



High Halden Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 7

Friday 28th November 2025

Autumn Term



'Rooted in God, we grow together'

office@high-halden.kent.sch.uk 01233 850285 @highhaldencepschool @HighHaldenSch

It's hard to believe we are already nearing the end of November and the festive season is well and truly arriving at our school! I've been especially enjoying seeing our EYFS children embracing the spirit of the season. They have been busy decorating their home corner with bright Christmas trees and sparkly decorations – it looks truly magical! Of course, a huge part of the Christmas countdown is our wonderful productions! Our Christmas Nativity rehearsals are now in full swing. The children are working incredibly hard, learning their lines, perfecting song lyrics, and mastering their stage directions. We are so proud of their dedication and teamwork – we know their performances will be fantastic! The excitement level increased even further today as our beautiful school Christmas tree arrived! It's standing proudly in the hall, ready for us to begin decorating it.

A massive thank you to all the families who visited our Book Fair last week. We were delighted to see so many of you taking the time to browse and find some wonderful new books to enjoy. Because of your incredible support, we took over £618 in sales! This is fantastic news, as it means we have raised £247 that we can now spend directly on brand new, exciting books for the children across the whole school. Thank you for helping us boost our library resources!

We only have three weeks left of term, and as we enter December, we have a calendar packed with lovely events and activities. It's always a busy, but extremely enjoyable, time of year! Please do keep a close eye on our Dojo updates and all the event listings on the rest of this newsletter to make sure you don't miss a thing.

Finally, I hope some of you will be able to join us this evening at the village Christmas tree light switch-on – a wonderful community event to kick off the festive season! Have a safe and happy weekend everyone.

Attendance

Attendance percentage

Reception	98.8%
Year 1	95.5%
Year 2	97.0%
Year 3	97.0%
Year 4	96.3%
Year 5	97.7%
Year 6	94.7%
National	95.4%
Local Authority	95.1%

It's wonderful to see such strong attendance figures across the school! We are incredibly proud to announce that our overall attendance (96.7%) remains above both the national and local authority averages, this is a fantastic achievement. Let's keep up this brilliant work – every day in school makes a difference.



Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope

Advent

As we step into December, we also mark the beginning of Advent, a special time of waiting and reflection as we eagerly count down the days to Christmas. We extend a huge thank you to Mrs. Myers and our wonderful Butterflies class for crafting the beautiful Advent wreath that now graces our school!

Whether through daily chocolate treats, thoughtful acts of kindness, or more extravagant offerings, Advent invites us all to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts for the joy of the festive season. It's a wonderful opportunity to focus on hope, peace, joy, and love in the weeks ahead.



Christingle

We are delighted to invite you to join us for our annual Christingle Service, which we share together with Woodchurch School, Rev. Sue and Rev. Maria. This has become a much-loved tradition in our school community, and we are very pleased to continue it this year.

The children will be making their own Christingles in school beforehand, and we would love for you to join us for the service, either online or in person, whichever suits you best.

The online link for the service will be shared with you via Class Dojo. We kindly ask that this link is kept private for your household only and is not shared outside of our school community, to help us keep everyone safe. We look forward to coming together as a community to celebrate this special event.



Christmas Jumper Day

Get ready to spread some festive cheer! Our annual Christmas Jumper Day will be held on Friday, 12th December. We're inviting all children and staff to come to school in their finest Christmas-themed clothing!

There's no need to buy a brand new, specific Christmas jumper – get creative! You could decorate an existing jumper with tinsel, sparkles, or festive patches, or even create your own unique Christmas-themed outfit. The aim is simply to enjoy the festive spirit together.



Christmas Lunch

The children's Christmas lunch will be served on **Wednesday 17th December.**

Lunch will be free of charge for children in Bumble Bees and Butterflies, as per their Universal free school meals entitlement. For children in Grasshoppers and Butterflies the cost will be £2.50 per child.

There is also no charge for children registered for Free School Meals.

A Christmas lunch pre-order form will be shared with all families early next week via email and class dojo.



Nativity Tickets

Nativity tickets will be coming home next week, so please keep an eye out for them. The children have been working incredibly hard to put these performances together, and it is incredibly brave of them to stand up and perform in front of an audience.

As always, we need to make sure the hall does not become overcrowded, so entry will only be allowed for those with tickets. Please also remember that any **child over the age of 1** will need their **own ticket**, even if they will be sitting on your lap. This is not about the number of seats, but the overall capacity of the hall to ensure everyone's safety.

We really don't want to have to turn anyone away on the day, so we kindly ask all families to follow these arrangements. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation, we look forward to sharing this special event with you!



Christmas Service



We hope you can join us!

Postbox

Our special Christmas Postbox will be open and ready for action from Monday!

For our families who are new to the school (and for a friendly reminder to everyone else!), if your child would like to write Christmas cards for their friends, please ensure they write the name and class clearly on the front of each card.

The children can then post them in our dedicated Christmas Postbox, which will be conveniently located in the main corridor. It's a wonderful way for the children to share festive cheer with their classmates!



Clothing

Brr! There's definitely a chill in the air as we head into winter! With colder temperatures outside, we kindly ask that you ensure your child brings a warm coat to school every day. While our classrooms are lovely and warm, we still love to get outside for playtimes and lunch, even when it's cold or a little drizzly. A warm coat means your child can enjoy their outdoor play comfortably.

Please also remember to send them with their wellies so they can make the most of playing on the field, especially if it's a bit damp. And finally, a very important reminder: please ensure all coats (and wellies!) are fully named so they can be easily reunited with their owners!



Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope

Come & Learn

Next week we are excited to be holding our KS2 *Come and Learn* sessions. If you are available and would like the chance to experience a lesson alongside your child, we would love to welcome you in. Why not come and learn with them!

- **Dragonflies families** are invited to join us at 2:15pm on Tuesday 2nd December for their session.
- **Grasshoppers families** are welcome to come in to **make Christingles** with the children and stay for the Christingle service afterwards. The lesson will begin at 1:45pm.

We hope many of you will be able to join us, it's a wonderful opportunity to see learning in action and spend time together in school.



Children in Need

We want to extend our thanks to everyone who has shown such wonderful community spirit recently! A massive thank you goes out to all the incredibly generous families and friends who donated to our recent Children in Need collection. Your kindness and support have been truly overwhelming, and we are absolutely delighted to announce that together, we managed to raise over **£120** for this very worthy cause. Every single donation will make a difference, and we are so grateful for your contributions in helping children and young people across the UK.



PTFA Events

The PTFA are excited to share our festive plans and would love your help to make this year's Christmas Fair our best one yet!

Friday 5th December ✨

🎄 **Christmas Fair – After school**

👤 **Pyjama Day in school** – please send in a **bottle donation** (wine, bubble bath, or similar) for the **Bottle Tombola**.

The Fair will begin at **3:15pm**, with **early entry from 3:00pm** for families who would benefit from a quieter experience 💕

Thank you for supporting our PTFA—every donation and every stall helps raise valuable funds for our school!

Pantomime

It's nearly time for one of the most magical (and mischievous!) days of the year — our pantomime trip! Get ready for plenty of giggles, surprises and classic "Oh yes it is!" moments.

We're sure the trip will be full of fun and laughter, and children will be back at school in time for lunch, wearing their **Christmas jumpers** if they'd like to (as it's also Christmas Jumper Day).

If you haven't paid yet, please could we ask that you do so as soon as possible — *we promise this isn't a plot twist, we really do need those payments in!*

We can't wait — it's going to be a real *panto cracker!*



Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope

TCS

Tenterden Counselling Service.

Feel heard, feel supported, feel better

Struggling?

Come and talk to us in confidence.

No GP referral needed, perhaps start with a chat.

We aim to work with you for as long as you need.

Our counselling is affordable – you pay what your circumstances allow.

Our professional counselling team is experienced with a wide range of issues.

TCS, counselling in the community since 1983.

Email: contact@tenterdencounselling.org.uk

www.tenterdencounselling.org.uk

Phone: 07769 683347

Please note: TCS is not a crisis or emergency service

Ashford SEND Roadshow

Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Information, Advice and Guidance Event

Calling all Ashford families whose child or young person has or may have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Do you want to meet with services that are available in your area? Our SEND roadshow is a place to do just that. We will have a wide range of services in attendance suitable for ages 0 - 25 and their families. No need to book just come along anytime between 9am and 12pm, refreshments will be available.

What families have said about the SEND Roadshows-

“I have more information to support my child’s learning”
“all the information I needed in one place”
“what I’ve been looking for”

Stanhope Parish Hall, Otterden Close, Ashford, TN23 5TG

1st December 2025
9:00am - 12pm

Head Boy & Head Girl Fundraiser

BIG BOOK SALE

Book Sale

On Monday 1st December come to High Halden School for the book sale!
3:15pm-3:45pm.

gofundme

Scan to donate to Paul's fundraiser
“Help Paul Get More Time With His Family”

Friday 12th December 2025

CHRISTMAS JUMPER NON-UNIFORM DAY

High Halden Church of England Primary School

Suggested donation £1 per participating child
In support of

Save the Children

Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope



★ PTFA CHRISTMAS FAIR ★
FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2025
★ CASHLESS WHEREVER POSSIBLE ★

Avoid the queues and enjoy the day!

Our PTFA event will be running cashless
(wherever possible) this year.

★ **PAYMENT TOKENS** ★

To make purchases quick and easy, all stalls will use
£1 payment tokens.

✓ 1 Token = £1

✓ All stalls/items = 1 token increments

🔔 **PRE-PURCHASE TOKENS NOW!**

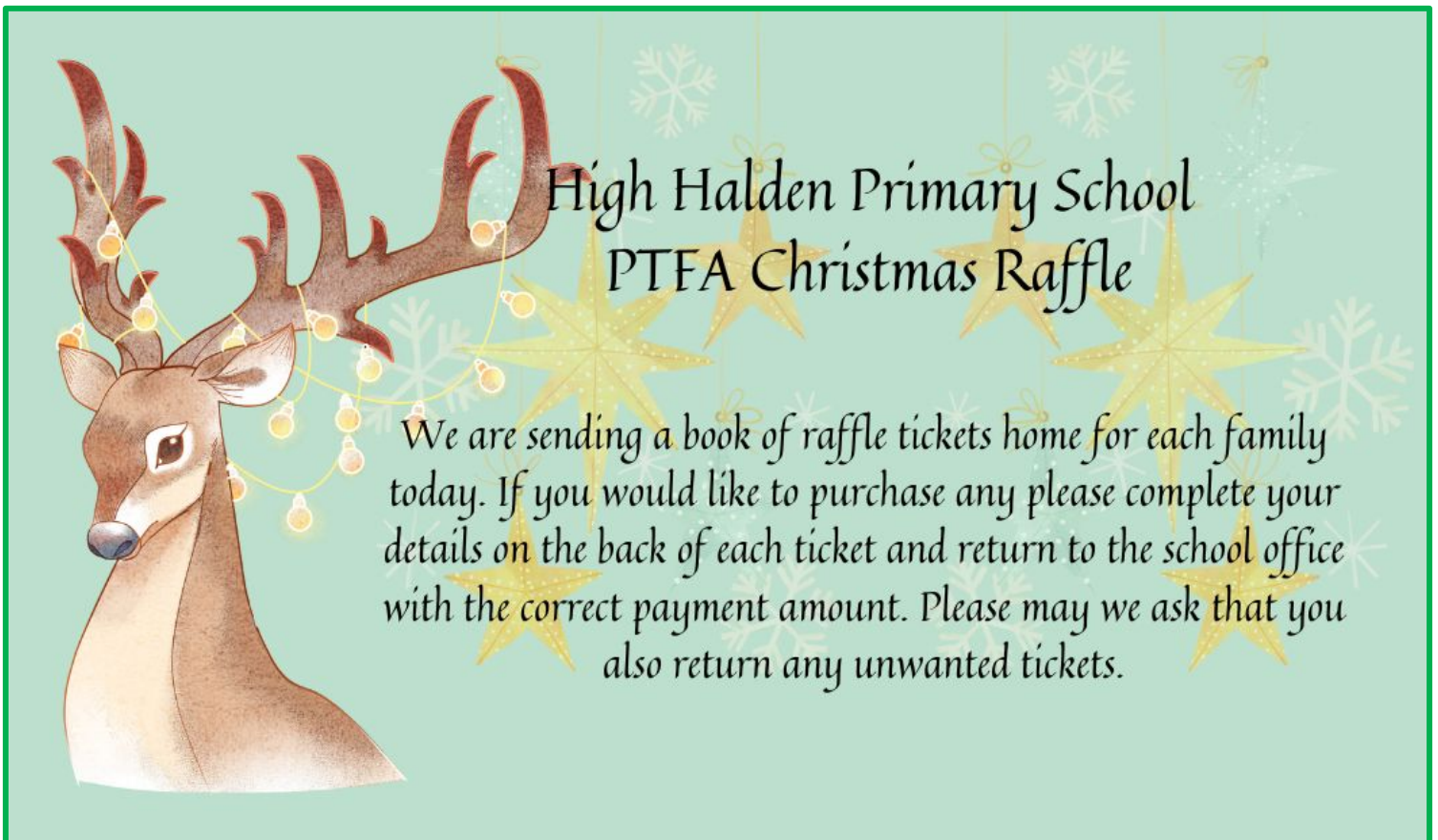
Beat the queues on the day by buying your tokens in
advance.

Available now from the School Office

Payment for tokens by card via SumUp preferred
(cash payments will still be accepted where necessary)

Tokens will also be available on the day...but we
encourage pre-purchasing to keep the queues short
and the fun flowing!

Thank you for your support!



Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope



**Christmas Services
in DENSWOOD**

Woodchurch Christmas
Cracker 6th December
2-5pm

Carols at Chequers on the
Green 7pm
18th December

Carols in the Churchyard
Bethersden 19th December
6.30pm

Lessons & Carols & mulled
wine High Halden
21st December

Christmas Eve Nativity and
crib services 4pm – **all 3
churches**

**Midnight Christmas Eve
Service 11pm Woodchurch**

**Christmas Morning
Eucharist 9.30am
Bethersden**



**CHRISTMAS
CRACKER!**

Parish of Denswood
ALL SAINTS WOODCHURCH
SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
2PM TO 5PM

Singing
Sippers
Singingalong

Festive refreshments

Craft Stall

Children's craft

Hunt for the
"Church Mouse"

**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**

HHV&C presents....

**High Halden Christmas Tree
Lights Switch On**

Friday 28th November
- 6.30pm

**The Chequers on the Green
Pub Terrace**



Each child
will receive
a small
gift!

Steam Engine,
Music & surprise guest!

"We will also be collecting for the Church Christmas Food Bank"

**"Wrap up warm, the forecast is for snow!
Children to be accompanied by a parent/guardian"**




**HOW YOU
CAN HELP**

www.thebigwrap.co.uk



amazon

Gifts for children
Brand new for ages from
baby to 11. For ages 12
upwards toiletry and
cosmetic gifts or Amazon
Gift Cards value of £15.

Amazon Wishlist
The above QR code
takes you to our
Wishlist which should be
helpful for gift ideas.

Big Wrap Day 29th November 2025 in St Mildred's church
Gift and other donations welcome from 9am and wrapping from 1pm to 3pm

Supporting local families at Christmas



**The Hygiene Bank
Tenterden &
Cranbrook**



Other Items
We also appreciate any
items to support families
for everyday living
essentials.

Because you never know
what troubles the person
next door is going
through....

Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope

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!

W/C 1st December

Tree



W/C 8th December

Winter



Diary Dates



Date	Event
Monday 1st December	Head Boy & Head Girl Fundraiser - Book Sale
Tuesday 2nd December	Dragonflies Come & Learn (2:15pm)
Thursday 4th December	Grasshoppers Come & Learn (1:45pm)
Friday 5th December	PJ Day (Bottle Donations) PTFA Christmas Fair
Monday 8th December	Head Boy & Head Girl Fundraiser - Toy Tombola
Friday 12th December	Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day Whole School Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Service

Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope