



# High Halden Church of England Primary School

## Newsletter 2



Friday 19th September 2025

Autumn Term

*'Rooted in God, we grow together'*

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We are now at the end of week three of term, and it has been lovely to see how quickly the children have settled back into routines. They are working hard in their lessons and also enjoying some new play equipment which was very kindly donated to us by Mike-Dyer Ball, our drama club teacher. A huge thank you to Mike for his generosity—it has already brought lots of joy at playtimes.

As some of you may know, Miss Richards has been training to become a teacher alongside working in Bumblebees. She is due to go off on her final placement on Friday 26th September, but this will also be her last day at High Halden. Following her placement, Miss Richards has decided to take a well-deserved break before finding her first teaching role as a newly qualified teacher.

We have been truly blessed to have Miss Richards on our team. She has given so many children the very best start to their time at High Halden, and she will be greatly missed. At the same time, we are excited to see what her next chapter will bring and wish her every success in her future adventures.

As we head further into the term, school life is now in full swing. There is so much happening both in and out of the classroom, and it's wonderful to see the children embracing every opportunity with such enthusiasm. We have lots of exciting events and learning experiences still to come, and I look forward to sharing more of these great moments with you as the term continues.



### Attendance

Reception	95.8%
Year 1	97.5%
Year 2	98.2%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	98.4%
Year 5	96.3%
Year 6	99.2%

School **97.7%**

Every school day really does count—every moment matters. Good attendance helps children build friendships, keeps their learning on track, and gives them the best chance to succeed. Please support us by ensuring your child is in school every day, on time, wherever possible.



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## Harvest Service

We are looking forward to our Harvest Service at St Mary's Church on 25th September at 2:30pm. As part of our celebrations, we will be collecting donations of food for the village food bank.

We would be very grateful for any contributions of non-perishable items to help support families in our community. Suggested items include:

- Tinned fruit, vegetables, soup, beans
- Pasta, rice, noodles
- Cereal, biscuits, crackers
- Long-life milk or juice
- Tea, coffee, sugar
- Jars of sauces or spreads



Further details about the service and collection dates will be shared soon. Thank you for your generosity—it really does make a difference.

## School Website

We are delighted to share that our new school website is now live! It has a fresh new look, is mobile-adaptive, and contains up-to-date information about everything going on in our school.

We'd love to hear what you think—please take a look and let us know your feedback. Your thoughts will help us make sure the website is as useful and welcoming as possible for all our families.

[www.high-halden.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-halden.kent.sch.uk)



## Flu Immunisations

This is a reminder that the school health team will be attending on Wednesday 1st October to administer the flu vaccination to children in years R-6 for whom they have received parental consent.



You can find more information about the Kent Immunisation team and the work they do here:

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/immunisation-service/>

## European Day of Languages

We are looking forward to celebrating the **European Day of Languages** soon, and this year we will be focusing on **French**.

Our wonderful PTFA are kindly funding a **French breakfast** for the children to enjoy, and there will be lots of fun activities planned throughout the day (we'll share more details with you closer to the time).

For the occasion, we are asking children to come to school dressed in **red, white and/or blue**.

Merci



## Parents Evening

Our first set of Parents Evening meetings are due to take place on:

**Tuesday 7th October**  
**Thursday 9th October**

An online booking system will be available for appointments.

We will send further information out soon with details which will help you book your appointment slot.



## Free School Lunch

We'd like to invite all children to enjoy a free school lunch on Thursday 2nd October. This is a great opportunity to come and try out meals from our new catering provider.

There's no need to book in advance—children can simply order their lunch with their teacher on the morning.

We hope as many children as possible will join in and give the lunches a go!



## Hello Yellow

On Hello Yellow Day, we'll be celebrating children's mental health and wellbeing.

♥ Pupils are invited to wear something yellow to school.

♥ **We'd like everyone to bring a packed lunch so we can enjoy a whole-school mindful picnic together.**

♥ The picnic will be a chance for children to sit with their friends, relax, chat, and enjoy a calm lunchtime as part of our focus on wellbeing.

♥ The school will organise a packed lunch for all children who are entitled to benefit-related free school meals.

♥ **Let's make Friday 10th October bright, mindful, and full of smiles** ♥

#HelloYellow  
**YOUNGMINDS**



Is your child due to start school in September 2026?



**We warmly invite you to come for a personalised family tour of our school.**

At High Halden, families are always pleasantly surprised by:

- our spacious indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- how children are supported with nurture and care in a welcoming, family feel community.
- our happy, calm and fun environment full of enriching experiences.



Discover how our children grow in a school that is warm, supportive and alive with opportunities to flourish!



We'd love to show you around, answer your questions, and help you picture your child's exciting journey with us. Contact the School Office to book your individual tour.

01233 850285 or [office@high-halden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@high-halden.kent.sch.uk)

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## Cycle to School Week

Get pedal ready to go from A to B by Cycle, and enjoy all the benefits along the way—saving money, boosting health, and helping the environment.

Cycle to School Week 2025 takes place from Monday 13th – Friday 17th October. We encourage children to cycle or scoot to school safely.

- ✓ Don't forget your helmets.
- ✓ Please take extra care around pedestrians, cars, and when crossing roads.

# CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK '25

## Show Racism the Red Card Day

This year, on the 17th October, we are proud to be taking part in **Show Racism the Red Card**, a national campaign that uses the power of sport and education to challenge racism. On the day, we ask that **all children wear an item of red clothing** to show their support.

At school, we will be learning about:

- ✨ The importance of **diversity** – recognising and celebrating what makes each of us unique.
- ✨ **Tolerance and respect** – understanding that everyone deserves to be treated fairly and kindly.
- ✨ Standing up to racism – knowing how we can make a difference by challenging prejudice and promoting equality.

This is an important opportunity for our children to reflect on how they can help create a community that is safe, inclusive, and respectful for everyone. Together, we can show that racism has no place in our school or our society. ●

FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025  
**COFFEE  
MORNING**



In aid of  
**Macmillan Cancer Support**



**9:00-10:00am in the outdoor 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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# 1<sup>ST</sup> BETHERSDEN SCOUT GROUP

COME AND JOIN US WE HAVE SPACES !

SCOUT HUT, NORTON LANE  
BETHERSDEN TN263AL

### GROUP TIMES:

- Beavers: Thurs 5pm-6.30pm 5y9m- 8y
- Cubs: Tues 5.30pm-7pm 8y-10y5m
- Scouts: Tues 7pm-9pm 10y5m-14y



FREE TRIAL  
SESSIONS  
CONTACT NOW



GLV DANN - 07852878624  
CALL, TEXT OR WHATSAPP ANYTIME



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## Council preparing draft Local Plan for consultation

Ashford Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the borough and is inviting local communities to get involved in the process.

A Local Plan provides the opportunity to shape the places that we live, work and socialise. It addresses housing and employment needs and provides a series of planning policies covering many other topics such as community facilities and infrastructure, the natural and historic environment, adapting to climate change and achieving well designed places. Although the general principle of the plan is to encourage growth within the economy of Ashford and plan housing delivery, our Local Plan will also seek to protect Ashford's valued assets including our landscapes, heritage, and open spaces for leisure and nature.

Once adopted, the policies within a Local Plan are used as the starting point to decide planning applications for future development.

This consultation is the first formal consultation stage of the plan-making process and follows a series of community engagement events held last year entitled 'Our Local Plan Explained'. These events were held to engage the community at the earliest stage of the process so that the community could find out what the Local Plan is, how to get involved and to understand the plan-making process.

### **More details**

The draft Local Plan consultation documents are available to view on our website. Comments on the consultation are invited via the online consultation portal or print versions of the documents will be displayed at the Council offices and Ashford, Charing, Tenterden and Wye libraries. To support the consultation, the council is also planning on holding some 'in-person' community events across the borough throughout September and October 2025. These events will be followed by a virtual event for those who are unable or prefer not to attend in person.

The events are intended to be 'drop in' sessions open to all members of the community and residents may attend any of the events in any of the locations. More details on the events will be shared in due course.

Comments should be provided on the Council's online portal or alternatively, print versions of the representation forms can be found on the online portal and returned via email to [planning.policy@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@ashford.gov.uk) or via to the Plan Making & Infrastructure Team, Spatial Planning, Ashford Borough Council, International House, Dover Place, Ashford, TN23 1HU.

Representation forms will be available at all our in-person events. All comments must be provided by **5pm on Monday 13 October 2025**.

To find out more about the Local Plan please visit our [Local Plan webpage](#).

# Have your say on the draft Ashford Local Plan 2042



To find out more visit: [www.ashford.gov.uk/emerging-local-plan](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/emerging-local-plan)



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Kent Family Learning courses and workshops are free, parents, carers and grandparents, who are aged 19 years and above and who live in Kent and are intended to help create a better family life.

"Family First Aid" - a vital course designed to equip families with life-saving skills in managing incidents involving illness or injury. Whether it's a minor scrape or a more serious medical emergency, this course provides essential knowledge and practical techniques to help families respond effectively until medical help arrives.

At the moment, we have a number of spaces left, please do book online and make the most of this wonderful opportunity... you never know when you might need it!

When? 30th September 2025 at 1pm-3pm at the school.

<https://www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk/courses/family-first-aid-ash152225qpf/>



Broadening horizons.  
Since 1576.

**OPEN MORNING**  
**SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**BOOK ONLINE**

CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL FOR PUPILS AGED 2-18

## CALL FOR AUDITIONS

TENTERDEN DRAMA PRESENTS

Rodgers & Hammerstein's  
Smash-Hit Musical

# OKLAHOMA!

Coming to Smarden Charter Hall  
18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026

Auditions September 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm  
The Pavilion, Tenterden, TN30 6RA

Email  
todcommunications911@gmail.com  
to register interest

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## Looking to work in a school, that fits in around your family?

Join Aspire Education Academy's Fully Funded (FREE) Education Support Course.

Starting on **Monday 29th September!**

**Online ONLY Education Support Course with live webinars**

**Available in Levels 1, 2 & Level 3 progression**

### **Level 1**

NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools  
NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment  
NCFE CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing  
Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace

### **Level 2**

NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent  
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours

### **Level 3**

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

You'll receive guided support from our friendly tutors throughout the course of your choice.

**Simply go to the 'Education Support Course' tab on our website: [www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online)**

We run within school hours and ONLY in term time and not during half term/ end of term periods.

No previous experience required. All you need is access to the internet and a laptop or tablet.

Take advantage of this opportunity while it's still available.

Please go to: [www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online) and click on 'Education Support Courses' for more information.



**Fully Funded School Support Course**

**STUDY SMART**  
Free Online Courses

**Fully Funded Course**

**Aspire Education**

**[www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online)**

We are looking to fill 150+ School Support vacancies in local schools (e.g. SEN Support, Behaviour Mentors, 1-1 Classroom Support, Cover Supervisors etc). These roles are available in both full time and part time positions.

Please go to our website address given above, or scan the QR code for more information.

This is a 6 week course, full time, intensive course, with online guided learning sessions within school hours.  
If you are earning less than £23,500 per annum or are in receipt of any benefits, you will be eligible for a fully funded place with us.



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## Diary Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 25th September	Harvest Service
Friday 26th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning European Day of Languages
Wednesday 1st October	Flu Immunisations
Tuesday 7th October	Parents Evening
Thursday 9th October	Parents Evening
Friday 10th October	Hello Yellow Day
Friday 17th October	Show Racism the Red Card Day Last day of term 1
Monday 27th October	Term 2 begins

Thank you, love Oli x

# Oli's Walk UNDER THE Stars



**BETTESHANGER**  
COUNTRY PARK  
LIVE • LEARN • PLAY

**FREE PARKING**

**Saturday 18th October**

Advanced Tickets:  
Family: £25 | Adult: £10 | Child 3+: £5 | Under 3: Free

Join us for a magical family walk under the stars celebrating  
Oliver's memory and supporting The Oliver Steeper Foundation.

Use "STAR5" for £5 discount  
Offer Valid until 14/09/25

To book or for more information  
visit [www.tosf.org.uk](http://www.tosf.org.uk)

FREE  
GLOW  
STICKS

FREE  
GOODIE BAG  
FOR KIDS  
FOR COMPLETING  
THE TRAIL  
HUNT



**OLIVER STEEPER  
FOUNDATION**  
Registered Charity Number: 120967

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