



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

@Lowerhalstowsch

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

April 2019

www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk

Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Thank you to everyone who attended the latest parent afternoon meeting. We outlined our plans following our successful Ofsted Inspection. We are continuing with a Maths focus, so please look out for your child's log in to Times Table Rockstars, which is a system we have purchased with home access for all pupils. We will also be continuing to roll out our Maths mastery curriculum as this is showing promising improvements which need longer to embed in KS2. Similarly, our provision for more able learners, which has been successful in KS1 needs to be accelerated in KS2 as the curriculum changes we have brought in progress. We will keep you posted with developments.

Some of you will be aware of the funding issues facing schools nationally. Lower Halstow has been immune to these pressures for the past 3 or 4 years due to expansion funding, which has provided resources, support staff and teachers. This funding amounted to an additional £70,000 a year on average but will be stopped in August. We are in discussion with the local authority, as we are having to find significant savings to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds. However, the governors and leadership are committed to ensuring that the quality of education is not affected by this. We have a full reception class in September and if this continues then the school will be in a good position in the future, but unfortunately we have 1 or 2 year groups with very low numbers which result in over £100 000 missing from our budget but the same costs to cover.

Consultation

A consultation document regarding a proposed change to the end of the school day is coming out in hard copy this week, please read this and reply using the attached slip. It is important we get as many replies as possible to build an accurate picture of parental views.

Fundraising

Thank you all for your continued generosity. We raised £269.92 for Comic Relief, which was excellent. We also need to thank the PFA, who have been very busy fundraising - their most recent event being the Easter Egg Hunt and cake sale with 108 children taking part. This raised a fantastic £232.09! This money helped fund the Easter treats from the PFA. Well done to Olivia from Beech and Ellie from Willow for winning the Easter colouring competition.



Learning Celebrations

As I am sure you are aware from our communications with you and the photos on Twitter; we have had an extremely busy term! We welcomed lots of visitors to the school: the baby chicks, M and M theatre group and Teddy the Easter bunny to name just a few! We have also enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book characters, wearing red for Comic Relief, pancake races and visiting the church for our Easter Service.





Outdoor Learning

As the weather improves and we head towards the summer we are expanding our outdoor learning programme by visiting 'Little Wild Things' in the grounds adjacent to the school field. The benefits of learning outside the classroom are well established, so all classes will have the opportunity to visit during the summer terms and will complete a range of activities appropriate to their age and linked to their learning in class.

Reach for the Stars



For the next two terms we are following the theme of 'Reach for the Stars' (linked to 50th anniversary of walking on the moon). As a school we have planned a range of exciting activities for the children to participate in, including lots of different workshops, astronaut training for the whole school, careers events and our main event a 'Big Me' Day where everyone dresses up as the job they want to do when they grow up. So budding paleontologists, architects, artists, mechanics, doctors, teachers, nurses etc. need to start having a look at what the grown ups wear to work!

A couple of small reminders:

- Uniform for the girls is **grey** skirts or trousers not leggings (but these can be worn underneath for extra warmth).
- Footwear should be **completely black** with no coloured logos or detailing.
- For safety, please use the pedestrian gate and zebra crossing rather than the vehicle gate.
- Don't forget to send your children in with a sunhat and suncream (we will ask them to apply this themselves, but will help little ones if needed).

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
25.4.19	Whole School fire talks and presentation
May 19	Key Stage 1 SAT assessments (mornings)
7.5.19-10.5.19	Year 5 Bikeability
10.5.19	Year 1, 2 and 3 Peter Pan drama workshop
13.5.19-17.5.19	Key Stage 2 SATs week
20.5.19-22.5.19	Year 6 School Journey
21.5.19	Willow Class Assembly
22.5.19	Year 6 Greenwich trip
23.5.19	Dogs Trust assembly and workshops – whole school
24.5.19	Term 5 ends
3.6.19	Term 6 begins
4.6.19	KS2 Astrodome
6.6.19	Year 6 Magistrates talk
10.6.19	Year 6 First Aid Course
10.5.19-14.5.19	Year 1 Phonics Screening Test (individual)
11.6.19	Year 6 World of Work day
12.6.19	Sports Day (PM)
13.6.19	Big Me Dressing up day
18.6.19	Year 6 Finance Workshop
18.6.19	Science Show and workshop – Yr2 - 5
19.6.19	Reserve Sports Day (PM)
20.6.19	Parent Discussion Forum 2.30 for 2.45pm
25.6.19	Rowan Class Assembly
26.6.19	Year 6 Together Day with Hartlip and Newington
2.7.19	KS2 Dress Rehearsal (PM)
3.7.19	KS2 Production to parents (2 PM)
4.7.19	KS2 Production to parents (6 PM)
5.7.19	Athlete Visit
8.7.19	Talent Show to parents PM
8.7.19-12.7.19	Values Week (art focus) Transition week
9.7.19	Acorn Class Assembly
12.7.19	Leavers' Disco – TBC
15.7.19	Music Showcase to parents PM
19.7.19	Year 6 Leavers Show to Year 6 parents and school (9.15 AM)
19.7.19	Term 6 ends
22.7.19 & 23.7.19	Staff Development Days