



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

June 2021

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Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

It seems strange to be writing the final 'welcome to this term' newsletter of the year. Term 6 has crept up on us very quickly. Although we have been able to make a few changes to how we operate in school, the relaxing of national guidance does not apply to schools, so we are still required to follow the specific DfE regulations. We anticipate a further update after the 21st June and will keep you posted about what this means for school.

In term 5 we welcomed two new faces to the school. Miss Shufflebotham has joined the admin team on a 6 month work placement. She has been busy photocopying and creating resources for classes etc. This has allowed the class TAs who usually undertake these sort of support tasks to spend more time working directly with children as we make sure everyone is ready to move on in September. Mrs Vidler our reading specialist tutor also started in term 5 and is now firmly settled in the community room until the end of term 6 when she leaves us.

It is great news that we can now have sports days, as we can put bubbles together outside with social distancing. However, we won't be able to invite you all onto the site as we don't have the space for social distancing between class bubbles as well as individual parents. It is important for the pupils to be able to cheer each other on, rather than run individual class events at different times. The children have worked in such an isolated way in their bubbles since returning to school, they deserve to have a shared outdoor activity before the end of term. If school social distancing restrictions are lifted prior to the dates then we will revisit these arrangements and keep you updated.

With trip restrictions lifted, we are busy trying to book these. However, with most venues not yet at full capacity this won't be possible for every year group. Some will go on September visits instead when the weather is still warm, but we have booked an outdoor cooking workshop for all pupils to ensure everyone has an activity this term.

Secondary transition has been thrown into disarray by some last-minute clarification of the guidance from the DfE (secondary schools are not permitted to mix primary bubbles due to increasing levels of covid in the 10 – 19 age group). However, regardless of what our Y6 pupils end up doing, we will ensure that all lower classes get to undertake transition and have the usual booklets with details of teachers, TAs and topics for September. The dates are in the diary but please watch this space. We will be in touch with Y6 parents when we hear more.

End of Year reports will come out as usual and will follow the same format as last year and not be reduced. There should be no surprises in them as we have continued to share assessment summaries and have parents' evenings virtually. More detail about how to interpret the reports will be included in the usual covering letter.

On 18th June the school will be closed for staff training as we are looking at mainstream core standards & provision for more able learners. We are also reviewing our curriculum and having training on our new Management of Information Tracking System on 21st July, so the last day of term for pupils will be on Tuesday 20th July.

In July we will be having a 'Try something new' month where children will get the chance to try new things as we have been unable to run our 'Freedom Friday' sessions this year due to Covid restrictions. Please keep an eye on our twitter page @lowerhalstowsch for pictures. We post daily and you don't need to be on twitter or follow us to see this. Just google Lower Halstow Primary School Twitter and our full history comes up.

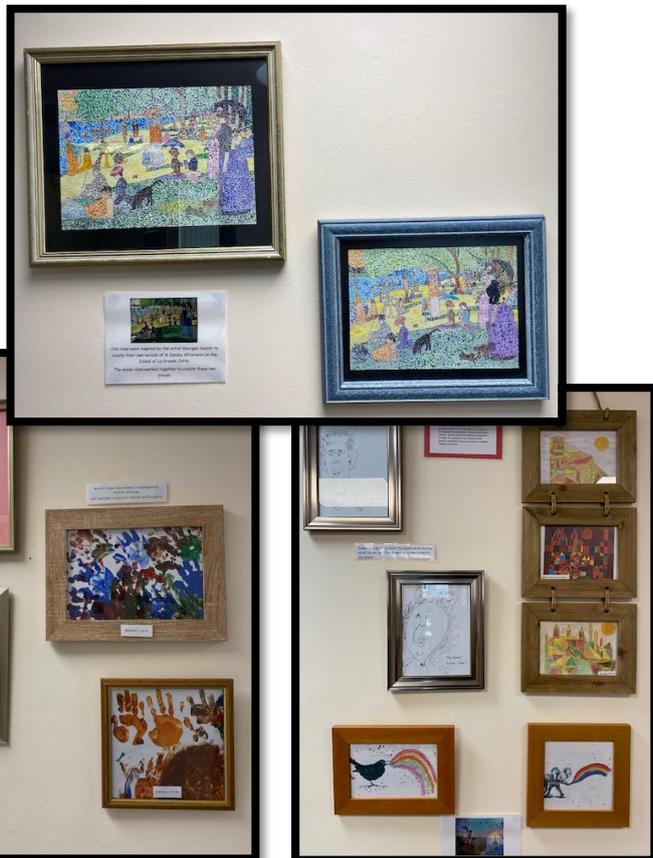
Let's hope this term has no surprises!

Best wishes,

Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Art Gallery

Thank you to everyone who donated various frames in order that we could mount up some more of the fantastic art work that is going on in school. Our school art gallery is growing and we can't wait for you to come in and see it. Here's a sneak preview to give you a taster in the meantime.



Cricket Taster Sessions

At the start of this term we were really lucky to have George from Upchurch Cricket Club visit us to lead some cricket taster sessions for our Year R – 4 children. Great fun was had by all with several children wanting to take up cricket as a sport in the future.



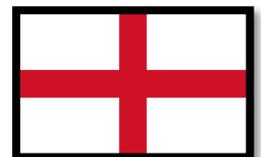
National Football Week

Those who prefer football to cricket were not disappointed as Lower Halstow School took part in activities to celebrate National Football Week. Mr Lloyd and Miss Brougham held mini football tournaments for Year 1 to 6 and everyone could join in. At the end of the week they awarded 'Good Sportsmanship' certificates to two children in each class.



St Georges' Day event

Lower Halstow pupils enjoyed celebrating St Georges' Day by coming to school wearing their club uniform or bringing an item that they use at their club. In class the children were given the opportunity to explain all about their club to the rest of their classmates. We were impressed at the wide range of clubs that the children attend. Here are some examples:





School Clubs

We really enjoyed getting clubs up and running again in Term 5 and in Term 6 we have been able to offer even more clubs. Unless you have been contacted by the school office, your child has a place at the club that they requested. If it is a sports club **please ensure that the children wear their kit to school on these days.**

New integrated systems

Until recently in school we had separate systems for holding pupil information securely & submitted returns to the DfE (SIMS), tracking & reporting pupil progress (Target tracker) and contacting parents (Ping). In the Easter holidays we transferred to a new system called Pupil Asset which does all this and stores information all in one place. For financial and security reasons this is a better arrangement.

Before PING expires in August, we will be moving everyone across to the new Pupil Asset App which has more functions and less bugs (or so we are promised!) We will continue to run both until everyone is up and running, so please bear with us during this process. More information will come out after we have had further training after school this term.

Can you help?

It's that point of the newsletter when we ask whether any of you can help us out..... We have two requests this time.

In July we are running a story telling event where staff will be telling the children tales from different cultures and religions around the world and children will be coached in how to tell their own stories. We would like this to happen in a large tent or under gazebos if possible.

If any of you have a large tent or gazebo that you would be willing to lend us for a week July or know of a local organisation who might? We will take good care and return it before the end of term! Likewise, if any family member can spin a good yarn and wants to have a go in the tent, please let us know.

There was much excitement this term when the government guidance allowed for soft furnishings to be returned to classrooms. We are clearly easily pleased and the school is looking much homelier now that they are back in place.

However, our library foam seat cushions have seen better days so, if you or someone you know is handy with a sewing machine please come and talk to us. We can provide the foam and material, we just need someone with the skills to turn them into something worthy of our lovely looking library. When the bookcases get their new coat of paint in the summer holidays, it's going to be a really lovely space. Not just somewhere we have a daily phonics group and occasionally chickens!

Thank you in advance

Dates for the diary are on a separate black and white printable page below.



Dates for your diary

Date	Event
JUNE	
Mon 7	Term 6 begins
Wed 9, 11, 23, 30	Willow Class Wild Estuary Sessions with Medway Swale Estuary Partnership (Old clothes)
Wed 16	Sports Afternoon – children only
Fri 18	SDD – school closed for pupils
Tues 22	Reserve Sports afternoon
Wed 23 (5pm)	New Entrants' meeting
Thurs 24	PTA Break the Rules day – details to follow
Fri 25 (am)	New Entrants' Stay and Play sessions
Mon 28	Science Week starts!
Tues 29	Professor Bubbleworks

Date	Event
JULY	'Try Something New' Month
Thurs 1	Transition Session 1
Fri 9	'Wear the Rainbow' NHS birthday charity day – details to follow (dress-up)
Mon 5 (pm)	Year 5 and 6 Puberty sessions
Mon 5 – Wed 7	Wild Cooking outdoor sessions, Year R-6 – details to follow
Wed 7, 14	Willow Class Wild Estuary Sessions with Medway Swale Estuary Partnership (Old clothes)
Tues 13	Transition Session 2
Wed 14	Maple Class Trip to Horton Kirby
Fri 16	Oak Class Trip to Creed Outdoor Adventure Centre
Mon 19	Talent Showcase – TBC (dependent on indoor bubble restrictions)
Tues 20	Last day of term for pupils
21.7.21	SDD – school closed for pupils

Date	Event
SEPT	
Wed 1	SDD – school closed for pupils
Thurs 2	Term 1 begins for Y1 – Y6
Fri 3	New Entrants 1:1 meetings
Mon 6	School begins for New Entrants