



High Halden Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 21



Summer Term

Friday 17th July 2026

'Rooted in God, we grow together'

 office@high-halden.kent.sch.uk



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@highhaldencepschool



@HighHaldenSch

As we reach the end of another wonderful academic year, it is the perfect opportunity to reflect on just how much our children have achieved since September. Looking back to those first few days of the autumn term, it is incredible to see the progress they have made, not only academically, but also in their confidence, resilience, independence and kindness. Every child has grown in their own unique way, and we are immensely proud of all they have accomplished.

This year has been filled with exciting opportunities and memorable experiences. From educational visits and sporting events to performances, enrichment activities, Forest School, themed days and celebrations, our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity. These experiences help to create lasting memories while enriching their learning far beyond the classroom.

A school is so much more than a building—it is a community. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helps make our school such a special place. To our dedicated teachers and support staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment, care and hard work. You go above and beyond every single day to ensure our children feel supported, challenged and inspired.

To our PTFA, thank you for your tireless fundraising, enthusiasm and the wonderful events you organise throughout the year. Your generosity provides opportunities and resources that make a real difference to our children. A special thank you to Helen for leading our Forest School sessions. The experiences our children enjoy outdoors are invaluable, helping them to develop confidence, teamwork, curiosity and a love of nature. Thank you also to our volunteers, who generously give their time to support reading, school trips, events and so many other aspects of school life. Your willingness to help enriches our school in countless ways. To our governors, thank you for your guidance, challenge and continued commitment to ensuring our school continues to thrive.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

My final thank you, is to all of our children and families for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. Your trust, kindness and involvement make our school community what it is. It is a privilege to work alongside you, and you make coming to work each day such a joy. There are so many people who contribute to making our school the truly special place that it is, and every contribution—big or small—is deeply appreciated.

Although we still have two exciting days of the school year to enjoy together, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our children and families a wonderful summer break. I hope you have the chance to relax, spend quality time with loved ones, make happy memories and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

We look forward to seeing everyone for our final two days next week, before welcoming our children back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year of learning, laughter and new adventures. Have a safe, happy and enjoyable summer, and thank you once again for making High Halden such a special place to learn and work.

HELLO SUMMER



HELLO SUMMER

Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope

A Message for Year 6

To our wonderful Year 6 children, as you prepare to leave High Halden and begin the next exciting chapter of your journey, we want you to know just how proud we are of each and every one of you. You have grown into confident, capable and caring young people, and we know you are ready for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

It has been a privilege to watch you learn, grow and flourish during your time at High Halden. You have been a pleasure to have as part of our school family, and although we will miss you, we are excited to see all that you will achieve in the future.

We hope you leave High Halden with many happy memories of your time here; the friendships you have made, the adventures you've shared, the lessons you've learned and the moments that have made you smile. Remember that you will always be a part of our school community, and we wish you every happiness and success in the years ahead.

Good luck, Year 6. We know you'll do brilliantly.



Attendance

A huge thank you to all of our families for your continued commitment to ensuring your children attend school every day. Your support makes a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for the efforts you make to prioritise attendance. We are delighted to have seen a reduction in the number of children who are persistently absent (those whose attendance falls below 90%). This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the strong partnership between home and school. Every day a child is in school counts. Regular attendance helps children build on their learning, develop confidence, strengthen friendships and make the best possible progress. Missing even a small amount of school can mean missing valuable learning experiences that cannot always be easily replaced.

We are especially pleased that our whole-school attendance currently stands at an impressive 96%, something our entire school community should be proud of. An extra special congratulations goes to the 16 children who have achieved over 99% attendance this year. What an incredible accomplishment! Your commitment, resilience and enthusiasm for learning are truly commendable. A huge well done to each and every one of you! Thank you once again for working with us to ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to thrive. Together, we can continue to make every day count.





Governor Update



The Governing Board met recently for its final meeting of the academic year. Alongside approving the minutes from the previous meeting, governors were pleased to appoint a new Chair, congratulating Leon Hackling on his appointment and thanking Clare Silcock for the last 7 years and her dedicated service as Chair. Hilary Ndongong was also appointed as Vice Chair, with thanks expressed to Nik Le Marechal for his valued contribution in the role over the past 13 years. We were delighted to welcome three new co-opted governors - Peter James, Kelly Brace and Victoria Quinn - and thank them for stepping forward to support our federation. They bring a wealth of experience and skills that will strengthen the work of the governing board.

Governors agreed monitoring pairs for the new academic year and received updates on safeguarding, attendance, finance and the Christian vision, values and distinctiveness of our schools, including developments to the RE curriculum. The board reviewed progress against our strategic priorities, considering current actions and readiness for September, and discussed monitoring reports from across the federation, asking questions to support and challenge school leaders. Governors also shared the training they have completed over the past term and reflected on key learning that will help inform future governance. We continue to be encouraged by the commitment of staff and governors alike as we work together to provide the very best education for all our children.

Y6 Leavers' Service

Our final church service of the year will take place at St Mary's Church from 2:30pm on Monday 20th July.

All families are welcome to join us at service of celebration for our year 6 children before they bid farewell to High Halden Primary School.



Last Day of Term

A reminder that **Tuesday 21st July** will be the last day of term.

We hope all of our pupils and families have a safe, happy, and relaxing summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Thursday 3rd September** for the start of the new term.



School Outcomes

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our children this year. Their hard work, determination and enthusiasm for learning have resulted in fantastic outcomes across the school.

From an impressive **87%** of our Reception children achieving a Good Level of Development, to **93%** of our Year 1 children passing the Phonics Screening Check, and **73%** of our Year 6 pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined, our children have much to celebrate.

These outcomes are above national averages and reflect the dedication of our pupils, staff and families working together.

A huge well done to all of our children we are immensely proud of everything you have achieved this year!



Uniform Reminder

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we would like to remind families to check that children have the correct school uniform ready for September.

All branded uniform items can be purchased from **Pages Schoolwear**. We recommend ordering early over the summer to allow plenty of time for delivery and to avoid the back-to-school rush.

Please also remember that children should wear smart, black school shoes as part of our uniform.

Trainers are not part of our school uniform and should only be worn on PE days when appropriate.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children take pride in their appearance and arrive at school ready to learn.



Reminder About School Bags

As we prepare for the new school year, we'd like to remind families that due to limited space, we do not have room for large backpacks or bulky bags in school.

Like last year, we ask that children bring in a bookbag to carry their belongings. These do not need to have the school logo — any simple bookbag purchased from supermarkets or online is perfect!

Using Bookbags helps us keep our corridors clutter-free and safe for all children and staff.

Thank you for your support in keeping our school environment safe and organised.



Term 1 Theme Day

We are excited to begin the new school year with a **Healthy Living Theme Day**.

Throughout the day, children will take part in fun activities to learn about healthy eating, the importance of physical activity, looking after their teeth and supporting their mental well-being.

We are looking forward to a fantastic day of learning that will encourage healthy habits for life.



WIRE Award

We are delighted to share that High Halden has achieved the **WIRE Award** (Widening Inclusion through Religious Education).

A huge congratulations and thank you to Mrs Myers, who has driven this initiative over the past two years with dedication and enthusiasm. This achievement reflects not only her hard work, but also the commitment of our teaching team, who have worked together to continually develop and enrich our RE curriculum.

Through this journey, we have become increasingly proactive in ensuring our Religious Education curriculum reflects the diverse world we live in, widening our doors and creating an even more inclusive environment where every child feels valued, respected and represented.



School Photographs

On Tuesday 15th September, the children will have the opportunity to have their annual school photograph taken.

At the beginning of the academic year, we offer individual photos (whole class photos are taken in the summer term).

Our photographer is Chris Bell from Kent School Photography, a local company offering modern, up to date technology and online viewing & payments.

Please can we ask that your child is wearing their full school uniform.



TOP
5%

CONGRATULATIONS! Top performing Pol-Ed School

In recognition of your school's outstanding commitment to delivering high-quality safeguarding, prevention and PSHE education through Pol-Ed. Thank you for helping children and young people stay safe, healthy and informed through the 2025-26 academic year.

Amy Watkins

Head of Pol-Ed



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Diabetes Screening

The ELSA Study

A reminder that information about the **ELSA Study** (Type 1 Diabetes screening) was recently sent to parents and carers by **email**.

The ELSA Study team will be visiting **High Halden Primary School on Thursday 17th September 2026** to carry out the screening.

If you would like your child to take part, please refer to the email for further information and details on how to register your consent. If you have any questions, please contact the ELSA Study team using the details provided in the email.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Home School Agreement

A reminder that the **Home School Agreement 2026–27** was recently sent to parents and carers by email.

If you have not yet completed the Google Form, please may we ask that you do so before the end of term.

Please remember that a separate form must be completed for each child currently attending High Halden Primary School (this applies to our current Year R–5 children only).

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.



SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMP AT ASHFORD RUGBY CLUB

FROM 27TH JULY – 21ST AUGUST
9AM – 3PM

FOR CHILDREN AGED 5 – 11 YEARS
– (MUST BE IN YEAR 1 TO ATTEND)

SNACK AND HOT LUNCH PROVIDED

LEARN NEW SKILLS AND
MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

KIDS GO FREE WITH THE CODE
'FREETSCL'



TOTAL
SPORTS
COACHING

ALT
ASHFORD LEISURE
TRUST

FUNKY BUNCH SPECIAL

THE FUNKY BUNCH FESTIVAL

A DAY OF FUN, FRIENDS & FESTIVAL FEELS!

31ST JULY 10.00 – 2.00 £25 PER CHILD

FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-11 YEARS

LUMINA DANCE COMPANY, ASHFORD

BOOK NOW & JOIN THE FUN!
www.thefunkybunchkent.com

DANCE ★ PLAY ★ CREATE ★ CELEBRATE

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InterArts

ART CLASSES

FOR 2-18 YEAR OLDS

HEADCORN VILLAGE HALL

Schools ask: which art are you good at?
InterArts asks: what kind of creative thinker are you?

EXPLORE • MAKE • CREATE • INNOVATE

BOOK NOW!

STARTING IN SEPTEMBER



OUR PROGRAMMES

InterArts Play
 Ages 2-4
 Coming Soon

InterArts Explore
 Ages 4-6
 Sunday 11am-12pm

InterArts Craft
 Ages 7-10
 Tuesday 4-5.15pm

InterArts Create
 Ages 11-13
 Monday 5-6.15pm

InterArts Innovate
 Ages 14-16
 Sunday 12.30-2pm

InterArts Agency
 Ages 16-18
 Sunday 2.30-4pm

Hi, I'm Sam!

I am an Artist & Designer and spent over a decade working as an arts educator, Arts Award Adviser and education producer, designing creative learning programmes for children and young people across the UK.

InterArts brings together my belief that creativity is bigger than any single art form. Through a blend of art, design, craft and creative problem-solving, children and young people are encouraged to explore, make, create and innovate, building confidence, curiosity and creative thinking along the way.

I believe:
 "Creativity doesn't live in one subject, one skill, or one way of seeing; it lives in the connections between things."

For more details and to book your place:
www.interarts.co.uk



Spot the LEGO for £1.50 with prize at the end!

Valid from 20th of July to 7th of September 2026

Summer savings

Children's Lunch Box and museum entry only **£5**

at the Museum **10am - 4pm**

7 days a week
 Lunch Box at NAAFI Cafe served until 3pm
 Ages 5 - 15

All other attendees must pay admission.
 At least 1 adult per 4 children
 Other competitions and activities available. Please speak to shop staff.
 See website for details.
info@rafmanston.co.uk www.rafmanston.co.uk

BOOK HERE 

Why not go and visit our donation funded neighbouring museum?

WILD ONES! HOLIDAY CLUB

July 22 & July 23

Forest School Holiday Club

Based at High Hal Priory School

9am - 3.30pm

Now from Year 2!

adults don't stay

For kids currently in School Years 2-7

To Book Email:
Helen@roforest.school

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TENTERDEN
GARDEN CENTRE



SUMMER
FAMILY FUN DAYS

WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY 10.30AM – 4PM

FACE PAINTING*
DROP-IN CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP
11.00-12.30, 1.00-3.30
ARTS & CRAFTS*
BOUNCY CASTLES & BABY BALL PIT
ACTIVITY TRAIL* WITH GUARANTEED PRIZES
MAGIC SHOW HAM, 12PM 1.30PM & 2.30PM

*SMALL CHARGES WILL APPLY

WWW.GROVEWELLGC.CO.UK : 01233 758510 : FIND US ON:  
APPLEDORE RD, READING ST, NR. TENTERDEN, TN30 7HT

HAMSTREET
GARDEN CENTRE



SUMMER
FAMILY FUN DAYS

TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST 10.30AM – 4PM

FACE PAINTING*
CRAZY SCIENCE FUN
DROP-IN CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP
11.00-12.30, 1.00-3.30
BOUNCY CASTLES & BABY BALL PIT
ARTS & CRAFTS*
ACTIVITY TRAIL* WITH GUARANTEED PRIZES

*SMALL CHARGES WILL APPLY

WWW.GROVEWELLGC.CO.UK : 01233 234900 : FIND US ON:  
MARSH ROAD, HAMSTREET, ASHFORD, KENT TN26 2JZ



SUMMER
FAIR

HIGH HALDEN
VILLAGE GREEN

SATURDAY 18TH JULY

12.30 - 4.30PM

STILT WALKERS; TRAPEZE
ARTISTS & MORE !

LIVE MUSIC CRAFT STALLS

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY TENT

TEA TENT FOOD STALLS

HOLIDAY
TENNIS

COACHING CAMPS
AT SELLINDGE
TENNIS CLUB

PLAY.
IMPROVE.
HAVE FUN!

THE IDEAL WAY
to get started with tennis –

OR, IF YOU
ALREADY PLAY,
LEVEL UP
YOUR GAME
with our qualified
LTA coaches.

27/07 – 14/08
SUMMER FUN.
TENNIS FOR EVERYONE!

£
£8
PER HOUR

ALL ABILITIES
WELCOME!
AGES 4+

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/DavidWeller/Coaching/Camps>
SPACES ARE LIMITED – BOOK EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO BOOK:
david.weller22@btinternet.com

SELLINDGE
TENNIS CLUB

LTA
TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN

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Create a picture with natural things collected in the churchyard

Parish of Denswood



Picture Perfect with Parish Petals

Tuesday
18th August

All Saints
Woodchurch
10-12



Thursday
20th August

St Margaret's
Bethersden
10-12

Come and join us!

Refreshments available at both venues

BURGERS BATS & BUGS



SATURDAY
15TH AUGUST
ALL SAINTS
CHURCHYARD
WOODCHURCH

8pm Burgers

8:45pm Bat spotting and listening with bat detector

9:00pm Bug bioluminescence with UV torch

PAY WHAT YOU CAN (GUIDE PRICE £5)
CONTACT REVD MARIA TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:
DENSWOODCURATE@GMAIL.COM
07716815275

LIMITED PLACES
BOOKING ESSENTIAL



Diary Dates



Date	Event
Monday 20th July	Leavers' Service Leavers' BBQ
Tuesday 21st July	Last Day of Term
Tuesday 1st September	Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd September	Inset Day
Thursday 3rd september	Term 1 Begins
Thursday 10th September	Kent Test
Tuesday 15th September	School Photographs

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