



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

January 2021

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We want to start by thanking everyone for your kind messages and gifts at the end of term. All will have been opened by now after a stint in quarantine! Hopefully we will be back to 'normal' in a couple of weeks.

This newsletter, and our introduction below, was written during the holidays before we had notification of the closure of schools in Swale, but most things will stand when we return.

We worked hard in term 2 to increase our control measures and were fortunate that our 2 positive cases, sadly contracted from positive family members at home, did not spread to others in school. With the new variant now showing to be easily transmissible in children this may not always be the case and we remain prepared to close bubbles and move to remote learning. All our measures remain in place, so please ensure you stick to your allotted drop off and pick up times, leave school immediately, social distance while on site and wear a mask if you need to speak to a teacher.

Headache and nausea appear to be common symptoms of this new strain in children, so please consider getting a test before sending a child to school in this case. We ask that everyone rings AND emails promptly if you are considering getting a test. Recent advice from PHE has clarified that schools are required to track back 2 full days from the onset of ANY symptoms in the instance of a positive test result. Knowing early means we can make a judgement call about taking preventative action (closing a bubble until the result is received) and possibly stop transmission through a whole class. During the Xmas break there was guidance provided regarding mass testing in schools. This is not currently planned for primaries until Spring. Until then we will continue to do our best to carry on with our 'new normal'. Diary dates have been provided for some activities but these may need to be adapted according to current guidelines when the time comes.

In a previous letter we wrote to thank Charlotte Watson, the chair of the PTA who stepped down after 5 years of fantastic service to the school. At the PTA AGM in December a new chair Judy Haynes was unanimously voted in as chair. Judy is a fund-raising dynamo who was responsible for the recent successful scarecrow trail. She has been an active PTA committee member for several years and is a natural successor to Charlotte. The main fund-raising project this year is to help us develop our outdoor space with multi use surfaces and a climbing wall.

Best wishes,

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Children in Need

Our school council voted for everyone to come in dressed in something spotty to raise money for Children in Need. The event received excellent support and as a school we were able to raise £213.88!



Teddy Display

You may remember when Teddy started coming into school (2 years ago now) we created a Teddy display to celebrate him joining our school. We would now like to update this display and so are asking you to get creative! We would like you to create a picture, model, poem, description or another art form of Teddy. Everyone who contributes something to the display will receive a certificate signed by Teddy himself, so come on get thinking.....Teddy can't wait to see what you create!



Remembrance Poppies

With current restrictions in place we weren't able to attend our usual Remembrance events, however this didn't stop the children from Lower Halstow remembering! Year 6 decorated our school gate with poppies featuring remembrance messages whilst Year 3 created remembrance images on their classroom window.



Curly's Farm food donation

Thank you all for your support in donating food for the Curly's farm food bank instead of sending Christmas cards this year. The donations filled Mrs Collins' car and were gratefully received by the staff at Curly's Farm, ready to distribute to families this Christmas.



More Socially Distanced Drama

In Term 2 it was the turn of Acorn, Maple and Beech to have a socially distanced session from our usual drama company. These took place in the hall on a variety of themes and were universally enjoyed.



Anti-Bullying Week

In November each class completed activities linked to Anti-Bullying Week. The week began with an assembly from Miss Crowe and then each class had discussions about bullying and being kind. The classes also created artwork celebrating diversity, here is Willow class' creation:



Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner was a little bit different this year however the school cooks and the staff ensured that it was still a special event to remember. The children wore their Christmas jumpers and enjoyed tucking in to roast turkey, potatoes, vegetables and stuffing. The Christmas cookies were really tasty too. Although we couldn't all eat in the hall as we did last year, the classes celebrated together whilst listening to Christmas music. Here are some of Acorn class enjoying their first school Christmas dinner!



Singing Spectacular

Despite the fact that we weren't able to perform a traditional school nativity to our families, with a little help from one of the parents we were able to bring you the 'Singing Spectacular'! Each class learnt two songs, which fitted with the Christmas story, whilst Beech class did the narrating, this was then all cleverly put together to create the 'Singing Spectacular' DVD. The children participated in a competition to design the DVD and this was won by Eben in Year 1. If you have already watched it I hope you enjoyed it, if you haven't collected your order yet please e-mail or telephone the school office to arrange payment and collection. Here are some stills from the DVD.....



Dates for your diary

Date	Event
4.1.21	Term 3 begins
6.1.21 pm	Flu Nasal Spray catch up
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
23.4.21	St Georges Day event – details to follow
10.5.21	Key Stage 2 SATs week
14.5.21	Race for Life event TBC
25.5.21	Class Photo day
28.5.21	End of Term 5
7.6.21	Term 6 begins
16.6.21	Sports Afternoon – TBC
18.6.21	SDD – school closed for pupils
20.7.21	Last day of term for pupils
21.7.21	SDD – school closed for pupils