



High Halden Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 1



Autumn Term

4th September 2026

'Rooted in God, we grow together'

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@ HighHaldenSch

It has been a delight to welcome everyone back after what we hope was a wonderful summer holiday. The children have settled in ever so well, and it was fantastic to see them enjoying their first few days as they explored their new classrooms and year groups. We were so impressed by how smart everyone looked in their school uniforms, there were certainly plenty of proud smiles coming through



the gates!



A very warm welcome to our new Bumblebees class! Starting school is a huge milestone, and we are already so proud of how brilliantly you have started your journey with us. We hope you and your families are feeling right at home and truly part of our school family.



Thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts of our school community last year, Thursday was an extra special day on the playground! We were thrilled to introduce a whole host of brand-new play equipment, including: Basketball hoops and balls, outdoor gymnastic mats and beams, balance toys, scooters, and skipping ropes. Big bubble makers, colouring books, and card games. As well as a new outdoor sound system so the children can enjoy music while they play! It was wonderful watching the children dive straight in and try out all the new activities. We hope these fabulous new resources continue to enrich their lunchtimes and play times throughout the year. Thank you once again to our generous families for making these wonderful additions possible!



After a busy first week back, I'm sure there will be plenty of tired little legs this weekend as everyone gets used to the school routine again! Enjoy a well-deserved rest, and here's to a happy, successful and fun-filled term ahead.

Staffing Update

We are pleased to give a warm welcome to the newest member of our team, Miss Nash, who will be working in Butterflies class.

She has already hit the ground running and is looking forward to getting to know all the children and their families. Please do pop by to say hello if you see her around and help her feel part of our school community.



Ofsted Report

Hopefully, you received our email earlier today containing our latest Ofsted report. It is a fantastic celebration of our school community, and we strongly encourage all families to take a look and share in our pride!



Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope

Pupil Leadership

We value the children's voice and believe that giving pupils genuine leadership opportunities is key to helping them grow into confident, responsible citizens. Encouraging children to take on leadership roles empowers them to share their ideas, represent their peers, and make a meaningful impact on our school community.

We would like to say a massive congratulations to the following pupils who were successfully voted into their new roles by their classmates:

- **Bella, Charlie and Grace**, our new Pupil Ambassadors
- **Dorothy, Molly, Daniella and Ava**, our new House Captains



Well done to you all! We wish you the very best of luck in your new positions and hope you thoroughly enjoy taking on these exciting responsibilities this year.



Award Winning School!

We are thrilled to share that we are officially an award-winning school! Towards the end of last academic year and over the summer holidays, we received the fantastic news that we have been successful in gaining several prestigious accreditations.

A huge congratulations and thank you to the staff members who led these applications: the RE 'WIRE' Award (led by Mrs Myers), the Silver School Games Mark (led by Mr De-Keyzer), the Young Carers Award (led by Mrs Butcher and Miss Hawkins), and the Parent-Friendly School Award.

Achieving such a wide variety of accreditations is a wonderful reflection of our commitment to excellence across the whole curriculum—from sports and religious education to pastoral care and our vital partnership with families.



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Challenger Troop

We're excited that Challenger Troop starts next week for our Year 6 children!

Children will travel to Woodchurch and work alongside their Year 6 class. Please ensure they wear old clothes and footwear that can get muddy—they're likely to get very dirty!

Challenger Troop is always a favourite with our pupils and is a fantastic opportunity to try something new, build resilience and confidence, and have lots of fun!



Kent Test

A reminder to parents of children in Y6 who have registered their child to take part in this years 11+ test.

This year the test will take place on:
Thursday 10th September

Please ensure that your child has a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast and is in school on time. They do not need to bring anything additional to school as we will provide them with everything they need.



School Photographs

Our annual individual school photographs will take place on **Tuesday 15th September**.

There will also be an opportunity for children to have their photograph taken with pre-school-aged siblings. If you would like to make use of this, please arrive at 8.00am via the back doors to the school hall.

The photographs will be taken by Chris Bell from Kent School Photography, a local company offering modern photography, online viewing and payment.

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their full school uniform.



Diabetes Screening

This is a reminder about the ELSA Study and the opportunity for your child/children to take part in the type 1 diabetes screening taking place at High Halden Primary School on **Thursday 17th September 2026**.

If you would like your child/children to participate and have not yet registered, please [click here](#) and follow the instructions provided to complete your registration.

The ELSA Study is a screening programme designed to identify children and young people who may be at an early risk of developing type 1 diabetes.



Harvest Festival

We will soon be celebrating our Harvest Festival and collecting food donations to help top up the High Halden foodbank. We kindly ask families to bring in non-perishable items during the week beginning **28th September**.

Items we are collecting:

- Tinned foods
- Soups & pasta
- Cereals & cereal bars



All donations will be taken over to St Mary's Church for our special service on **1st October** at **2:30pm**, and you are all warmly invited to join us. Let's come together to give thanks to God for the food we have and do some good for our local community!

Parents Evening

Our first Parents' Evening meetings of the year will take place on:

Wednesday 7th October: 3.30pm–6.30pm

Thursday 8th October: 4.30pm–7.00pm

Appointments will be booked through an online booking system. Further information will be shared soon, including details of how to book your preferred appointment slot.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing how your child has settled into the new school year.



Medicines in School

To keep all of our children safe, please take note of our school medication guidelines:

- **Prescribed Medicines Only:** School staff can only administer medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor. These must be checked into the school office by an adult, and doses will be logged and shared via our First Aid app.
- **No Medicines in Bags:** It is imperative that no medication, including creams, tablets, or lozenges, are left in children's school bags.
- **Non-Prescribed Medication:** If your child needs non-prescribed items during the day (such as Calpol or a throat lozenge), you are more than welcome to pop into school to administer these yourself.



PE Days

So that the children get the most out of their physical education lessons, we ask that they come to school wearing their PE kit on their allocated days. This term, the PE days for each class are as follows:

- **Bumblebees:** Wednesday & Friday
- **Butterflies:** Thursday
- **Grasshoppers:** Tuesday & Friday
- **Dragonflies:** Wednesday

Please note: On rare occasions, these days may need to shift due to timetable adjustments, but class teachers will always keep you updated.

PE Uniform Reminder: Children should wear their coloured school PE top, teamed with plain black shorts, leggings, or jogging bottoms, and suitable trainers.



Forest School

This term, **Butterflies** class will be enjoying weekly Forest School sessions with Helen from Righteous Oaks.

To ensure the children can participate fully and comfortably, please make sure they come to school dressed for Forest School every Tuesday.

As sessions go ahead in all weather conditions, please provide appropriate layers, waterproofs, and warm clothing if it looks likely to be chilly or rainy.



RIGHTEOUS OAKS CIC
forest school for all

After School Clubs

We still have a few spaces remaining in some of our after-school clubs for this term:

- **Gardening - Monday - Years 3-6**
- **Yoga - Monday - All years**
- **Drama - Friday - Years 2-6**

If your child would like to join any of these activities, please contact **Mrs Prebble** in the school office as soon as possible to secure a spot!



Nut-Free Reminder

We would like to remind all families that we are a strictly **nut-free school**. We have several children in our school community who have severe, life-threatening nut allergies and would require immediate emergency medication if exposed to products containing nuts.

Please carefully check all food items sent in for packed lunches and break time snacks. This includes avoiding:

- **Nuts and seeds** of any kind
- **Chocolate spreads** (e.g., Nutella or hazelnut spreads)
- **Certain hummus varieties** or dips containing sesame/nuts
- **Cereal bars, biscuits, and cakes** that contain nuts



Thank you so much for your vigilance and co-operation in keeping all of our children safe.

Flu Immunisations

This is a reminder that the school health team will be attending on **Wednesday 30th September** to administer the flu vaccination to children in years R-6 for whom they have received parental consent.

Consent must be provided by completing the online consent form using this link:

[NHS Seasonal Flu Form](#)

Please complete the form whether you wish your child to receive the vaccine or to decline the offer.

The deadline for submitting the online consent form is **4:00 pm on Friday 25th September 2026**.





Time to shine Junior's

A group for SEND children and young people aged 7-11 years to socialise and learn new skills in a safe, relaxed environment. This group is for children and young people who may find it difficult to access mainstream groups and would like some support to build their confidence.

The group numbers are lower to meet the needs of everyone attending and to create a calmer environment.

Waterside Family Hub



DAY: Monday



Time: 4.00pm - 5.15pm



Address: Turner Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0PQ

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Booking required – link in the description.

You do not need to have a diagnosis to attend this session



- Visit your local Family Hub today
- Kent.gov.uk/familyhub
- KentFamilyHub



stepping Up 5-11 Years

Join us for a fun, confidence-building course for children aged 5-11. Over six sessions, they will explore emotions, build friendships, and learn practical skills through creative activities, games, and discussions in a safe, friendly environment.

The Willow Family Hub



DAY: Thursday



Time: 3.45pm - 5.15pm



Address: Halstow Way, Ashford, Kent TN23 4EY

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk / 03000 418800

Booking required – contact your Family Hub.



- Visit your local Family Hub today
- Kent.gov.uk/familyhub
- KentFamilyHub



WINGS & WHEELS WEEKEND 2026

| 12TH & 13TH SEPTEMBER | 10AM TO 4PM |
RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM CT12 5DF



Climb in the Cockpits



CHARITY NUMBER: 1279982



BOOK HERE



Fire Engine Rides



Tank Rides



Loads of Vehicles



Museum Entry

OPTIONAL PRE-BOOKING AVAILABLE

USUAL MUSEUM ADMISSION PRICES APPLY | RIDE ADMISSION SEPARATE

info@rafmanston.co.uk

www.rafmanston.co.uk



What Three Words - [remarried.mornings.pave](https://www.what3words.com/remarried.mornings.pave)



Refreshments available

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

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2026 COFFEE MORNING



In aid of
Macmillan Cancer Support



9:00-10:00am in the mobile classroom

As always, we would be most grateful of any donations of cakes or savouries. Please do not send any products containing nuts.

There will also be a cake sale for the children during the school day.

We invite them to bring a 50p donation with which they will be able to purchase a cake.

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