



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

November 2020

www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Welcome back. Term 1 was busy and term 2 looks like it will be even busier in the build up to Christmas, with additional challenges such as the Y2 phonics screening to fit in that was rescheduled by central government from the summer.

Given community transmission of the virus is now common in our area, we need to be more prepared than ever to move immediately into remote learning should the need arise. This worked well for individuals last term but if we need a whole class to log on, we will not be able to spend time sorting out logins while the rest of the school is still running. Please make sure that you are able to log into Dojo and TEAMS (using the app on a phone or tablet is easiest) so that we can focus on learning rather than technology.

We will be running a few test sessions on TEAMS in a next couple of weeks before parents evening, but initial trials look promising. If you can't get on TEAMS, we will be doing a phone consultation, so that everyone is spoken to at some point.

Plans for our Christmas nativity are now complete and we have used the government guidance for performing arts when making our plans for rehearsing, singing and filming. As a general rule, we are still not singing in class, so will be doing this in the hall at a social distance in smaller groups. None of us realised what a big part singing together plays in our school community and it is something we all miss. Hopefully through the wonders of technology we can overcome this barrier!

Best wishes,
Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival was a little bit different this year with Miss Crowe delivering the main assembly virtually through Teams. Each class created their own mini harvest table and children from Year 2 upwards took part in the assembly by sharing their prayers, poems and Autumn descriptions. The children heard a story about Brendan the harvest spider and we all stopped to think about how lucky we are to have the food that we do. Thank you for your kind donations of food for our Harvest Festival, we donated the collection to Swale Foodbank who were really grateful. The food donations will certainly help those who are struggling in these current times.



Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to everyone who took part in Miss Drayson's Summer Reading Challenge. It was great to see how much reading had taken place. The winner was picked out of a hat and Sam in Year 4 was the lucky prize winner; he takes home a £5 book token to spend.



Activall Competition

Oak Class participated in the week-long Activall Challenge and Patsy managed to take away the second-place prize, winning the school a £50 voucher for Decathlon. Patsy managed a massive score of 229! It was that exciting and competitive that even Teddy wanted a turn!



Robots and Rockstars Day

This year we added robots to our dress up day to launch the addition of the Numbots maths app to our online learning. Great fun was had by all and the competition between individuals and classes has begun. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you don't have a log on and remember to practise as often as possible.



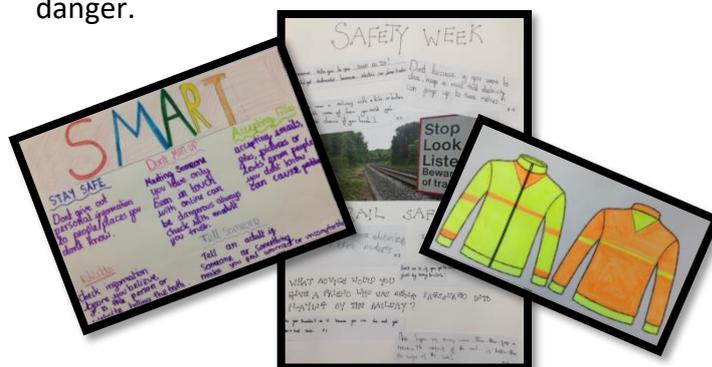
Scooter and Bikeability Training

Towards the end of term our Year 1, 2 and 6 pupils took part in Scooter or Bikeability training. They focused on how to ensure their scooter and bikes were roadworthy as well as how to be safe when heading out on the local paths and roads.



National Safety Week

For the last week of term, the whole school focused on how to keep safe as part of National Safety Week, each class focused on a different aspect each day, topics that were included were: road safety, rail safety, being safe on the internet as well as stranger danger.



Socially Distanced drama

As part of our commitment to active learning, our usual drama company was invited in subject to creating new, socially distanced, topic linked learning activities. These took place in the hall on a variety of themes and were universally enjoyed. See our twitter page for all the photos. @lowerhalstowsch

Presentation Ambassadors

At the start of the year we have introduced 'Presentation Ambassadors'. These are children who have shown exceptional and consistent pride in their work across all subjects. So far, a handful of Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils have gained the accolade, a gold sticker on their books and their photo on display in the corridor. This award is more than just handwriting and we look forward to Miss Crowe giving more awards in term 2.



Scarecrow Hunt

We hope that over the half term break you were able to participate in the Lower Halstow Scarecrow hunt. Thank you to the PFA Heroes for organising the event, it's great that they are still raising funds for the school despite these difficult and strange times that we find ourselves in. Thank you also to Mrs Saxton and her Year 6 helpers who created our scarecrow, 'Spooky'.



Children in Need



Don't forget that this year Children in Need is on Friday 13th November. The School Council have voted for the theme to be 'wear something spotty'. This can be as little as a spotty pair of socks or hair ribbon to a whole outfit if you so wish. Any donations will be gratefully received at the school gate.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
13.11.20	Children in Need – wear something spotty
Week beginning 30.11.20	Year 2 Phonics Screening
16.12.20	Christmas jumper day
16.12.20	Christmas Dinner day – details to follow
17.12.20	Term 2 ends
18.12.20	Staff Development Day
4.1.21	Term 3 begins
Week beginning 1.2.21	Maths Week – details to follow
12.2.21	Term 3 ends
22.2.21	Term 4 begins
Week beginning 1.3.21	Book Week
4.3.21	World Book day – details to follow
19.3.21	Red Nose day – details to follow
1.4.21	Term 4 ends
19.4.21	Term 5 begins