



High Halden Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 17



Summer Term

Friday 22nd May 2026

'Rooted in God, we grow together'

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

What a jam-packed and brilliant two weeks we have had here at school! From hard work and focus in the classrooms to adventures out in the wider world, our children have shown incredible growth, character, and enthusiasm. Here is a look at what we've been up to:

Well done to our fabulous Year 6s, who worked incredibly hard during their SATs last week. We could not be more impressed with their focus, calm attitude, and sheer perseverance. They took it all in their stride and truly did themselves proud. Straight after SATs, our Year 5 and 6 adventurers headed off on their residential trip alongside our friends from Woodchurch. They had an absolutely fantastic time away! The staff who attended came back bursting with praise, noting how incredibly proud they were of every single child. Residential trips like these are so much more than just a fun holiday; they are specifically designed to help children build confidence, develop resilience, and prepare them for a smooth transition to secondary school. Thank you to the staff who helped organise and run the trip- we appreciate you giving up your weekend and sleep!

This week, Year 3 and 4 stepped back in time for their Victorian Experience Day! The children got a taste of what school life was really like in the 19th century. They practiced the traditional "3 Rs" (Reading, Writing, and 'Rithmetic) and played traditional playground games. To top off the authentic experience, even the infamous dunce's hat made an appearance! Fortunately, our modern-day students were much better behaved than their Victorian counterparts. Our Year 1 and 2 classes enjoyed a wonderful day out on their trip to the Kent and Sussex Railway. The weather smiled on us, and the children had a lovely day learning about historic travel and enjoying the sights. It was a fantastic, hands-on learning experience for our younger pupils.

Today, we held our third Flourish Together Day, bringing together the children from both Woodchurch and High Halden to learn and play as one community. These collaborative days are vital for broadening our children's horizons, building social confidence, and widening their friendship circles before they take their next big steps in education. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and new friendships blossoming today.

Finally, we have made it to the half-term break! We hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing, and safe week off. When we return, we will be heading straight into the final term of the academic year, always a busy, exciting, and fast-paced. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for the final term of the school year!

Attendance

Our current school attendance stands at an amazing **96.1%**, which is above the national average!

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your support in getting your children into school every day. Consistency is key, and being here every day ensures your child doesn't miss out on vital learning and social experiences. Let's keep this momentum going into the final term!

School	96.1%
National	94.9%
Local Authority	94.6%
Reception	98.0%
Year 1	95.8%
Year 2	95.7%
Year 3	95.6%
Year 4	95.7%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	95.6%



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Governor Update



At the recent Federation Governing Body meeting, governors reviewed a number of important priorities across both schools. Membership of the governing body was discussed, including current vacancies, and governors encouraged anyone interested in supporting the schools to look out for the adverts on Kent Teach or share them with others who may be interested.

Governors reviewed and updated the Governing Body Action Plan for the year ahead, including a focus on “greener governance” and sustainability. Safeguarding updates from both schools were also shared, alongside wider contextual updates and discussions around current priorities and developments.

Attendance remained an important focus, with governors exploring attendance data in detail, particularly around persistent absence, and discussing the support in place for pupils and families. Governors also reviewed the Federation Improvement Plan and received feedback from recent governor monitoring activities, asking questions about trends, progress, and ongoing school improvement work.

As part of their ongoing development, governors reflected on the characteristics of an effective Church of England school and how these are lived out across the federation. Governors also received an introduction to school finance from the Executive Headteacher and Federation Business Manager, including an overview of the three-year budgets for both schools. Governors thanked Mrs Harling-Brown for her hard work in preparing these budgets and supporting the federation’s financial planning.

Roots to Food

We will be welcoming Darren from Roots to Food back to High Halden on Friday 5th June.

As before, each class will spend time during the day preparing a dish from scratch, using fresh ingredients and refining their culinary skills.

The recipe used on the day will be shared with you so that you may make and enjoy the dish at home if you wish to do so.



Half Term Dates

Here are the remaining term dates left for this academic year:

Term	Starts	Ends
6	Tuesday 2nd June	Tuesday 22nd July

Just a reminder that we also have Inset Days in school on:

Monday 1st June

Friday 3rd July



Play Days – Play is Learning!

Our Term 6 Theme Day is all about the importance of play and the many ways children learn through it. We are excited to announce our “**Play Days – Play is Learning!**” event. On this day, children should come to school wearing clothes that they are happy to play in which has their **house colours**:

Beech – Blue **Maple – Red** **Elm – Yellow**

Throughout the day, children will work in their house teams and have the opportunity to explore and play in a variety of exciting areas, including:

- Outdoor and Forest School activities
- Role Play
- Craft and Creative activities

We are really looking forward to giving the children the opportunity to play, learn and work together, allowing them to flourish through their own interests, creativity and imagination. Mrs Ward is leading our Role Play area and would greatly appreciate donations or loans of:

- Fancy dress costumes (all ages)
- Clothing items suitable for dressing up
- Accessories such as hats, bags, glasses and wigs
- Costume jewellery

Please ensure that any items brought into school are clearly named so they can be safely returned.

Thank you for your continued support — we cannot wait for a fantastic day of learning through play!

Education Awards

Last Friday evening we had the opportunity to attend the Kent Education Awards presentation at Ashford International Hotel to celebrate Mrs Lavell, winning of the Teaching Assistant of the Year Award!

For more than 25 years at High Halden, Mrs Lavell has dedicated herself to supporting and inspiring generations of children. From running our much-loved breakfast club and wraparound care, to supporting lessons across the school, she goes above and beyond every single day.

She has also lovingly developed and cared for our school allotment, helping children learn, grow and thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

This award is so richly deserved, and we are incredibly proud to have Mrs Lavell as part of the High Halden family. Congratulations Mrs Lavell!



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PTFA CAKE RAFFLE!



WIN A DELICIOUS CAKE!

WHEN: Friday 5th June 2026
TICKETS: £1 EACH
AVAILABLE FROM: The School Office
FROM: Tuesday 2nd June
PAYMENT: Cash or Card Accepted
THE DRAW: Winning ticket to be drawn during Morning Worship on Friday 5th June!

Cash  Card 

All proceeds support the school PTFA. Good luck!



PTFA NON-UNIFORM DAY!

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026

WEAR YOUR BRIGHTEST & MOST COLOURFUL CLOTHING!

COLOUR THEMED RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS!

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	Pink	Purple

IN EXCHANGE FOR DONATIONS OF PRIZES OF YOUR ASSIGNED COLOUR. ANY ITEMS WELCOME! (e.g. food, toys, crafts - but STRICTLY NO NUTS)

DONATIONS WILL BE USED TO MAKE PRIZE HAMPERS FOR OUR COLOUR RUN EVENT!




PTFA NON-UNIFORM DAY!

FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2026

CHILDREN CAN WEAR THEIR OWN CHOICE OF CLOTHING FOR THE DAY!

IN EXCHANGE FOR THE DONATION OF A BOTTLE



DONATIONS WILL CONTRIBUTE to our BOTTLE TOMBOLA STALL AT THE VILLAGE FETE being held on SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026

DONATIONS COULD INCLUDE: e.g.



BOTTLED DRINKS **BUBBLE BATH, SHAMPOO**



PTFA COLOUR RUN 2026

HIGH HALDEN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA INVITES YOU TO...

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY 10th JULY

at 2 PM



FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Fathers Day Gift Shop

We're excited to let you know that the PTFA will be running a Father's Day / Someone Special Gift Shop on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June 2026.

During the afternoon on both days, children will have the chance to visit the gift shop, make a gift and wrap it themselves, ready to take home for Father's Day. It's always a lovely experience and a great opportunity for children to enjoy giving a thoughtful gift to someone special.



Booking & Payment

Children will need to be pre-booked to visit the gift shop. We suggest a £4 donation per child, which will be used to purchase their gift.

To book your child's place, please visit the school office between Thursday 4th June and Friday 12th June to complete a short sign-up form. Payment is required at the time of booking. Card payments are preferred (BACS payments are not accepted for this event).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of PTFA events — it really does make a difference.



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♥ Steps for Huxley ♥

We are calling on the High Halden school community to come together and support a very special family with close links to our school. Huxley is a 10-year-old Year 5 pupil at Woodchurch Primary who is currently undergoing treatment for leukaemia. Some of our families may also remember Huxley's mum, Jesse Banach, who worked at our school during the pandemic, leading one of our class bubbles and supporting children through such a challenging time.

Huxley has been receiving treatment and care at The Royal Marsden Hospital, but the next stage of his treatment will require private funding. Now, this wonderful family needs the support of the wider community around them.

To help raise vital funds, Friends of Woodchurch School Association (FOWSA) are organising a sponsored walk on **Sunday 7th June** and we warmly invite children, families, carers and friends to join us. Whether you walk, donate, sponsor or simply help spread the word, every bit of support will mean so much.

It is free to take part, but we kindly ask each participating child to raise a minimum of **£5 sponsorship**, with any additional donations hugely appreciated. Every step taken and every pound raised will make a real difference to Huxley and his family.

♥ **100% of the money raised will go directly towards supporting Huxley's treatment.**

If you would like to take part, please register here so we have an idea of numbers:

[Registration Form](#)

Sponsor forms are available from the School Office. There is also a fundraising page, if you are unable to join us for the walk but would like help: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-huxley-fight-leukaemia>

We are grateful for everyone's kindness and sensitivity when talking about Huxley's journey, and we respectfully ask that the family's privacy continues to be supported during this difficult time.

Please help us get behind Huxley and his family and show the strength, kindness and generosity of our amazing school community. Together, we can make a difference ♥



SPONSORED WALK
STEPS ♥
for **HUXLEY**

📅 **SUNDAY**
7 JUNE

🕒 **2-4 PM**

📍 **MEETING POINT:**
WOODCHURCH
VILLAGE GREEN

Small steps. Big difference. ♥
TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A REAL IMPACT ♥

The poster features a green heart icon, a calendar icon, a clock icon, a location pin icon, and two footprints (one blue, one green) on the right side. At the bottom, there is a green lizard illustration.

FREE Family Farm Tour!

Friday 29th May 11am-1pm

Morghew Park Estate
Tenterden,
Kent TN30 7LR

See where potatoes are growing locally
in 35 acres of the beautiful
Morghew Park Estate in Tenterden.

Booking essential- email
info@themildredtrust.org to
secure a family place



MORGHEW

TENTERDEN | KENT



Funded by UK Government



Ashford Family Hubs May Half Term Timetable

26th May 2026 - 29th May 2026



Contact us
Ashford North Family Hub 03000 417567
Bockhanger Family Hub 03000 418600
Waterside Family Hub 03000 418700
The Willow Family Hub 03000 418800
Tenterden Family Hub 03000 418400
Stanhope Family Hub 67A Otterden Close

Find us on:
Facebook or Instagram at
[Ashfordfamilyhubs](https://www.facebook.com/Ashfordfamilyhubs) or
[Ashfordfamilyhubs11to19](https://www.instagram.com/Ashfordfamilyhubs11to19)

Email:
ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Family Hub Sites are run by
Kent County Council

Ashford Family Hubs

26th May 2026

Baby Group

Stanhope Family Hub
67A Otterden Close
Ashford
TN23 5TH

1.00pm - 2.30pm

Songs and sensory play for
babies who are pre walking.

Limited Numbers

27th May 2026

Stay and Play

Tenterden Family Hub
Recreation Ground Road
Tenterden
TN30 6RA

10.00am - 11.30am

A relaxed session for families
with play, singing, stories and
messy fun for children aged 0-5.

Limited Numbers

28th May 2026

Parent Drop In

Willow Family Hub
Halstow Way
Ashford
TN23 4EY

10.00am - 11.30am

Drop in for friendly advice on
any parenting questions (0-19)

28th May 2026

Baby Group

Ashford North Family Hub
Mabledon Avenue
Ashford
TN24 8BJ

10.00am - 11.30am

Songs and sensory play for
babies who are pre walking.

Limited Numbers

28th May 2026

**NCT Infant Feeding
Support**

Ashford North Family Hub
Mabledon Avenue
Ashford
TN24 8BJ

1.00pm - 3.00pm

Tenterden Family Hub
Recreation Ground Road
Tenterden
TN30 6RA

28th May 2026

Stay and Play

Willow Family Hub
Halstow Way
Ashford
TN23 4EY

1.00pm - 2.30pm

A relaxed session for families
with play, singing, stories and
messy fun for children aged 0-5.

Limited Numbers



29th May 2026

Child Health Clinic

Willow Family Hub
Halstow Way
Ashford
TN23 4EY

9.30am - 12.30pm

Come along with your baby/child
to speak to one of the Health
Visiting Team, for information,
advice and support
Last admission 12.15pm



LITTLE SILVER

COUNTRY HOTEL



SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

ARRIVE AT 7PM

**LITTLE SILVER COUNTRY HOTEL
TENTERDEN, TN306SP**

Gather your team and join us for an unforgettable evening of brain-teasing trivia, delicious food and friendly competition!

We're proud to host our very first charity fundraising night!

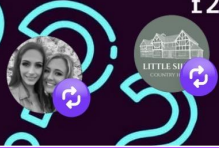
Food is included – choose from a selection of loaded jacket potatoes (curry, chilli, or cheese +beans)

Quiz Teams of up to 6 players welcome for our charity fundraiser quiz!

Cash Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place! Plus amazing raffle prizes too!

In support of High Halden Hornets FC – our brilliant local junior football club. Join us and help us to raise money for the club which goes directly to helping young players thrive.

£25 per person - Book Now!



www.littlesilvercountryhotel.co.uk



Nurtured Roots

Make & Take Workshops
Tenterden

£15



Oil Magic Emotions

A session focused on helping you support your emotions using essential oils, where you'll create 2 personalised blends.

£20



Nature's Medicine

An empowering, back-to-basics on using essential oils for everyday support, where you'll make 3 blends for things like sleep, sniffles, and digestion.

£15



Pamper Your Dog

A reassuring introduction to using essential oils safely around your dog, including making 2 dog-safe sprays to use at home.

£35



Green Cleaning

A simple session on switching to lower-tox cleaning without overthinking it, where you'll make 4 different products to take home.

<https://buytickets.at/nurturedroots>

07543674913 WhatsApp

Ofsted

venture CAMPS

15%
OFF SUMMER CAMPS*

HOLIDAY CAMPS

MAY & SUMMER 2026



Ashford, Bearsted, Canterbury
Folkestone, Sandwich & Tenterden



KENT'S NO.1 FOR KIDS HOLIDAY CAMPS

Venture Camps deliver the very best in children's activity camps during the school holidays. Each day is different with themed activities that include Nerf battles, Make a Fort, Wacky Racers, Archery Tag, Assault Courses, Arts & Crafts and Inflatables; there's something for every child.



"Children are very excited to come into the camp. The staff are welcoming and ensure children settle and engage in activities as soon as they arrive. Children feel happy and safe as they interact with new and existing friends. They are keen to join in with the exciting range of activities on offer."

Check out our recent Ofsted inspection report on our website.



Extended day option available in Canterbury. Pick up at 17:30.

DATES & LOCATIONS

		May Half Term	Summer Holidays
Folkestone	Sandgate Primary School	26th - 29th May	6 weeks starting 21st July
Ashford	The Wyvern School	26th - 29th May	6 weeks starting 22nd July
Canterbury	Simon Langton Boys	26th - 29th May	6 weeks starting 22nd July
Bearsted	Bearsted Primary Academy	26th - 29th May	4 weeks starting 27th July
Sandwich/Deal	Sir Roger Manwood's School	26th - 29th May	4 weeks starting 27th July
Tenterden	Tenterden Infant & Juniors	26th - 29th May	4 weeks starting 27th July

Camps days run from 9am - 4pm. Drop off from 8:30am at no extra charge. Childcare vouchers accepted. Book online; spaces fill fast, so book early to avoid disappointment. For children ages 4-11 (School years R - 6). Book for either a 3 day, 2 day or a full week camp*.

*Single day option available at certain locations. Please check our website for details.

FOOTBALL CAMPS

Football camps that focus on the development of each individual child and the enjoyment of football. For ages 6-12 years in Canterbury & Folkestone during both May Half Term and throughout the summer holidays. Check the website for dates.



***SAVE 15%**

when you book for the summer holiday camps before the 31st May



venturecamps.co.uk

07548 294 804 info@venturecamps.co.uk

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LITTLE SILVER
COUNTRY HOTEL



**KIDS
EAT
FREE**

KIDS EAT FREE AT
LITTLE SILVER

MONDAY TO
FRIDAY
3PM-5:30PM

SATURDAY
12-5PM

One children's
meal free from
our children's
menu for every
adult main
purchased

**BOOK NOW VIA OUR WEBSITE :
LITTLESILVERCOUNTRYHOTEL.CO.UK OR
CALL US ON 01580 443005**



THE
MILDRED TRUST
RURAL COMMUNITY COMPASSION IN ACTION

Get inner peace
and relaxation
this half term

with
**MASSAGE
WITH BECKY**



One parent/ grandparent/
carer can enjoy a free mini
massage while children take
part in Yoga

with
 **THE YOGA MAN**

29th May 2026
St Mildred's Church
Tenterden
10.30-11.30am

Limited places available
Booking essential: email
info@themildredtrust.org

FREE event - £5 deposit required which will be returned to
you on the day



Diary Dates



Date	Event
Monday 1st June	Inset Day
Tuesday 2nd June	Term 6 begins Theme day - Play is Learning!
Wednesday 3rd June	Class Photographs
Friday 5th June	PTFA Cake Raffle
W/C Monday 15th June	Sports Week
Thursday 18th June	Sports Day

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