



# High Halden Church of England Primary School

## Newsletter 8

Friday 12th December 2025

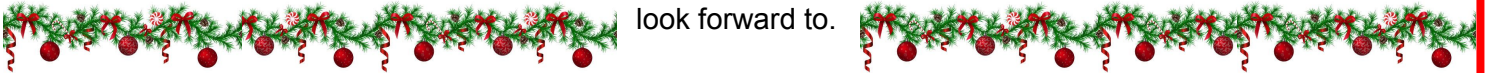
Autumn Term



'Rooted in God, we grow together'

[office@high-halden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@high-halden.kent.sch.uk) 01233 850285 @highhaldencepschool @HighHaldenSch

As we move into the final week of term, Christmas is well and truly in full swing at school! The past few weeks have been filled with festive activities, exciting opportunities, and plenty of moments that remind us what a special community we are part of. It's been a wonderful build-up to the end of term, and there is still more to look forward to.



Thank you to everyone who attended our recent *Come and Learn* sessions. It was fantastic to see so many families actively involved in school life and enjoying learning alongside their children. Our Christingle Service was, once again, a beautiful and meaningful event. A special thank you goes to *Mrs Prebble*, who works tirelessly behind the scenes each year to make sure we have everything needed to create our Christingles. We are also extremely grateful to *Rev Sue* and *Maria* for leading the service so thoughtfully.



Last week, a group of children had the wonderful opportunity to visit Halden Heights with our new Forest School provider, *Helen from Righteous Oaks*. Together, they enjoyed making a selection of Christmas crafts alongside the residents. The generational connections created during visits like these are invaluable—both for our children and for the wider community.

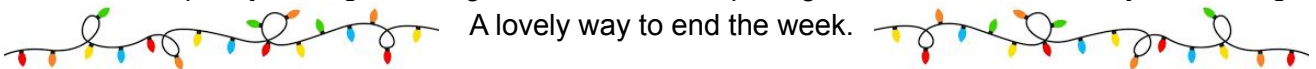


Our Christmas Fair was a huge success, raising £952 Thank you for supporting this event so enthusiastically.

The PTFA have more exciting events planned for next year, and the funds raised will continue to provide enriching experiences and opportunities for our children. I must also extend a very heartfelt thank you to Luis, Ella and Mrs Lavell, who have been fundraising for my brother-in-law. Their kindness, thoughtfulness and determination were incredibly moving—I'll admit, it brought a tear (or two!) to my eyes when they chose his cause as their charity of choice. We are very grateful for their compassion.



Today, the children (and staff!) really enjoyed the *Jack and the Beanstalk* pantomime. There were plenty of laughs throughout, and a few surprising moments that had everyone smiling.



A lovely way to end the week.

Next week, we look forward to seeing the children shine in their Nativity performances. I am sure you are as excited as we are to watch them take to the stage with confidence, sparkle and pride. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish you a calm, happy and festive final week of term.

### Attendance

A huge thank you to all our families for ensuring your children are in school as much as possible. Our current attendance is the highest I have ever seen it—an incredible achievement! Let's keep it up as we move into 2026.

#### Attendance percentage

School	96.9%
National	95.3%
Local Authority	95.1%



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## Governor Summary

At our recent Governing Board meeting, governors came together to review and approve the previous minutes, as well as to formally agree the updated Terms of Reference for the board. We considered key contextual information from both schools and reflected thoughtfully on the areas for development linked to our shared priorities for improvement.

The five-year strategic plan was discussed in depth, refined, and proudly approved—setting a clear and ambitious direction for the years ahead. Governors also received detailed feedback from this term's monitoring visits, encompassing safeguarding, EYFS, SIAMS, SEND and Inclusion, Sports Premium, and Health & Safety.

In addition, the board reviewed the financial position of both schools, including anticipated expenditure, to ensure that resources continue to be used wisely and effectively. Governors also reflected on recent training undertaken and explored further opportunities to strengthen the skills and expertise within the team.

The Governing Board would like to extend its warmest wishes to all staff, pupils, families, and members of our school community. May you enjoy a joyful festive season. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from us all.



**Flourish Together Federation**



### PTFA

A huge thank you to all our wonderful PTFA volunteers who plan, organise and run the events that make such a difference to our school community. We truly appreciate the time, effort and creativity that goes into every fundraiser.

As school budgets continue to tighten, it becomes increasingly difficult to fund all the lovely activities and enrichment opportunities we want to offer the children. The money raised by the PTFA plays a vital role in helping our pupils flourish in so many ways.

We would love to welcome new members to our PTFA team and hear your ideas for future events or ways we can continue raising essential funds. Whether you can spare time to help behind the scenes, support at an event, or simply share your thoughts—we would be delighted to have you involved.

If you are interested, please speak to Cally (Posy's mum) or Mrs Prebble. Everyone is welcome!

### Nativities

Next week, the children will take to the stage to perform their nativities for family and friends. We are really looking forward to seeing them singing and acting their hearts out—it is always a highlight of the year.

Please can we remind you that **only those with valid tickets will be admitted**, and **all children over the age of 12 months must also have their own ticket**. We cannot allow entry without the correct number of tickets, as we must not exceed the maximum capacity of the hall. This is essential to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and visitors.

Please do not risk being turned away at the gate—we would hate for anyone to miss the chance to see their little one shine.



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## Christmas Lunch

A quick reminder that our Christmas lunch will take place on **Wednesday**. Pre-orders closed on **Monday 8th December**, so if you did not order a Christmas lunch for your child, they will need to bring a packed lunch on the day, as we are unable to order additional meals.

Christmas lunch always proves to be a fun, festive, feel-good occasion, enjoyed by both children and staff!



## Christmas Service



*We hope you can join us!*

## World Religion Day

For World Religion Day 2026, we are pleased to be taking the children on exciting visits to both a Gurdwara and a Synagogue! These trips will give our pupils the wonderful opportunity to step inside real places of worship, ask questions, and experience first-hand the rich variety of faiths and cultures that make up our world.

At our school, we are passionate about preparing children for life in the big, wide world. Experiences like these help them grow into understanding, confident, and respectful young people who can appreciate and celebrate differences in our society.

We know that new experiences can sometimes feel a little daunting, but please be assured that the visits are safe, carefully supervised, and incredibly valuable for your child's personal development. We can't wait to see the children's curiosity and excitement as they explore and learn!



## Inset Day

Just a reminder that there will be a school Inset Day on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

The children are not required to attend school on this day.

Term 3 will begin on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**.



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## New Year, New World

Our first Theme Day of 2026 will take place on Tuesday 6th January, and we are really looking forward to kicking off the year with our focus: "New Year, New World."



This special day will encourage the children to think about how they can make a positive impact—both on themselves and on the world around them.

Throughout the day, we will be leading wellbeing and yoga sessions, sharing simple and effective ways for children to rest, relax, and take care of their mental and physical health. We will also be supporting the children as they make environmental pledges, thinking about practical steps they can take to look after and care for our planet.

It promises to be an inspiring and uplifting start to the new year, and we can't wait to see the thoughtful ideas the children bring to life!

## Swimming Years 5 & 6

We are excited to let you know that swimming lessons will begin in the New Year! Once again, our Year 5 and Year 6 children will be visiting Tenterden Leisure Centre, joining pupils from Woodchurch Primary for a fantastic opportunity to develop and improve their swimming skills. These intensive sessions are designed to build confidence, strength, and water safety—essential life skills for every child.

Please remember that swimming takes place every Thursday, so ensure your child brings their full kit each week.

Kit reminders:

- Suitable attire (no bikinis, please)
- A towel
- Hair that is below shoulder length must be tied up for safety

We're really looking forward to another great term of progress and enthusiasm in the pool!

## Website Focus

Did you know our school website has a dedicated SEND Support area filled with helpful information for families? From guidance on how we support children in school, to links, resources, and advice for parents, the pages are designed to offer clear, accessible support whenever you need it.

The Christmas break can be a great time to take a quiet moment and explore what's available. You may find answers to questions, new strategies to try at home, or simply a better understanding of how we work together to support every child.

Click [here](#) to take a look?

**In this section**

SEND Support Pages

## Free School Meals

We would like to inform parents and carers of children who are in receipt of Pupil Premium that the Local Authority has asked schools to allocate £60 food vouchers per eligible child to help support household food costs over the Christmas period.

These vouchers will be issued electronically and should arrive in your email inbox by Friday. Please keep an eye out for an email from SchoolVouchers.com, which will contain your voucher and instructions on how to use it.

If you have not received your voucher by the end of the week, or if you need any support accessing it, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.



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## Makaton Sign of the Week

We're excited to introduce our new Makaton Sign of the Week! Each week, we'll be learning a new sign together in school. The sign will be displayed in the school hall and introduced to the children during worship and lunchtime.

Makaton is a wonderful way to support communication and inclusion for all our pupils. It would be lovely if you could join in by practising the weekly sign at home too – helping us all to learn and communicate together!



## Diary Dates



Date	Event
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Service
Friday 19th December	Last day of term 2
Monday 5th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 6th January	Term 3 begins



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