



Honesty, Respect,
Kindness, Perseverance

Lower Halstow School

Newsletter

November 2021

www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk

follow us on twitter @Lowerhalstowsch

Update from Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Happy New Year!

We hope that by the end of 2022 we will be able to put pandemic crisis management firmly behind us, but in the short term this is clearly not going to be the case. New Covid guidance was issued yesterday (2nd January) and you will receive a separate ping regarding this. However, we had already made the decision to remain in bubbles so nothing will change in school for the pupils. In order to maintain some sort of club offer (and normality) for children, rather than cancel all clubs this term we have arranged clubs in bubbles which means some year groups have less choice. However, clubs may be cancelled at short notice if staffing them becomes a challenge, so please do not rely on these for childcare. All planned trips are still currently going ahead; however, we have no control over staffing at venues so these may also be postponed at short notice.

To help things run smoothly, we have put a couple of reminders and clarified a few procedures below

- In order for us to deal with potentially high levels of absence, can we please ask that all parents ring into school before 9.30am if your child is unwell (you can leave an absence message at any time on the answerphone). This includes all days they are absent not just the first day, unless they have Covid and will be isolating at home.
- Can you please LFT your child before sending them to school if they have cold symptoms.
- PE will be mainly outside this term, so please remember to wear tracksuit bottoms (plain grey or black with no logos) and usual school jumpers on PE days.
- It is important that everyone continues to use rucksacks with draw string handles or a flat book bag so that we can accommodate everyone's coats in the hall ways, particularly during the cold weather when we have additional hats, scarves and gloves. We have a small stock of these in school which we will lend to anyone still using a rucksack.
- Sportswear (any style) for after school clubs should be brought in in named PE bags not rucksacks.
- Pupils moving between homes of separated parents can continue to use a normal rucksack on swap over days, this may need to be stored in the office depending on space.
- KCC have confirmed the Jubilee day for schools which means we have put in an additional inset day on Monday 20th June.
- New dates for Year 1, 4 and 5 open classrooms will be circulated to each year group later this week.
- Please ensure that you are able to access Class Dojo in case your child's class needs to move to online learning.

The dates for your diary are on a separate page at the end of this newsletter for you to print and put on the fridge. We will do our best to keep the school running with all these activities and hope that Term 3 is much more uneventful than Term 2!

Best wishes,
Mrs Deevoy and Miss Crowe

Christingle Service

Despite not being able to make our usual trip to church for our Christingle service this didn't deter us from still making them and celebrating Christingle. Every child created their own Christingle which they were able to take home. Miss Crowe led a virtual Christingle service in which she created a giant Christingle whilst classes shared the meaning of the different components. Through the generosity of parents, we also raised £101.28 for the Children's Society; they provided us with the candles and red tape.



Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated money for dressing up and cake buying on Children in Need day. We made a massive £280! Thank you to Year 5 and 6 for running the cake stall and to the school council who chose what we would do this year.



Litter Angels' Poster Competition

Beech Class took part in the annual Litter Angel poster competition again this year. There were some lovely designs entered and Honey's poster was chosen as a winner, with Henry and Evie as runners up. We were very proud of the children when we attended the presentation evening with them.



Gordon Henderson's Christmas Card Competition

Lower Halstow were again successful in another local competition. Several children entered the 'design a Christmas card for your local MP' to send to his colleagues, family and friends. There were over 500 entries however it was Edward in Year 6 who was the overall winner with Evlynn in Year 2 as runner up! Gordon visited the school to award the children with their prizes. Edward received a photo of his card being given to Boris Johnson. We were extremely proud of these two pupils and their lovely designs.



Remembrance Day

The school completed activities and attended events to recognize the importance of Remembrance Day. It is tradition for our Year 6 pupils to create commemorative artwork, and this year Oak Class did not disappoint. They created a lovely curtain of red and purple poppies to remember people and animals who have lost their lives in conflict. The School Council also represented the school at the Brickfields service where they all laid a cross at the memorial.



Heritage Month

Thank you to all the families who sent in photos, written memories and artefacts to share with the school. Thanks also to the family members who came in to talk to the children, it means such a lot to us. We have taken copies of everything that was sent in and it is now proudly on display in the school hall. The local community also took part,

sharing memories and photos of the school online. We are looking for a way to display these more permanently in school. The finale to our Heritage month was a whole school trip to the Edith May sailing barge. The children visited the barge in groups and had talks from the owners about the boat's history. A highlight was certainly ringing the bell! A big thank you to Tiller and Wheel for allowing us all to visit.



Attendance and Reading Rewards

From Term 3 we are changing the attendance reward a little bit. Owing to the updated coding we have to use for Covid absence we felt that the non-uniform days were becoming a little unfair, and also out of the control of families. The children will still be able to collect class gold leaves and have Groot visit their class for having the best attendance, however moving forward, the non-uniform day will be given to the class who have the highest percentage of children reading 3 times a week at home with their contact book filled in. You will receive a ping each Friday letting you know if your child's class will be having a non-uniform day. This ties in with the major push on reading that we will be having in school in term 3.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
4.1.22	Staff Development Day (school closed to children)
5.1.22	School term begins for children
14.1.22	Year 3 Roman drama day
25.1.22	Year 3 Trip to Rochester
31.1.22	Year 2 Trip to Leeds Castle
8.2.22 at 9.15	Year 4 Class assembly to parents
11.2.22	Term 3 ends
21.2.22	Term 4 begins
23.2.22	Year 5 swimming begins
1.3.22	Annual Pancake race (no parents)
3.3.22	World Book Day – details to follow (dressing up!)
18.3.22	Sports Relief – details to follow
29.3.22 at 9.15	Year 3 Class assembly to parents
1.4.22	Term 4 ends
19.4.22	Term 5 begins
22.4.22	St George's Day – wear club uniforms
25.4.22	Year 5 Bikeability – details to follow
May	Year 2 SATS testing & assessment window
6.5.22	Big Me Day – details to follow
9 - 13.5.22	Year 6 SATs testing week
10.5.22	Year R trip to Curly's Farm
26.5.22 at 9.15	Year 1 Class assembly to parents
27.5.22	Term 5 ends

Date	Event
6.6.22	Term 6 begins
June	Year 4 times table statutory national screening
6 - 10.6.22	Year 1 phonics screening check (Year 2 repeat check)*
13.6.22	Year 6 money workshop
17.6.22	Staff Development Day
20.6.22	Staff Development Day
22.6.22	Sports Day (PM)
23.6.22 at 9.15	Year 2 Class assembly
24.6.22	Class photo day
29.6.22	Reserve Sports Day (PM)
30.6.22	Year 6 residential trip to Kingswood
5.7.22 at 9.15	Year R Class assembly to parents
11 – 13.7.22	Outdoor cooking sessions for all classes
21.7.22	Term 6 ends for children
22.7.22	Kent Schools Jubilee Bank Holiday

*if your Y2 child is required to re-sit the phonic screening you will be informed in January