



High Halden Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 15



Summer Term

Friday 24th April 2026

'Rooted in God, we grow together'

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Welcome back to Term 5! It has been a fantastic start to the term, beginning with our *Inspiring Futures Day*. It was wonderful to see the children dressed as what they might like to be when they are older, there was such a great sense of excitement and ambition across the school. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who gave their time to support the day. The feedback from the children has been overwhelmingly positive. One pupil shared, *"I just thought I'd have one job all my life, but it was good to hear that one job can lead into another and it could change."* This perfectly captures the spirit of the day. Special thanks to Mr De-Keyzer for organising such an inspiring and enjoyable event for everyone.

Today, a group of Key Stage 2 children visited Halden Heights, where they took part in craft activities with the residents. It was truly heartwarming to see the children demonstrate such care, empathy, and kindness while working with members of our wider community. Thank you to Mrs Ward and Helen Di-Giorgio (Forest School Lead) for organising these meaningful sessions.

While on the subject of Helen, we are delighted to share that our Forest School area has had an exciting new addition over the Easter break. We now have a wonderful parachute shelter, kindly installed by the Righteous Oaks team. The woodland area looks absolutely amazing! We are incredibly grateful for this addition, and the children are already benefiting from an even richer Forest School experience. The feedback has been nothing but positive. You can follow Righteous Oaks on social media, where they regularly share updates and photos of the children's activities.



<https://www.facebook.com/ROForestSchool/>



It's been a brilliant start to the term, we're looking forward to all the learning and experiences still to come!



Attendance

Whole School Attendance: 96%

(September -today)

Reception	98.2%
Year 1	95.6%
Year 2	95.3%
Year 3	95.4%
Year 4	95.4%
Year 5	96.6%
Year 6	95.3%
National	94.8%
Local Authority	94.5%



Our weekly attendance figures were incredibly close this week, with all classes achieving above 98%, a fantastic achievement! A special mention goes to **Dragonflies**, who reached an impressive **99.6%** attendance. Excellent work, let's keep it up!

We are aiming for an overall attendance of **97% by the end of the academic year**, and we are well on our way. I am so pleased with the progress we are making. Thank you to everyone who is working hard to avoid taking unnecessary days off school, it is making a real difference and is greatly appreciated.

Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope

Worship

In worship this week, the children explored the story of Easter, focusing on Mary at the empty tomb (John 20:10–18). We reflected on how she moved from feelings of sadness and hopelessness to joy and hope when she realised that Jesus had risen.

The children discussed how, for Christians, the resurrection of Jesus brings hope, both for life now and for the future.

We also explored the idea that *everyone can be a "hope carrier"*. Using the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31–32), the children learned how something very small can grow into something big and powerful, just like hope.

To bring this idea to life, the children thought about how they can grow and share hope with others through their actions, kindness, and words.



PE Days

This term, we would like the children to come in their PE kits on the following days:

Bumblebees	Friday
Butterflies	Thursday and Friday
Grasshoppers	Friday
Dragonflies	Monday and Wednesday

A couple of parents have asked about the new PE t-shirts. We would like to reassure you that t-shirts have been ordered for every child, and we are currently awaiting delivery.

Once they have arrived, we will name them and send them home with the children as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience, we will share a further update when they arrive.

Victorian Day

As part of their history unit this term, Grasshopper Class have been learning about the Victorians. To celebrate and bring their learning to life, they will be holding a **Victorian Day on Monday 18th May**.

Throughout the day, the children will explore what school life was like in Victorian times, including what children did for learning and for fun. To make the experience even more immersive, we invite children to come dressed as a Victorian child.

For costume inspiration, simple ideas could include:

Girls: long skirts or dresses, pinafores, aprons, shawls, bonnets

Boys: trousers with braces, shirts, waistcoats, flat caps

Dark or muted colours and slightly "worn" clothing can help create an authentic look. Please don't feel the need to buy anything new, simple outfits made from items you already have at home will work perfectly.

Bible Explorers

This term, we are pleased to welcome Arabella back to High Halden to work with our Year 5/6 class.

These engaging and interactive RE sessions are always a highlight, giving children the opportunity to explore Bible stories through role play and costume, bringing them vividly to life.

Further information about the programme can be found [here](#).



London Marathon

We are very proud to share that Mrs Sivyver, our Midday Meal Supervisor, will be running the London Marathon this weekend. She has been training hard and is ready to take on this incredible challenge, raising money for Dancing Eye Syndrome,

<https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/joely-sivyver> what an amazing achievement!

I will also be in London over the weekend, as my sister is taking part too, raising money for the Brain Tumour Research, which as many of you know is a cause that is very close to our hearts.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/hayleyandhannah2026> We wish them both the very best of luck!

Good luck!

Road Safety Show

We are pleased to share that on Wednesday 7th May, the whole school will be watching a Road Safety Show delivered by Smart Brothers Road Safety.

This engaging and interactive session will help children learn important road safety skills in a fun and memorable way, supporting them to stay safe in their everyday lives.

<https://smartbrothersroadsafety.co.uk/>



Grasshoppers Trip

We're pleased to share that children in Years 3 and 4 will be visiting Poulton Wood in Aldington.

Poulton Wood is a 28-acre ancient woodland, part of the Canterbury Oast Trust. During their visit, pupils will take part in a variety of activities linked to this term's science topic, giving them the chance to explore and learn in a hands-on, outdoor environment.

We're sure the children will have a fantastic time while developing their scientific skills and curiosity.



**HIGH HALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES!
SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH'S 100th BIRTHDAY**

TUESDAY 5th MAY 2026

**WE WILL GO ON
A NATURE WALK**
through the fields
and woodland beyond
the school site.

**FOLLOWED BY
A PICNIC LUNCH
ON THE FIELD.**
All children to bring
a packed lunch.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

 OUTDOOR / FOREST SCHOOL CLOTHING	 SUITABLE FOOTWEAR	 SUITABLE FOR THE WEATHER ON THE DAY
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KS2 SATs Week

A reminder that Year 6 SATs Week will take place from Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026. During this week, children will complete their end of Key Stage 2 assessments.

We are incredibly proud of how hard the children have been working in preparation for these tests. Please support your child by ensuring they attend school every day, arrive on time, and get a good night's sleep, along with a healthy breakfast each morning.

We aim to keep the week as calm and positive as possible so that all children feel confident and able to do their very best.

Monday 11 th May	Grammar, punctuation and vocabulary paper Spelling test
Tuesday 12 th May	Reading paper
Wednesday 13 th May	Maths arithmetic paper Maths reasoning paper
Thursday 14 th May	Second maths reasoning paper
Friday 15 th May	You're done! 🥳

Residential Trip

Our Key Stage 2 residential trip is fast approaching. Thank you to all parents who attended the recent information evening, it was lovely to see how excited the children were as they heard more about the activities and plans for the weekend. For those who were unable to attend, Mr De-Keyzer has shared the slides on Dojo.

We are sure this will be a fantastic experience for them, giving opportunities to build confidence, develop independence, and flourish in many different ways.

If you have mislaid your kit list, please do ask Beccy for another copy.



Flourish Together Day

We're delighted to be hosting our annual Flourish Together Day once again—a special day dedicated to learning, collaboration, and enjoyment.

On 22nd May, pupils from High Halden and Woodchurch Primary Schools will come together to take part in a range of engaging workshops and shared learning experiences. This event offers a wonderful opportunity for children to build new friendships, discover new interests, and work alongside peers from another school in a positive and inspiring setting.

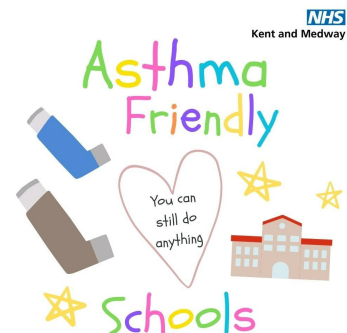
We're confident the day will be just as successful as in previous years and are excited to see the creativity and teamwork it will bring.

Information was shared with all families on Thursday. Please ensure you select your child's preferred workshop as soon as possible.

Asthma Friendly School

We are currently working towards becoming an Asthma Friendly School, in association with Kent and Medway NHS, and are continuing to review and improve our procedures.

Mrs Prebble will be contacting all families with children currently on our asthma register to share updated information. If your child has recently been diagnosed with asthma, please do pop in and speak with Mrs Prebble.



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COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT HEADTEACHER FOR THE DAY?

Spend a magical day with Mrs Burlton, shadowing and making real decisions! 🎓

HOW TO ENTER

Write or Draw your Application! 🌈

1. Tell us WHY you LOVE High Halden! ❤️
2. Tell us ONE thing you would ADD, DO, or CHANGE about our school! 🤔

TOP TIPS

Think like a TEACHER! 🧐

★ BE CREATIVE & FUN! ★

SHARE GREAT IDEAS FOR EVERYONE!

★ SHOW YOUR PASSION! ❤️

WIN THE PRIZE!

Join Mrs Burlton & the Senior Leadership Team for a full day of leadership, meetings, and fun!

KEY DATES

****ENTRIES CLOSE: 1st MAY!****

The Senior Leadership Team will decide the lucky winner! 🏠

HIGH HALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL





GRAFFEG

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS DOG?



COMING TO RIGHTEOUS OAKS CIC

for story time, Forest School activities plus meet the author and illustrator May 2nd 10-12

Booking link:

<https://bookwhen.com/righteousoaks/e/ev-s622c-20260502100000>

*Suggested donation, children are free
Dogs not allowed on site

Dandelion Time

MAY FAYRE

11AM - 3PM
SATURDAY 9TH MAY

£3
ENTRY

GAMES & CRAFTS | TOMBOLA | MEET OUR ANIMALS
LIVE MUSIC | REFRESHMENTS | AND MORE!

We're delighted to be joined by:

ROCK CHOIR | CHARLIE'S ANGELS | OLD SCHOOL SAMBA

DANDELION TIME, CHARLTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, ME15 0NY



Diary Dates



Date	Event
Tuesday 28th April	Grasshoppers trip to Poulton Woods
Tuesday 5th May	Whole school nature walk and picnic lunch
W/C Monday 11th May	KS2 SATs Week
Tuesday 12th May	Bumble Bees Green Farm trip
Friday 15th - Monday 18th May	Year 5-6 PGL residential trip
Wednesday 20th May	Butterflies trip on the KESR
Friday 22nd May	Flourish Together Day

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