High Halden Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 4

Friday 16th October 2026 **Autumn Term**

'Rooted in God, we grow together'

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Autumn has certainly arrived as there is now a definite chill in the air! It is hard to believe that next week is already the final week of our first half term. It has been a particularly long one, with eight weeks in school, and we are certainly beginning to see some tired faces! The children have worked incredibly hard since September, and it is only natural that energy levels are starting to dip as we approach the half-term break. I think we can safely say that everyone will be ready for a well-earned rest!

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening. We hope you found the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher useful and informative, giving you a clearer picture of how your child is progressing so far this year. We also hope that the End of Year Expectations documents shared with you have helped you understand the key skills and knowledge your child will be working towards. As always, our teachers really value your support, and any help you can provide at home is greatly appreciated. It really does make a difference! Often, it is the little things, done regularly, that have the biggest impact. With this in mind, we would encourage you to continue focusing on those all-important basic skills:

- **Reading:** Listening to your child read and, just as importantly, reading to them. Children are never too old or too fluent to enjoy being read to! Sharing stories, discussing characters and talking about new vocabulary are all wonderful ways to develop a love of reading.
- **Number bonds and times tables:** Regularly practising number bonds to 10, 20, 50 and 100, as appropriate for your child's age, alongside times tables, helps children develop confidence and fluency in maths. Just a few minutes each day can make a real difference.

We know how busy family life can be, and we certainly don't expect home to become another classroom, especially when the children are already feeling tired! However, these small, everyday opportunities to practise and reinforce learning really do help children grow in confidence and make progress. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working in partnership with us to help your children be the very best they can be.

Have a lovely weekend.



Attendance

As we head towards an increase of seasonal illnesses it's important to know how to prevent the spread of nasty bugs.
This video offers guidance on how to know whether your child is well enough to attend school.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_i5KxggkPTw

The NHS can also offer guidance on what to do if your child is unwell, please see the information overleaf.

If you're unsure, please ask us. By working together we can help keep everyone safe.

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Challenger Troop

This week, our Year 6 pupils took part in their final Challenger Troop session. These sessions have been designed to develop the children's resilience, perseverance and teamwork, encouraging them to step outside their comfort zones, face challenges with determination and keep going even when things get tough.

We are **incredibly proud of the whole cohort**, who have approached each session with enthusiasm, positivity and a willingness to give everything a go. It has been wonderful to see them challenge themselves, support one another and grow in confidence along the way.

A **special well done** goes to the following children, Molly, Arabella, Addie, Charlie and Ava who particularly impressed Sergeant Williams with their attitude, effort and determination:

We hope that these sessions will leave all our Year 6 pupils with lasting memories, a real sense of achievement and, most importantly, valuable lessons about resilience and perseverance that they can draw upon whenever life presents them with challenges.



Term 2-Oracy Day

To kick off Term 2, we will be holding a special Oracy Day, with the intriguing theme 'The Day the World Went Silent!' Throughout the day, the children will be exploring just how powerful their voices can be and why being able to communicate confidently and effectively is such an important life skill.

Through a range of exciting and engaging activities, children will have opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills, practise presenting their ideas, take part in debates, explain their reasoning and learn how to express their opinions clearly and respectfully. We will also be focusing on broadening vocabulary and building the confidence to speak aloud in front of others.

Oracy is about so much more than simply talking. It is about finding your voice, listening to others, thinking carefully and having the confidence to share your thoughts and ideas. We want every child to recognise that their voice matters and that they have something valuable to contribute.



Congratulations!

We are delighted to share some wonderful news! High Halden has **won** the Ashford District Libraries Summer Reading Challenge Trophy, beating 50 schools from across the Ashford district!

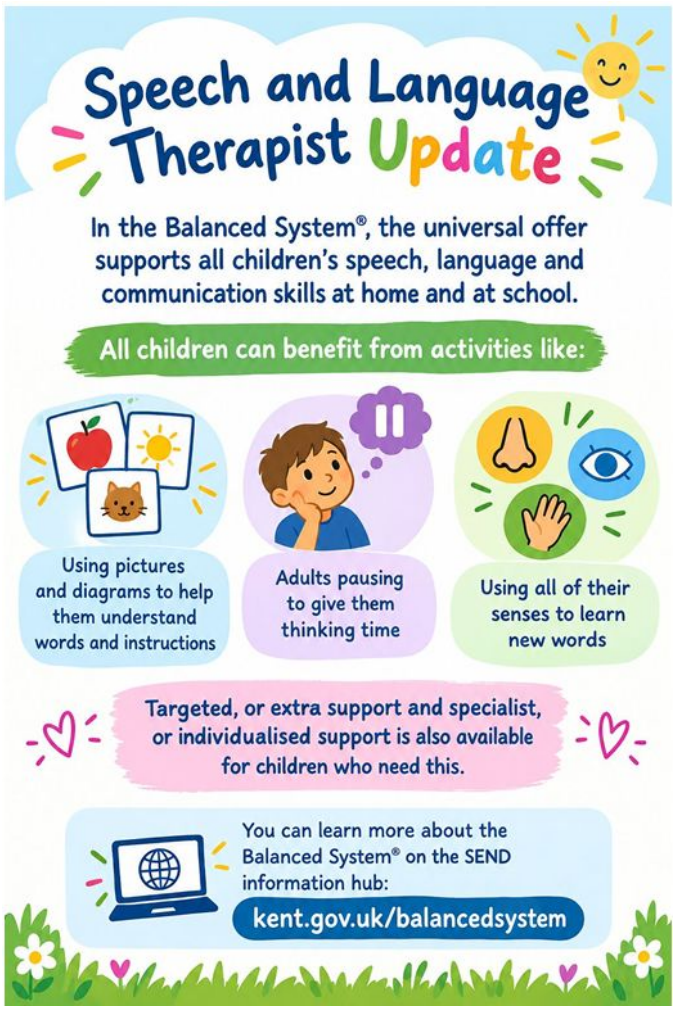
The trophy is awarded to the school with the highest proportion of pupils participating in and completing the annual Summer Reading Challenge. An amazing 31 of our pupils successfully completed the challenge, that's 29.5% of our school roll! This was the highest percentage of any school in the district, which is a fantastic achievement.

We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part and especially those who completed the challenge. It is wonderful to see their enthusiasm for reading being recognised in this way. This really is a fantastic example of what we can achieve when we work together to develop a love of reading.



Kent Libraries





Xmas4Schools

On Tuesday 20th October the children will be bringing home their completed Christmas card design sheets.

The final date for return of design sheets back to the school is
Wednesday 4th November.

If you would like the opportunity to purchase products with your child's design on them please complete the form on the reverse of the artwork and hand this in to the school office for processing. The print company cannot accept late submissions, so forms must be received by the deadline stated above.

If you have any questions about the ordering process, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Xmas4schools™



EYFS School Tours

Is your child due to start school in September 2027?

Come and discover our small, nurturing rural school with a warm family feel, spacious classrooms and vast outdoor space.





We provide a calm, caring environment where every child is known, valued and supported to grow both academically and personally.

Book your personalised school tour and come and see what makes our school so special.

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

COME AND PLAY SESSIONS

For Prospective September 2027 Reception Children

DOUGH DISCO & STORY TIME
Monday 9th Nov 2026
2:30pm

MUDDY KITCHEN CAFE
Tuesday 17th Nov 2026
9:00am

OUTSIDE FOREST PLAY
Thursday 26th Nov 2026
9:00am

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS
Friday 4th Dec 2026
9:00am

CONTACT SCHOOL OFFICE TO BOOK A SPACE
Telephone: 01233 850 285
Email: office@high-halden.kent.sch.uk

HIGH HALDEN CEP SCHOOL

EYFS OPEN EVENING

For September 2027 prospective families



An opportunity for new and prospective families to hear all about our wonderful school. Come and meet our Headteacher and Early Years staff as well as tour the school.

Thursday 12th November at 6:30pm

THE MILDRED TRUST
RURAL COMMUNITY COMPASSION IN ACTION

Autumn

FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES - OCTOBER HALF TERM 2026

Monday 19th October
Badminton- for ages 8+, Rolvenden Village Hall: 11am-12.15

Tuesday 20th October
Autumn Nature Club- for ages 4 to11, Sprout Squad Garden, Ivy Court Surgery, Tenterden: 10.30am-11.30am

Monday 26th October
Badminton- for ages 8+, Rolvenden Village Hall: 11am -12.15

Tuesday 27th October
Raving Pumpkins Party- for families with children ages 4 to12, The Old Dairy Taproom, Tenterden: 11.30am-1.30pm

Wednesday 28th October
Painting with Natural Dyes-create a tote bag, for ages 8 to 13, St Michael's Village Hall: 2.15-3.45pm

Thursday 29th October
Autumn Nature Club- for ages 4 to11, Sprout Squad Garden, Ivy Court Surgery, Tenterden: 10.30am-11.30am

For booking information please email:
info@themildredtrust.org
£5 deposit required to secure your families place, which will be returned to you on the day. Events are FREE!

www.themildredtrust.org
Email: info@themildredtrust.org
Facebook: TheMildredTrust
Instagram: themildredtrust
Phone: 07454 339246
Charity number: 1097210

Visit Kent Police Museum in Faversham and become a detective!

FREE entry





Follow clues, explore real crime stories, discover fascinating police equipment, and enjoy interactive displays.

Learn how crimes were solved in the past and see unusual objects from more than 200 years of Kent Police history.

Looking for something to do this October half term?

The museum will be open from **Tuesday 27 October** to **Saturday 31 October, 10am to 4pm**. For the latest opening times and visitor information, please check the museum website before you visit.

Kent Police Museum

Bringing Our History to Life

kentpolicemuseum
@kpolicemuseum

www.kent.police.uk/kent-museum
Email: museum@kent.police.uk
Telephone 01795 433028

MODELFEST

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM
Charity No. 1179982

AT THE MUSEUM 10am - 4pm

24TH OCT - 25TH OCT 2026

Planes, Trains & Automobiles

A series of model displays including:

WARHAMMER 40,000



BOLT ACTION

SCALEXTRIC



& much more!

Usual Museum entrance prices apply, see webpage for more information

@RAF Manston History Museum

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@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.





BBC Children in Need

SAVE THE DATE!

FOR CHILDREN IN NEED DAY 2026



FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2026

Further Details to Follow!

WWW.BBC.CO.UK/CHILDRENINNEED

Reg. Charity nos. 802052 & SC039557

SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR

High Halden Church of England Primary School

DISCOVER NEW WORLDS!

FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

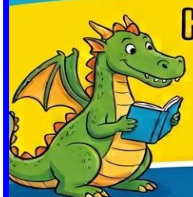


MONDAY 16th - THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2026

OPEN DAILY: AFTER SCHOOL







HUNDREDS OF BOOKS FOR ALL AGES!

FICTION, NON-FICTION, PICTURE BOOKS & MORE!



SCHOLASTIC

PAYMENT METHODS ACCEPTED: CASH, CARD, & BOOK FAIR VOUCHERS.
All purchases will help us to buy new books for the classes