

Halstow Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year, 2024 – 2025! We extend a special welcome to any new children and families joining our Halstow community. We hope you will be very happy here with us and look forward to working with you and your children as they move through the school. I hope you have all had a restful summer with your families and that the children are looking forward to seeing friends and teachers and are raring to go for some new learning!

We welcome Mrs Julia Mertens de Wilmars (Mrs Mertens in school) to our Reception teaching team. Radhika Mani, who has been a Midday Meal Supervisor, also joins the Reception teaching team as a support member of staff. I know you will all make them feel very welcome as they settle in.

Below you will find some reminders about key procedures and some information about a change to the dismissal procedures for Key Stage 2 children (Year 3-6). We also have a slight change to the daily timetable for these year groups, which is explained below.

We are all looking forward to seeing the children on Wednesday morning.

Yours sincerely,

Natasha Tilley

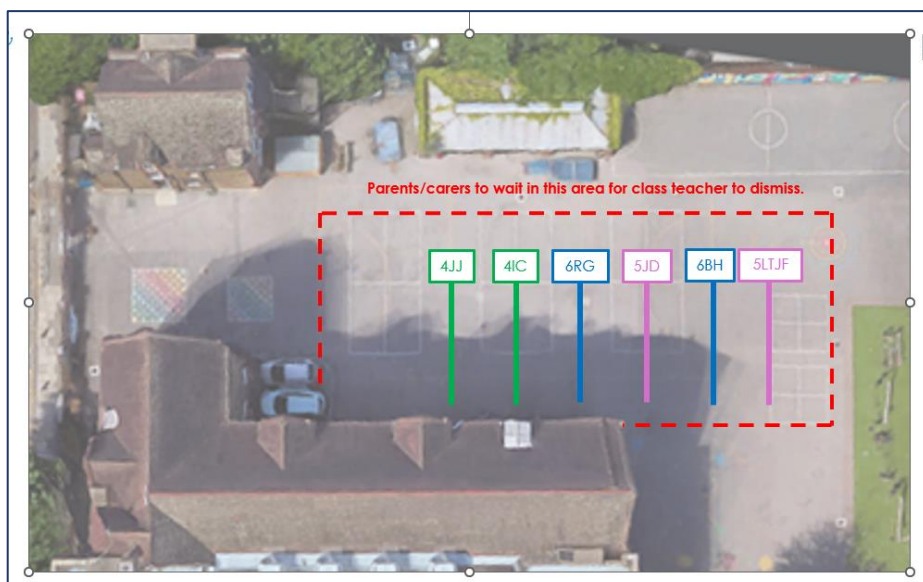
Start and End of the Day Procedures

Doors open for the children at 8:50am. Key Stage 1 children should enter via the School Office door but Key Stage 2 children can either enter via the School Office or Bell House staircase.

Dismissal procedures for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will remain the same i.e. Reception from the gate by their classroom door; Year 1 and Year 2 from their classroom doors inside the ground floor hall.

Changes to dismissal of Year 3 – 6:

We have reviewed the dismissal of Year 3 – 6 children in light of the congestion that occurs at the bottom of the steps. Year 3 children will continue to be dismissed from the steps (Mr Stoodley's from the Orchard staircase; Mrs Tyler's/Mrs Rowe's from the Bell House staircase). Year 4, 5 and 6 children will be taken in their lines, to the large playground where they will be dismissed by class teachers. Parents are asked to wait behind the indicated line. Please do not take your child from the line as they are walking out – the class teacher will not know where they have gone.



Playtimes and the Playground

This term we are beginning some work with an organisation called OPAL ([Home - Outdoor Play And Learning](#)). Please take a look at their website, which includes videos and information to find out the focus of their work with schools, but we will send out further information over the coming weeks of a gradual transformation in how the children use our playgrounds at Halstow.

There will also be some physical changes happening which will develop the options available to the children during their playtimes.

Morning playtimes and lunch times will be slightly extended for Year 3 – 6. They will not have an outdoor afternoon break but will have a break between lessons in class. The amount of playtime remains the same, but the longer sessions will give them better time to use resources.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 playtimes will remain the same.

Useful Resources

A flyer setting out our Home Learning expectations is now on our website in the [Useful Resources](#) section alongside some methods to support children with learning spelling, and a progression document for Maths Fluency including multiplication tables. You will see reference to Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots – watch this space for further information if you do not yet have a log in for your child.

We work closely with RBG's Attendance Advisory Service. Regular attendance is crucial for all children and means that children can access every piece of learning, progress through planned sequences and build strong friendships and relationships with adults. Our Attendance Leaflet for Parents can be found on our website via this link: [Attendance Leaflet for Parents](#).

Clothing and Jewellery

- Children should have a coat with them each day – we aim for them to play outside unless the weather is unsafe
- Appropriate footwear and clothing must be worn for PE
- Children should not wear jewellery other than stud earrings, to prevent injury during PE and playtimes

Contacting School Staff

All staff, including myself, are always happy to meet with you if you would like to discuss anything in particular, through the course of the year. Please contact me, or any staff, via the School Office (020 8858 2767) or hscontact@halstow.compassps.uk email address.

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2024	
September	
2 nd	INSET Day – School closed to children
3 rd	INSET Day – School closed to children
4 th	Children return for Autumn Term
13 th	First Halstow SpeakEasy
WB 23 rd	International Week of the Deaf
24 th	Individual and sibling school photographs – all children
October	Black History and LGBTQIA+ History Month
22 nd	Parents' Evening
23 rd	Parents' Evening
28 th – 1 st Nov	Half Term

November	
4 th	Children return to school
11 th – 15 th	Anti-Bullying Week Book Fair TBC

December	
11 th December	Christmas Lunch
17 th	Reception Christmas Celebration
18 th	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Celebration: 10am: Year 1 parents 2pm: Year 2 parents Year 5 and 6 Christmas Celebration 6pm: Year 5 parents
19 th	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Celebration: 10am: Year 3 parents 2pm: Year 4 parents Year 5 and 6 Christmas Celebration 6pm: Year 6 parents
20 th	Last day of Autumn Term