



High Halden Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 14



Spring Term

Friday 27th March 2026

'Rooted in God, we grow together'

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

It has been lovely this week to see the first signs of spring beginning to appear, despite the rather changeable weather! The brighter mornings and glimpses of sunshine have certainly lifted spirits across the school.

Thank you to everyone who donated chocolate this morning—your generosity is greatly appreciated. These contributions will be used for our upcoming Family Chocolate Bingo night, which promises to be a fun event for all. Don't forget to grab your tickets before the end of Monday so you don't miss out!

This week, we have had a focus on mathematics across the school. Senior leaders spent time visiting lessons, observing teaching and learning, and seeing first-hand how well the children are progressing. We also looked through pupils' books to review the progress they have been making over time. It was incredibly pleasing to see the high level of achievement across year groups. In particular, the use of mathematical vocabulary was consistently strong, demonstrating a deepening understanding of concepts. When speaking with a number of children, many shared how much they enjoy maths—which is wonderful to hear.

In worship this week, we also took time to reflect and celebrate the installation of the new Archbishop of Canterbury. We explored the significance of this important moment and learned about the six-day pilgrimage she undertook on her journey to Canterbury. This provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection, helping pupils to consider themes of commitment, perseverance, and faith.

It has been a positive and enriching week across the school, and we look forward to the last few days of this term as we prepare for Easter.

Have a great weekend, don't forget the clocks go forward!

Attendance

Attendance percentage

School	96.0%
National	94.9%
Local Authority	94.6%
Reception	98.3%
Year 1	95.7%
Year 2	95.5%
Year 3	95.3%
Year 4	95.5%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	95.1%

Whole school attendance remains above the national average, which is very positive. However, due to a recent increase in illness, we are no longer a whisker away from the dizzy heights of 97% that we had been so proud of. We are hopeful that the Easter break will help to clear any remaining bugs and, with the arrival of warmer weather, we can continue striving towards some of the highest attendance levels we have seen in many years. Interestingly, during an attendance meeting I attended yesterday, it was shared that children who develop strong attendance habits in primary school are much more likely to maintain these in secondary school, with outcomes significantly impacted, achieving, on average, 33% higher grades than those with poor attendance. This really highlights the importance of ensuring children are in school every day wherever possible.

Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope

FTF Governor Update

Governors recently met to review key priorities across both schools, continuing their role in supporting and challenging leaders to ensure the best outcomes for all pupils. Looking ahead, we discussed several upcoming vacancies on the governing body for the next academic year. This is a valuable and rewarding way to support our schools, and we would warmly encourage members of our local community to consider becoming a governor. If you are interested, please look out for further information or contact the school to find out more.

Safeguarding remains a top priority, and governors were assured that strong systems are in place across both schools. We also reviewed an overview of incidents recorded through CPOMS, helping us to monitor patterns and support pupil wellbeing.

Governors received updates on school context and progress against the Federation Improvement Plan, as well as discussing work around climate change and sustainability. We also looked closely at pupil progress data and heard feedback from recent monitoring visits, with further visits planned.

There were updates on Christian distinctiveness across both schools, including events and staff training in Religious Education. Governors also reviewed the latest financial information, building developments, and approved a number of federation policies. Finally, we noted updates on governor training and confirmed that website compliance requirements continue to be met.

We are grateful to all governors for their ongoing commitment. If you would like to play a part in shaping the future of our schools, we would be delighted to hear from you.

School Reports

Children's mid-year school reports will be coming home next week. We have been busy taking on board feedback from families about making these reports clearer and easier to understand, as well as including more information about any interventions that children may be taking part in. As a result, you will notice a new format with additional detail. We hope this updated style of report will give you a clearer picture of where your child is achieving well and highlight any areas where they may need a little extra focus and support.



School Uniform

A reminder that we now have a new uniform provider, Pages Schoolwear. We have already seen first-hand how much quicker uniform items are being made available, with a number of families receiving their orders within just a week, which is fantastic to see. Thank you for your patience as we made this transition. We are also currently awaiting the arrival of new PE t-shirts that have been ordered for the children—these are expected to arrive next term.



Inspiring Futures Day

We are excited to be holding our Inspiring Futures Day on Monday 20th April 2026. On this day, we would like all children to come to school dressed as a career they might like to pursue when they are older. It's always fantastic to see the creativity and ambition of our pupils, and we hope to see a wide range of future doctors, teachers, architects and nurses—alongside, I'm sure, plenty of footballers and YouTubers too! This is a wonderful opportunity for children to start thinking about their aspirations and the many possibilities ahead of them.



Easter Service

We hope that you will be able to join us in our celebration of Easter at our annual Easter Service.

- **Date: Wednesday 1st April 2026**
- **Time: 2:30pm**
- **Location: St Mary's Church**

It promises to be a lovely service and a wonderful way to mark the upcoming holiday. We look forward to seeing you there!



Inspiring Futures Day **Monday 20th 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

Tel: 01233 850285



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Free School Meals

A reminder to families to check whether you may be eligible for Free School Meals and to apply via the Kent County Council website. Applying is quick and straightforward, and even if your child is already receiving a universal free meal, registering can bring additional benefits to the school and your child. These include access to additional funding, support for learning, and help with the cost of school activities.

A note to those families who are already receiving free school meals, a £40 supermarket voucher per child will be sent to your inbox to help to support with food costs over the Easter break.

We strongly encourage all families to check their eligibility and apply if they can.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals>



MOVE
WITH
US

HALF TERM CREATIVE DANCE WORKSHOP

This workshop encourages self-expression and imagination helping young participants build confidence in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Designed for fun-loving, free-spirited movers, these workshops have no boundaries - just creativity, play, and self-expression, all led by our inspiring teachers.

Year R - Year 6:

Tues 14th & Wed 15th April 9:30am - 3:30pm



JV H.O.M.E. Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate,
Ashford TN24 8FN

HIGH HALDEN PTFA

Family

Chocolate

Bingo Night



WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 2026

DOORS OPEN 5:15PM/EYES DOWN: 5:30PM

Tickets available from the school office
until Monday 30th March

£5 per player - card payment preferred

PTFA Easter Cake Sale

Wednesday 1st 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!



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PARISH OF
DENSWOOD

Easter

EGG HUNT

2pm to
5pm



Easter Egg Hunt & Refreshments!

Saturday 4th April

All Saints Woodchurch

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CRAFT

PRIZES

"Letting go in the Gazebo"

A quiet space to reflect with nature



The Friends
Registered Charity. 296611

BE AN EGGSPLORER AT OUR

EASTER EGGVENTURE

SATURDAY
4TH APRIL
10:30AM TO 12:30PM

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH
BETHERSDEN

Free Cafe, and Easter Trail
With Fun Activities!
Easter Egg for Every Child



Entry £3 Per Child on the Day

EVERYONE WELCOME



The Church of England in
Tenterden, Rother and Oxney
Appledram - Eham - Newenden - Ralston - St Michael's
Smalhythe - Stone - Tenterden - Witleton

Children's Easter Fun & Crafts

St Mildred's Church
Tenterden

Friday 3rd April
10am - 11.30am

Drop in to create a bag full of
Easter crafts and goodies!

£2 per child

Refreshments included
All children must be supervised
by their grown-up(s)



Saturday
18 April
11am - 4pm



Tea, cake
and great company



Delicious home
made scones



Beautiful
woodland walks

POULTON WOOD Bluebell Cream Tea

Walk through the woods and enjoy the beautiful bluebells, or
join one of our guided walks.

We will be serving truly scrumptious cream teas and cakes
with help from The Ladies of Aldington Village Hall.



Guided
walks



Cream
teas and
cake



Adult entry + drink and cake £6.50
Children's entry + drink and cake £3.00
Carers free (but no food included)

Poulton Wood Nature Reserve, Forge Hill, Aldington, TN25 7DT

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GODINTON HOUSE AND GARDENS



EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 2026

GARDENS OPEN TUESDAY - SUNDAY*
*Plus Easter Monday (6th April)
12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

3 APRIL - 19 APRIL - FAIRY AND ELF TRAIL
8-10 APRIL - WOODLAND FAIRY AND ELF CRAFTS
15 & 16 APRIL - NATURE WORKSHOPS WITH KENTISH
STOUR COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP

For more information and to purchase tickets
please visit our Events page at
www.godintonhouse.co.uk

GODINTON HOUSE, GODINTON LANE,
ASHFORD, KENT TN23 3BP



OPEN COCKPIT WEEKEND 2026

11TH & 12TH APRIL | 10AM TO 4PM
RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM CT12 5DF



Fire Engine Rides



BOOK HERE



Tank Rides



Climb in the Cockpits



CHARITY NUMBER: 1179982



Museum Entry



info@rafmanston.co.uk

www.rafmanston.co.uk

Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns and shortage of volunteers and/or exhibitors.



Diary Dates



Date	Event
Tuesday 31st march	Bumble Bees Trip to Rockits Sensory
Wednesday 1st April	Easter Service PTFA Cake Sale PTFA Chocolate Bingo
Thursday 2nd April	Last day of term 4
Monday 20th April	Term 5 begins Inspiring Futures Day

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