

Lower Halstow Primary School



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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I hope that everyone has had a lovely summer and has managed some family activities as lockdown restrictions have been slowly lifted. Staff have been busy during the summer planning and I've been updating policies and risk assessments along with reading and rereading the government guidance for schools. We feel well prepared to welcome everyone back.

The start of a new year is always exciting and nerve-wracking and this year is no different. If your child is nervous about coming back please reassure them that we have lots of safety measures in place and lots of exciting activities planned, particularly for the first few days.

I have created several documents to provide information for staff and parents. These have all been put on the federation website on our coronavirus information page. Please have a look if you want to find out about what we are doing. The 'Information for parents' contains FAQs.

I will be dividing my time between both schools daily until the new routines are established so I look forward to welcoming your children back at some point on Thursday.

Kind regards

Tara Deevoy
(Executive Headteacher)



KINDNESS

PERSEVERENCE

RESPECT

HONESTY

Contents

**Welcome
note from Mrs
Deevoy**

**Microsoft
Teams**

**Dates for
Diary**

**Breakfast and
Afterschool
club**

**PE Kits &
Uniform**

**September
Arrangements**

UPGRADE TO OFFICE 365 & MICROSOFT TEAMS

When lockdown hit, we already had a learning platform (Purple Mash) in place and were also able to set up extra platforms such as Dojo quickly to help share more work. All schools have been tasked with finding a longer term solution to remote learning, with schools being able to choose between Microsoft and Google. During the summer we upgraded our email and IT storage systems and therefore will be rolling out Microsoft Teams to everyone to allow a wider range of online learning to take place if another lockdown occurs or if a class need to isolate for any reason.



We will be learning how it works alongside you and staff are all being trained by the company next week. We will keep you posted with latest developments!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 3rd September	First day of Autumn term
Monday 14th September	First official day for new reception pupils
Friday 25TH September	European Day of Languages 'Hello in 5 languages'
Tuesday 29th September	School Photos
Friday 2nd October	Times Table Rock Stars (KS2) & Numbots (FS/KS1) Launch
Thursday 15th October	Kent Test
Friday 16th October	Boxing fitness taster sessions (TBC)
Thursday 22nd October	Flu immunisations

I have reposted the organizational information from my July newsletter below for reference. Please also check the school website if you would like further information.

SEPTEMBER INFORMATION

BREAKFAST AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

Tetita will be running the breakfast and afterschool club for Lower Halstow pupils only from September until restrictions are lifted and Newington pupils can join us. Their bubbles will mirror the phase bubbles in school but siblings will be able to mix. They will be meeting parents at the gate at set times for drop off and pick up and will be taking each child directly to their classroom at their start time and meeting them at their finish time. They will run their times to accommodate our staggered start and finish times. For more information and contact details please go to www.tetitachildcare.uk



PE KIT - CHANGES

From September pupils will need to **wear their PE kit to school with their school jumper on PE days.** Changing in classrooms is not possible while ensuring people's belongings do not touch or pupils do not bump into each other. PE will initially be undertaken outside, so **we have added PLAIN black or grey jogging bottoms or leggings to our PE kit list.** This will extend the outdoor PE season. Pupils are welcome to wear their plain black or Blue PE shorts to school on warmer PE days.

Your child will be told their PE days on the first day back and will come home with a slip for you to pin up at home. These will also be posted on the school website for reference and on our sandwich board.

Please ensure that jumpers are clearly named, as these will no doubt be discarded all over the place once they warm up outside!

UNIFORM REMINDERS

We will be wearing full school uniform again in September. School shoes should be **plain black.** Plain black trainer style shoes or ankle boots are also acceptable. No logos, fur or coloured stripes.

Please remember that only small **stud** earrings are allowed in school and pupils must be able to remove these themselves for PE. If your child arrives at school with hooped earrings, they will be asked to remove them.

Don't forget Forsters in Sittingbourne now also stock our uniform along with School Trends online. So you can pop in there for last minute purchases or to try on jumpers etc. They are currently running an appointments system to limit the number of customers in store for everyone's safety.

If you don't wish to buy logoed items, then most supermarkets stock our royal blue school colour. Please do not buy navy as this is not our uniform.

Our 'New to You' uniform service will hopefully be up and running in October when restrictions ease.

WHAT CAN COME INTO SCHOOL?

- Pupils need to bring their own clearly named water bottle for use during lessons – any bottles with juice will be emptied and replaced with water so please only send water in. Other non-fizzy drinks cartons, squash bottles etc. can be put in lunchboxes as usual. We have pupil water bottles ready to
- Please ensure your child has coat, hat, sunscreen as appropriate for the weather as we will continue to learn outside whenever possible.
- Pupils should not bring rucksacks to school. Reading and contact book should be in a book bag or small 'drawstring style' rucksack with lunchboxes and water bottles carried separately if needed. For those pupils who require a change of clothing for 'accidents' please put this in a named carrier bag that can be kept in school until needed.
- Pupils need to bring in a snack for breaktime. The school fruit programme has been suspended and KS2 tuck shop cannot run until restrictions are lifted. Please do not send chocolate or sweets as these will be removed. Fruit or plain savoury snacks only. No crisps for breaktime please.
- No other items are permitted. All equipment will be provided by the school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Parents will continue to require an appointment to enter the site and all pupils will be dropped at the gate. If your child is reluctant to come in, please step to one side so that others may enter without delay.

The children have been divided into 'bubbles' – class sized groups. These 'bubbles' will not mix or share equipment with other bubbles. Children are not expected to social distance from each other, but rooms have been organized with desks facing forwards. Carpet spaces will be allocated in YR and we have arranged for new single tables to be in Y1 instead of circular tables.

Staff must make 'best endeavours' to social distance from the pupils and each other. This means that some of our usual 1:1 and small group work will look different.

MASKS

Due to social distancing requirements for adults in school it has been recommended that masks are not worn. However, these will remain optional for staff. The latest guidance states that children under the age of 11 have no need to wear masks. If you choose to send your child in wearing a mask, 2 fresh ones must be provided for after break & lunch and 2 sealable plastic sandwich bags provided for disposal/storage of the morning masks. This is due to the increased risk of infection spreading with the removal and adjustment of PPE. Staff have been trained in how to put on and remove PPE and there is a short NHS training video online which you should encourage your child to watch if they will be wearing a mask.

START AND FINISH TIMES

As usual for their first 2 weeks during their 'flexible fortnight' **new year R** pupils will be in school from 9.15 – 12 or 9.15 - 2.45 depending on what each family has chosen. After this time they will arrive and leave at the same time as year 1 and 2.

Families with siblings in different year groups can be dropped off together. **Please drop off with the earliest sibling and pick up with the latest sibling.** Staff will be in class to facilitate this. **We cannot release pupils early from lessons, due to movement restrictions around the building, so please arrive at the agreed time.** If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, we need to know at least 24 hrs in advance so that we can make arrangements for a staff member in their bubble to bring them to the school office via the external doors at the correct time. Please minimize appointments if you can as this means bringing a member of staff out of supporting lessons to do this.

Pupils will continue to use external doors to enter their classrooms. Staff will be on hand to guide them and all goodbyes need to be said at the main gate. We'll be there as usual to welcome the children with a smile.

	Gate	Start	End
Rec	Playground (EYFS gate)	9	3.10
1	Playground (Y1 gate)	9	3.10
2	Side (Y2 door)	9	3.10
3	Side (Y3 door)	8.45	3
4	Side (Y4 door)	8.30	2.50
5	Playground (Y5 door)	8.45	3
6	Playground (Y6 door)	8.30	2.50

I have attached a simplified version of the detailed guidance provided to staff showing where your child will play, what time they will have break and lunch and who will be supervising them. We have arranged for lunch staff and class staff to be the same for each bubble in order to limit the number of adults entering each bubble to supervise the children.

Our risk assessments have been updated over the holidays to reflect these new arrangements and I am confident that our control measures are sufficient to provide the safest environment possible during these challenging times. The increased hygiene and cleaning measures that have been used successfully during lockdown will continue and we will follow all new guidance provided. If we are not able to follow the guidance in a certain scenario, a risk assessment is created and governors informed.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Those who have already returned to school will have seen and returned the new temporary home school agreement and code of conduct. These will be sent to all parents again this week and rather than request individual responses, we will assume that if you are sending your child into school, you are happy with the safe behaviour measures for staff and pupils. These can be seen on the school website on our covid page for your reference. These new rules are to ensure everyone's safety and children who returned to us before the summer were able to follow them with no problems.

We have the first two days allocated for transition and will be able to iron out any wrinkles then as we welcome the children back into school.

