



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

[Lower Halstow School](#)

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April 2021

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Last term has been short and sweet and it has been lovely to have everyone back together again. The announcement of no statutory assessments this year has not changed our plans as we assess in many ways on a regular basis (some obvious and some hidden). This helps us know where there are gaps and change lesson plans to meet the needs of the children. Last term those needs were very varied with some children requiring extra stretch and some requiring extra support. Amendments to lessons will continue this term as well as additional support for some and we have agreed challenging targets with governors for the end of the year. This will be covered in more detail at this term's parents' evenings.

Thank you to everyone for sticking to the pick up and drop off times and for socially distancing on site while waiting for siblings. This will continue for the foreseeable future; however, restrictions are starting to loosen. Therefore our current lunch bubbles (made up of pairs of smaller classes) will be allowed to play outside in the same space from this term and certain clubs will finally be restarted! Classes will continue to be separated indoors, but YR/1, Y2/3 and Y5/6 will be paired up to share the larger space outside. Y4 as our largest class will continue to have a separate space. This will also allow us to reintroduce lunchtime activities and give us more flexibility. The newly tarmacked basketball area by the canteen has been turned into 'outdoor dining' temporarily much to the delight of those children to prefer to eat in the fresh air. The picnic tables donated by the PTA are getting lots of use!

Unfortunately, our field was invaded and destroyed by rabbits from the adjacent property during the lockdown rendering it unusable. This issue is being addressed over the next few weeks, as deterrents have failed. However, until the burrows are filled and rolling takes place the majority of the field will continue to be off limits. We had hoped to get our new daily mile running track installed at Easter but the bunnies have pushed back the timetable for this. However, with controls in place and deeper foundations, the contractors are confident they can sort this out. We will keep you posted regarding this exciting development.

Some of you may have noticed a new face around the school. Mr Wright has joined the team as the new school caretaker. He has already made a huge difference; building sheds, fixing toilets and sinks, hanging art work, clearing guttering, and undertaking a multitude of everyday jobs - all in his first two weeks. Filling all the rabbit holes only to have them up re-dug overnight was a particularly thankless task though! I'm sure you will join me in welcoming him to the team. We are all proud of the school and hope to invest some time and TLC into a few areas over the next few months to help it reflect this. Unfortunately, the harsh winter seems to have killed off the new planting in the front flower beds but we will persevere!

We hope you enjoy the term, we are excited to begin to get fully back into being able to offer the enriching 'all round' educational experience that we are all aiming for. Please keep an eye on ping for details of what is coming up.

Best wishes,

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

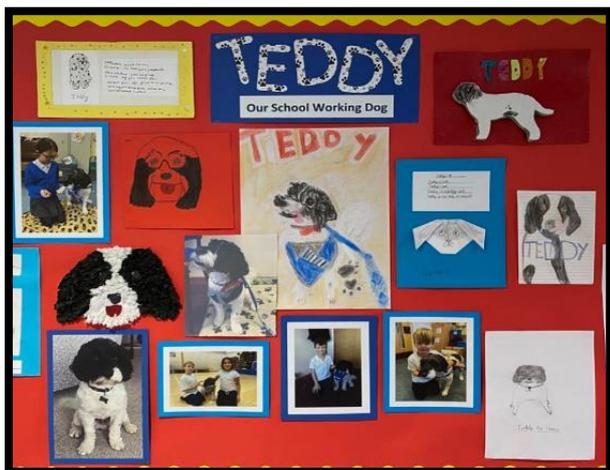
Comic Relief – crazy hair day

To support Comic Relief this year we decided to go for crazy hair! We had styles that ranged from colourful bed-head and plain messy to tasty looking cupcakes and springtime birds' nests. Good fun was had by all and we managed to raise £300.16 for the charity. Thank you to all those who joined in and contributed.



Teddy Display

Thank you everyone who created a picture, poem or model of Teddy. The Teddy display has now been updated and it looks amazing. Well done to everyone who got creative and contributed. There are still a couple of spaces to add extra art work so feel free to still bring in anything you make at home – you will receive a certificate from Teddy for contributing.



Presentation Ambassadors



We were very excited to add extra names and photos to our Presentation Ambassadors display. Well done to everyone who achieved a gold sticker on their book and recognition of their consistent effort with their presentation. Don't forget, to earn this award you don't have to have 'perfect' handwriting. Our ambassadors show their perseverance and pride in every piece of work they do and always follow our Groot's Guide to presentation.

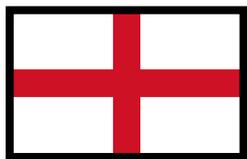
Photo Frames amnesty

Our Lower Halstow Art Gallery is increasing in size and quality with many pieces of children's art framed and on display. We would like to add even more artwork to the gallery however we are getting short of frames again. Please could we ask you to have a look at home for old frames of any size, shape or style that you don't use any more – we would be grateful of any donations. We look forward to a time where you will be able to come in and view the children's work.



St Georges' Day event

In order to celebrate St Georges day this year, the children are allowed to come to school wearing the uniform or kit of a club they belong to. This could be a football kit, beaver jumper, horse riding jodhpurs or karate suit. If the children don't have a uniform for their club they can bring an item representing what they do there, eg: art materials or tennis racket. In class, they will have an opportunity to share information about their club with their classmates. We will be focusing on the importance of belonging and celebrating the non-academic aspects of our lives. Please note this is NOT a non-uniform day and those not in club kit should wear their school uniform as normal.



Reminders

Please continue to just bring book bag/drawstring rucksack, water bottle and lunchbox to school. PE days may change when sports coaches come in so please keep an eye on school ping.

Puppies

With so many lockdown puppies purchased, we relaxed the puppy rule during the staggered pick up time. However, if you bring a puppy /small dog on-site, these should be carried AT ALL TIMES and should not be taken past the car park. Larger / older dogs who cannot be easily carried due to their size or strength should not be brought on site. When we return to normal playground pick ups we will revert to a no dogs on-site policy other than our trained therapy dog.

As you know we are a very dog friendly school, but can we please politely remind all our dog owning families that not everyone is comfortable around dogs. If you bring your dog on the school run, please ensure people have adequate space to pass you and please keep your dog under control at all times. A

barking dog may just be saying hello, but can be intimidating for younger children. If your dog has a tendency to bark at others please leave them at home or drop off your child at the bottom of the access road rather than main gate.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
19.4.21	Term 5 begins
21.4.21	Cricket taster day – Year R-4
23.4.21	St Georges Day event
27.4.21	Parents' Evening – please check Ping
28.4.21	Parents' Evening – please check Ping
14.5.21	Race for Life event TBC
24.5.21 (Week beginning)	Values Week – details to follow
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
28.6.21 (week beginning)	Science Week
19.7.21	Talent Showcase - TBC
20.7.21	Last day of term for pupils
21.7.21	SDD – school closed for pupils