



# High Halden Church of England Primary School

## Newsletter 12



Spring Term

Friday 27th February 2026

*'Rooted in God, we grow together'*

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Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a restful half-term break, despite the wind and rain. We have hit the ground running this week, kicking off the term with a fantastic Eco-Engineering challenge. It was wonderful to see the children's creativity in action as they designed and built their very own wind-powered inventions, proving that even a bit of blustery weather can be a great source of inspiration!

On Monday, I had the absolute privilege of joining our school choir at the Young Voices concert at The O2. I can honestly say it was one of the most enjoyable and moving days of my career. Hearing thousands of children singing together in such a world-class venue stirred a range of emotions for everyone involved. I know the children were buzzing with excitement, and it was lovely to see so many parents in the audience sharing that experience. A huge thank you goes to Mrs. Myers and Miss Bratton for their tireless hard work and commitment; the high standard of the performance was a testament to their dedication.

Mid-week brought a very welcome burst of sunshine, and the children certainly made the most of the outdoor space. Bumblebees were transported to the high seas when a pirate came to visit! They spent the day crafting intricate maps to help track down hidden treasure. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed their first Forest School session of the term with Helen. They practised their tool skills by splitting wood and getting creative with "ECO Art" and "fairy thrones." If you'd like to see their handywork, Helen shares regular updates and photos on the [Righteous Oaks Facebook page](#).

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Coconut back to High Halden! He has been away bonding with our newest addition, Bounty, and the two are now settled in together. Our guinea pigs are a much-loved part of our school community, and it is heartening to see how much care and affection the children show them.

Wishing you all a lovely, restful weekend.

### Attendance

Attendance percentage	
School	96.8%
National	94.8%
Local Authority	94.5%
Reception	98.5%
Year 1	96.6%
Year 2	96.8%
Year 3	97.0%
Year 4	95.9%
Year 5	97.3%
Year 6	95.3%

As we look forward to the arrival of spring, we are hopeful that the season of winter bugs and illnesses is finally behind us. Our goal is to reach 97% whole school attendance, and we are incredibly close to hitting that target! Consistent attendance is the foundation of success; it is well-proven that children who attend school regularly make significantly more progress in their learning and feel more settled in their friendships.

We have also noticed a very positive trend this year, with a 40% reduction in holiday requests compared to previous terms. We want to thank you for your support in prioritising term-time learning. As you may be aware, the government has tightened procedures and increased penalties regarding term-time holidays. Consequently, it is now very rare that we are able to authorise these absences. For more specific information on how these regulations are managed, please refer to our Attendance Policy, which outlines the details in full. Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure your children are in school and ready to learn every day—let's keep up the great work!

Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

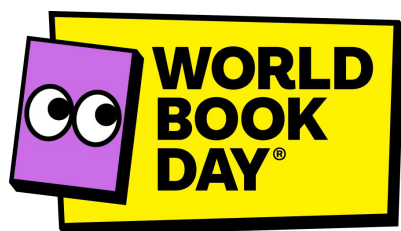
Trust

Hope

## World Book Day

Next week is one of the most exciting dates in our school calendar: World Book Day (Thursday, 5th March)! Mr. De-Keyzer has already shared a full outline of the day's activities and some very exciting competition details on ClassDojo, so please do take a look if you haven't yet. We have some fantastic prizes up for grabs, and we can't wait to see how the children get involved in the spirit of the competition.

While we suggest that children come to school dressed as a favorite book character, we want to emphasize that there is absolutely no expectation for parents to purchase expensive costumes. Some of the most memorable outfits we see each year are simple, homemade creations.



## Parents Evening

A reminder that bookings for our upcoming Parents' Evening go live this Monday. Mrs. Prebble has shared a letter via [Dojo/Email] explaining our new booking system, which we hope will make selecting and managing your time slots much more straightforward. Please refer to the letter sent home today for the full details of this term's meetings and instructions on how to log in.

We truly value your attendance at these sessions. These meetings are a vital opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school, and I know from experience that the children take immense pride in showing you their work and celebrating their progress. If you encounter any issues with the new system or require further support with your booking, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

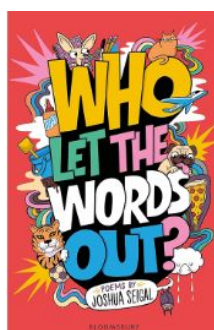
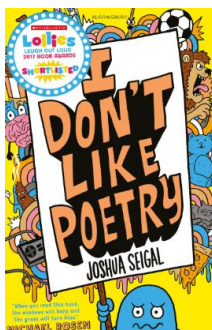


## Author Visit

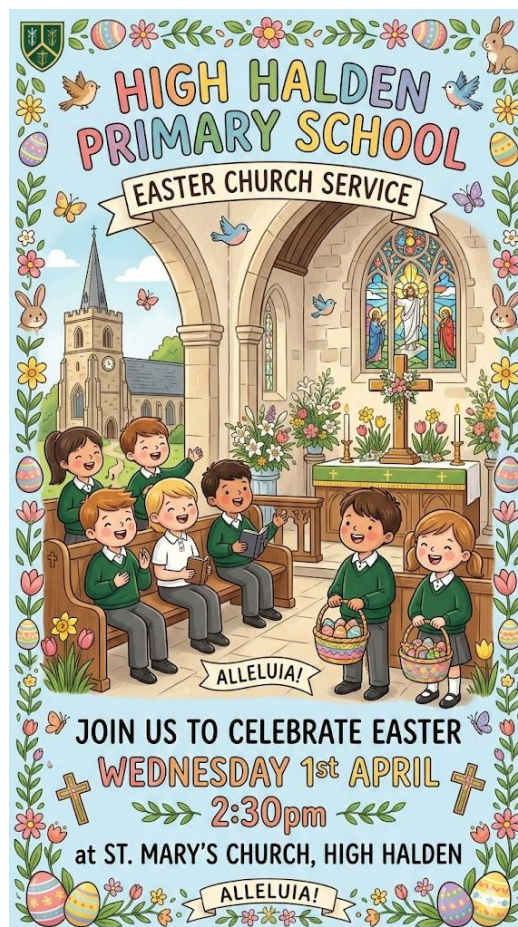
We have a very exciting date for your diaries! On **10th March**, we will be welcomed by the award-winning poet and author **Joshua Seigal**.

This visit has been in the works since last year, after Mrs Ridley and Mrs De-Keyzer (from Woodchurch) met him at an English conference. They were both so inspired by his energy and his hilarious books, like *I Don't Like Poetry* and *Who Let the Words Out?*, that they knew our children would love to hear from him. We will share more details as the date gets closer!

<https://www.joshuaseigal.co.uk/>



## All Welcome!





## Maths Competition



On Thursday 5th March, a small group of our Year 6 mathematicians will be heading to Dulwich Prep School to participate in an exciting Mathematical Challenge day.

This event is designed to bring together children with a shared "thirst for mathematics" for a series of high-level, fun, and fast-paced quizzes.

It is a brilliant way for our pupils to test their problem-solving skills and meet other like-minded young mathematicians. We wish the children the very best of luck and look forward to hearing all about the challenges they faced (and conquered!) upon their return.

## Year R Hearing and Vision Screening

On Wednesday 18th March we will be visited by the school health team who will be carrying out the routine hearing and vision screening checks for the children in Reception year.

Information regarding the hearing and vision screening programme was sent out back in January.



COMIC RELIEF

### Whole School Competition

#### Doodle Design Challenge!

This year, Mr Doodle has created a range of red noses for Comic Relief.

Therefore, we are inviting the children to create a Mr Doodle-inspired red nose at home!

Fill the page with:

- characters
- silly faces
- patterns
- positive words

Any materials welcome (pens, pencils, digital, collage)

Competition deadline - 19th March - winners to be shared in Celebration worship.

We will send home a template for them to produce their design on shortly.



FRIDAY 20 MARCH

### Giggles for Good

Donations can be brought into school in cash on the day — any amount, big or small, is hugely appreciated. We will also be sharing a JustGiving link for families who would prefer to donate online.



### Dress theme

#### Red and Funny

- Crazy plaits or spikes
- Temporary colour spray
- Wacky hats
- Silly socks



Every penny raised will help make a difference, and we are so grateful for your support in helping our children understand the importance of having fun while helping others.

Wear a red nose if you would like to join in the fun!



## Young Carers Day

On Wednesday 11th March, we will be joining schools across the country to celebrate Young Carers Action Day. This year's theme is "Fair Futures for Young Carers," a powerful call to ensure that every child who provides care for a loved one has the same opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive as their peers.

At High Halden, we are incredibly proud of the Young Carers in our school community. Their dedication and resilience are truly inspiring, and we are committed to providing them with the support they need to balance their responsibilities with their education. If you would like to find out more about what defines a Young Carer or how we support them here at school, please visit the [dedicated section on our school website](#).



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 **High Halden PTFA**   
**Mother's Day / Someone Special  
Gift Shop**

**Pre-Booking Information**

All children must be pre-booked to attend.  
£4 donation per child.

To book a place, please visit the school office between  
Monday 2nd March & Monday 9th March  
to complete a short sign-up form.

Payment is required at the time of booking.  
Card payments are preferred/cash also accepted.  
Please note: BACS payments are not accepted for this  
event.



**The Gift Shop**



Our special Gift Shop will be open on  
12th & 13th March, during school hours.

Children will have the opportunity to visit during the day:

-  Choose a special gift 
-  Wrap it themselves 
-  Surprise someone special 

We look forward to helping the children create a lovely surprise!



**Non-uniform Day**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**



**Donations of Easter chocolate**  
**on the day for our**  
**Family Bingo Night taking place on**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026**



**PTFA Easter**  
**Cake Sale**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026**  
**3:15pm**



We would be very grateful for any donations of nut-free sweet treats such as cupcakes, muffins, biscuits, cake pops and flapjack. These can be left at the school office at morning drop off on the day. Thank you for your support!



**HIGH HALDEN PTFA**  
**CHOCOLATE BINGO!**  
**FAMILY FUN**  
**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL**  
**5:30PM**  
**BINGO HALL**  
**HIGH HALDEN**  
**JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF SWEET FUN!**  
**BINGO BOOKS & DABBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER SOON!**

**FOOD FESTIVAL**  
**WORLD BOOK DAY**

**5th March**

Neverland Beef Burger  
with Wedges and Magic BBQ Beans

Or

Jack's Beanstalk Bean Burrito  
with Wedges and Garden Salad

And

Paddington's Orange  
Marmalade Sponge



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# Inspiring Futures Day

## Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### 9am-12pm



We are excited to invite parents, carers, and community volunteers to take part in our Inspiring Futures Day at school.

This special morning is all about sharing real life career experiences and helping our children learn about the many exciting paths they could follow in the future.



Interested in helping?

Please contact the school office if you would like to come in and share your career with our children.

Any amount of time that you can join us for on the day will be very much appreciated.

Your time and experience can make a real difference.

Email: [office@high-halden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@high-halden.kent.sch.uk)

Tel: 01233 850285



## Diary Dates



Date	Event
Thursday 5th March	World book day
Tuesday 10th March	Author Visit
Wednesday 11th March	Young Carers Day Parent Consultation Evenings
Wednesday 18th March	Year R Hearing & Vision Screening
Friday 20th March	Comic relief
Friday 27th March	PTFA Non-uniform Day
Wednesday 1st April	Easter Service PTFA Cake Sale PTFA Chocolate Bingo

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