

Lower Halstow Primary School



**KINDNESS
PERSEVERENCE
RESPECT
HONESTY**

School Lane, Lower Halstow, Kent ME9 7ES T: 01795 842344
www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk Instagram @lowerhalstowsch

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We are at the end of another busy year at Lower Halstow! This summer, site improvements will continue, with KCC carrying out upgrades to our heating and water systems, alongside our own redecoration and new flooring in some areas.

As we prepare for the new academic year, funding remains a key focus. Moving to online permissions and electronic reporting last year saved the school over £2,000 in printing costs, allowing us to redirect funds towards resources and experiences for the children. Thank you for your support and perseverance in using our various communication and booking systems - we know school administration can feel overwhelming, so do try to minimise the number of messages.

We are also extremely grateful for all your other contributions. This has meant visitors and trips have continued at the same level despite rising costs. FoLHS have once again done a fantastic job; subsidising trips, purchasing resources and enriching school life through the many events that children look forward to throughout the year.

You may have seen the Department for Education has released new enrichment benchmarks for schools. Enrichment has always been central to the Lower Halstow offer, but we will need to align and re-label some activities. However, all the children's favourite experiences will remain, and after-school enrichment clubs will continue at the same price, with subsidised places available for families eligible for targeted free school meals funding.

As always, the staff, led by Miss Crowe, have gone above and beyond to provide these exciting and memorable learning opportunities. Class Dojo posts and the memorable moments on the end-of-year reports highlighted the joy the children bring to school every day. Despite the challenges we all face, there is always something to celebrate and smile about.

Starting our 150th Anniversary celebrations on Friday with a whole school picnic and dress up day quickly turned into a party on the field under the trees with dancing and games. The Lower Halstow joyful spirit was in abundance.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lower Halstow team. We wish you a restful summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 2nd September.

Kind regards

Mrs Deevoy

NOTE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

On behalf of the governors, I would like to say thank you to Mrs Deevoy and all the staff and leaders for their hard work this year in helping the children reach their full potential. This year we have continued our success with very positive feedback from the Local Authority and achieving the Gold School Games Award for the high level of sport and physical activity happening in school for the third year running. We also hit a high note with a visit to the Royal Opera House!



As ever, your role as parents is very important and looking at data it is clear that the children who attend regularly have continued to achieve well in school. As a result of your support, attendance is still broadly in line with national averages. This means even more pupils have benefitted from the great teaching going on in school and the progress outcomes for pupils reflect this.

This year marks my 50th year as a governor and I am looking forward to the 150th celebrations which will continue in the autumn. I think past headteachers would be proud of everything the community has achieved together.

Have an enjoyable break and stay safe and well.

Peter Marshall
(Chair of Governors)

HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT and COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT

Last week the DfE released new guidance stating that they expect parents to

- value daily attendance
- be supportive of school policies
- be willing and active participants in their children's learning
- be respectful towards school staff

They also reference schools having home school agreements. Further to issues earlier in the year leaders and governors had already written agreements for use in September. For the vast majority of parents, these documents won't even need consideration as you always go above and beyond what is expected in our partnership and conduct yourselves impeccably. The aim is to ensure that those who do not currently meet these expectations have a reference point and clear guidance. These will be circulated via MCAS.

STAFFING

There are no changes to staff in September. Mrs Jeffery and Mrs Boswell will be working extra hours to support well-being in school. Mrs Harris will also be back fully from maternity leave, having returned for a few days this term. Mrs Mugeford has chosen not to return from maternity leave and we wish her all the best spending time with her daughter.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB



Chestnut Tree Corner are running several activity days during the holidays. However, our closest full daycare holiday club run by Martin Forbes (who runs our sports clubs) is at Napier Primary in Gillingham, so if you require childcare, just click the 'book now' button on his website <https://www.mfse.org.uk/>

THANKYOUS

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

The church host us for special celebrations and also provide regular assemblies for the children. Teresa Parker, John Guest are frequent visitors, and although Rev Amanda Lane is now Priest in Charge of the Benefice of the Six, she still finds time to come in.

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteer readers and club leaders have a key role to play and we all benefit from them giving freely of their time. They deserve a special mention as they make a real difference to the children they work with. It was lovely to be able to invite them in again, as special guests, to a volunteers' tea party organised by the school council, hosted in the canteen with the aircon on full blast to stop the cakes from drooping!

FRIENDS OF LOWER HALSTOW SCHOOL (FoLHS)

FoLHS have once again done an amazing job of raising money for the school and providing enriching experiences for the children. Thank you to everyone on this year's committee: Rachael Dyke and Lucy Jessey (Co-chairs), Claire Parsons (Treasurer), Stacey Marsh (Secretary) for their time and dedication to the school and to all the parents who volunteered at events to ensure that the children had a great time. All money raised goes directly towards the children's education. At the recent AGM the 2026 team were voted in and they have already been in meeting with Miss Crowe to plan events for next year. Please ensure you give them your full support.

CHARITY WEEK

Charity week is an important event within our personal development curriculum in school. Each class chooses their charity, then organizes and leads their own fundraising activity with minimal input from staff. Each year the school council vote on the list of charity suggestions which includes every single suggestion from across the whole school! They narrow this list down to an international charity, a national charity and a local charity. Classes then make their choice from this list.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their efforts in raising money and awareness for three very worthy causes this term. Through a variety of fun and engaging events – including car-washing and a lemonade stall. The children raised an impressive total for each charity. The amounts raised were:

- Kent Wildlife Trust £255.42 (YR and Y4)
- Childline £114.05 (Y5)
- Wateraid £189.25 (Y1,2,3,6)

A big thank you to all families and friends who supported these events!

HOUSE POINT WINNERS



On **sports day**, last year's winners Hever were beaten into second place by Rochester, with Rochester coming out on top with 1193 points!

1st	Rochester	1193
2nd	Hever	1127
3rd	Dover	1070
4th	Leeds	1023



Last year's overall winners Rochester have done it again, amassing a huge 14,280 points, with clear water between them and the other houses. Well done Rochester!

1 st	Rochester	14,280
2 nd	Hever	13,194
3 rd	Dover	13,036
4 th	Leeds	12,072

CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND TUCK SHOP

The government have expanded the free school meals offer to include all families in receipt of any kind of universal credit as well as those on a low income. If you think that you may be eligible please do apply via the KCC portal.

[Apply for free school meals - Kent County Council](#)

Please see the September information below for changes required for the tuck shop.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 2nd September



SEPTEMBER INFORMATION

CLUBS

Extra-Curricular Clubs will be running from the **second full week of term. Monday 14th September**. Please look out for notifications on MCAS for booking.

ENTRY TO SCHOOL

Classrooms open at **8.30am** and pupils need to be in school by **8.45am** at the latest.

Y1 – Y6 please continue to drop your children at the main gate. New YR parents will be dropping on the playground and we want to keep things calm and quiet on site at the start of the day for everyone.

PICK UP FROM SCHOOL

3.15pm pick-up for everyone. Please can everyone remember to stand where the class teacher can see you to allow us to dismiss the children quickly. If you want your child to walk home please ensure you have emailed the office with permission for this.

SNACKS & TUCKSHOP

Tuck shop for KS2 pupils will be starting from Monday 7th September run by Year 6. Therefore, please provide a suitable break-time snack for the first few days back – fruit, raisins, savoury crackers etc. Please note that from September there will only be **boxes of raisins and plain rice cakes** for sale daily as we are limited by the new school food standards. There will also be some fruit and veg subject to availability. Everything will still be 20p. EYFS & KS1 are provided with fruit by the school, so no break-time snack is needed. If you do send a snack, this needs to be a fruit or vegetable.

PACKED LUNCHES

Please save the chocolate and sweets for home. These will be removed from packed lunches as they adversely affect afternoon learning, so please do not put them in lunchboxes as this causes unnecessary upset. Please use common sense, for example, cereal bars containing a few chocolate drops & Fruit Winders are fine, but snacks such as chocolate covered raisins are not, as these always melt and cause a mess. Plain raisins are just as sweet.

WATER BOTTLES

Pupils need to bring their own clearly named water bottle – any bottles with juice will be emptied and replaced with water so please only send water in. Juice boxes etc. can be included in packed lunches.

BAGS

Book bags & drawstring bags only. Just a reminder about this rule. If your child brings a large rucksack the contents will be put in a named carrier bag which they can hang on their peg and the rucksack sent to the office to be collected by parents. The school is now full, with more children than it was built for, so we are really pushed for hanging space and this rule keeps corridors safe and clear for everyone. Thank you for continuing to help with this. Overnight bags can be handed to the office who will look after them until pick up.

UNIFORM

www.forsterskent.co.uk

The 'active' uniform, which was introduced fully in Sept 2023, continues to work really well, saving both time - with children not getting changed for PE - and money. This also enables greater levels of other physical activity outside of PE lessons.

We continue to ask pupils to wear their royal blue sweatshirts/cardigans/fleece/150th sports zip-up everyday including PE days. **No other sportswear is permitted.**

Our active uniform consists of the following:

Footwear PLAIN black trainers / trainer style shoes. The children run every day and need suitable footwear. NO LACES unless your child can tie their own shoes.

Tops Plain/logoed white polo shirt
Plain/logoed royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan/fleece/150th sports zip-up
(optional plain white round necked t-shirt on PE days if you wish)

Bottoms PLAIN black, navy blue or dark grey leggings, shorts or jersey jogging bottoms

Summer dresses are still part of our uniform.

Children can still wear hand-me-down legacy grey items if you have siblings in school. But please do not purchase new 'traditional' uniform items. Legacy items should not be worn in YR or KS1 as they undertake daily physical activities. Plain black school shoes are still permitted if you prefer, but they ***should be suitable for active playtimes*** and sporting activities, including PE lessons.

Our 'New to You' uniform is still available and offers a range of items in different sizes. If there are any items that you are interested in, please send an e-mail into the school office and Mrs Fox will prepare some items for your perusal. We have rescued hundreds off pounds worth of uniform from landfill with this initiative as well as raising some funds for the school – thank you for your support!

Other Uniform Reminders

Only small **stud** earrings are permitted and pupils must be able to remove these themselves for PE. If your child arrives at school with hooped hearings, they will be asked to remove them.

Long hair should be tied back. Please help us keep everyone lice free! Bows in hair should be small. Save the giant neon JoJo bows and fake hair extensions for parties rather than the classroom please.

Please ensure your child has named wellies, coat, hat, sunscreen as appropriate for the weather as we will continue to use the school grounds for outdoor learning and the British weather is notoriously changeable.