 6 'buddy' who will support them at lunchtime and ensure they know where to go and that they have someone to play with.

Uniform: Our school colour is royal blue. Please see the school uniform flyer for full details of where you can purchase the necessary items. We are committed to keeping costs down and therefore logoed items are not compulsory and we have several suppliers, including supermarkets. Your child will spend a great deal of time outside so please also provide wellies too.



Times of the day

Classrooms open: 8.30am

School starts: 8.45am

Key Stage 1 Morning Break: 10.15am – 10.30am

Key Stage 2 Morning Break: 10.30am – 10.45am KS1

Lunch: 11.45am – 12.45pm

KS2 Lunch: 12.15pm – 1.15pm

School finishes: 3.15pm

Term Dates

As a local authority school, we follow the Kent term dates.

These can be found on the link below
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/term-dates>

We also set 5 staff development days each year when the children do not attend.

These can be found on our website.



Chestnut Tree Corner Child Care

Wrap around childcare is provided on site by our own staff as part of our Chestnut Tree Corner childcare, they offer a range of options to cater for differing childcare needs.

The amount of time that you require is reflected in the price. We offer a breakfast club starting at 7.15am, as well as after school care which is open until 5.30pm. During these sessions they provide breakfast, snack or light tea as well as playing games and doing activities with the children. We run our own wide variety of clubs after school which the Chestnut Tree Corner staff will collect from if required. For further information please feel free to e-mail them at chestnuttree@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk

The Curriculum in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Children starting school join our Reception Class (Year R) and follow our Foundation Stage. This framework was updated in 2020.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is mandatory for all schools. It sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. It is a principled, play based approach. The seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The three prime areas are:

- Communication and Language
 - Physical Development
 - Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- children are also supported in four specific areas.

The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

A key aspect of our provision is our high child: adult ratios which allow us to teach phonics and Math's daily in small groups. The needs of child with an August 31st birthday can vary significantly from a child who is already 5 when starting school so and we tailor all teaching to support or stretch those who need it.



Characteristics of effective learning

The Early Years Foundation Stage has always highlighted the importance of how as well as what children learn. Staff reflect on the different ways they learn, and then reflect these in their practice. Learning is delivered through planned, purposeful play with a balance of adult led and child-initiated activities called 'continuous provision'. This approach carries on into Y1 meaning the children have a smooth transition into the national curriculum requirements in an early year's style. We have found great success with this approach and higher standards going into more formal learning in Year 2.

The different characteristics of effective learning are;

Playing and exploring

- finding out and exploring
- playing with what they know
- being willing to have a go

Active learning

- being involved and concentrating
- keeping on trying
- enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically

- having their own ideas
- making links
- choosing ways to do things and finding new ways



Regular stay and play sessions are held during the year; parents have the opportunity to come into the classroom and learn alongside their child. The curriculum is heavily play based and parental voice is valued.

Staffing

We currently have a teacher and teaching assistant in every class and additional teaching assistants providing extra support when needed. We also have specialist staff including sports coaches and Speech and Language HLTAs who work across the Federation. Please see our website for details on our staff.

Homework

In the EYFS termly homework is set for the children. A list of practical activities are provided and families can choose which activities they would like to do. We also send home reading books and high frequency words to practice.

Assemblies

We have a daily assembly led by Miss Crowe, a teacher, a visitor from the clergy or member of the local community. We practise singing as well as celebrate learning and individual achievements. Our Friday celebration assemblies are a real highlight of the week!

Attendance

Please see our attendance flyer which outlines our expectations, the process for reporting absence, as well as how we can support you with your child's attendance.



Friends of Lower Halstow School (FOLHS)

Our FOLHS work tirelessly to raise funds for the school and provide enriching experiences for the children. This can only be achieved through the support of the wider parent body, with core functions being carried out by a small committee. They provide Christmas and Easter gifts, host discos, BBQs and a range of other events throughout the year. They volunteer, apply for grants, build equipment and organise personalised Christmas cards to name just a few. You name it the FOLHS will try it. You can be as involved or not as you wish but we ask that everyone supports their hard work.

Partnership working

Whilst we are a small school with a family ethos we have high aspirations for all our pupils. Each year more pupils than the Kent average progress to grammar schools and we have established partnerships with a range of organisations in order to provide opportunities for our pupils to experience the wider world. Our annual Meet the Experts careers event is a great example of the extensive business and educational links we have. Other examples include visiting local universities for events, working on environmental issues such as the Lower Halstow 'Save our Seawall' project and the Wilder Kent Awards, taking part in mastery workshops led by our secondary partners and our Science week where the school hall is transformed into a giant laboratory. As part of the federation, we plan together and share staff with Newington which enable us to continually improve and reflect on our practice. We also work closely with other local schools in our 'alliance' partnership, collaborating on joint initiatives to offer the best possible experience for our pupils.



Above: Pupils and staff being presented with our Silver Wilder Kent award by TV presenter, Rob Smith.



Right: Pupils and staff from Lower Halstow and Newington schools at the University of Kent with Tony Antonelli who piloted space shuttle Discovery!

Visits

As part of our commitment to delivering an active and inspiring curriculum, pupils have the opportunity to go on a range of local visits as well as having visitors, experiences and workshops come into school.

Each class also undertakes one 'larger' visit per year travelling further afield with support from our lovely FOLHS.

School Website

Please check out our website as you will find a wealth of information and documents about our school, including our Behaviour Policy (using our positive approach) along with other policies such as Anti-Bullying and Relationships and Sex Education. Our website also contains information on how we support pupils with SEN as well as the local offer. The website address is: www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk. Check out our Instagram: @LowerHalstowSch

Don't just take our word for it, here's what the children say.....

'Learning at our school is fun because we find things out that we didn't know before.'

'I think that my teachers are great because they help me out a lot and they make learning fun'

'I love the abundance of books and the Reading Program.' Sian, Year 6

'This school is very good because it makes me feel safe and happy'. Oliver

'I love singing when it's assembly time.' Freya Year 6

'I really like Reading Club because I love reading books.' Olivia Year 2

'I think it's good that we are in Houses because we can earn house-points for our team and we can all work together.'

'Our teachers make learning fun because we play games and learn at the same time.' Maddie Year 4

