

# Halstow Primary School

**Welcome to Year One and Two**



**Information Booklet for Parents**

**2017/18**

## Welcome to Year 1 and 2

### Meet the team



**Mrs Sneller**



**Mr Clayton**



**Miss Taylor**



**Miss Holmes**



**Miss Bunzl**



**Vicky**



**Andrea**

Miss Bunzl covers release time for Miss Taylor on a Tuesday. Vicky covers release time for Mrs Sneller and Mr Clayton on Tuesday. Andrea covers release time for Miss Holmes every other Thursday.

The children have made a fantastic start to this academic year and are settling into routines well. We are looking forward to what we hope will be a very exciting year for them.



Hopefully this booklet will give you an insight into their life at school and will answer any questions you may have

Please feel free to speak to teachers at the end of the day if you have any further questions.

## **The Daily Routine**



School opens at 8.50 a.m. each day. This gives your child time to say goodbye to you in the playground and independently put away reading folders, drinks and packed lunches in their box. The children will then be ready to begin their first lesson at 9.00 a.m.

Most days your child's morning will consist of an hour of Literacy and an hour of Numeracy followed by assembly and then a guided reading session. Afternoons normally consist of the other curriculum areas – Science, Art, Music, Physical Education, Geography, History, Computing, Design and Technology, PSHE, Spanish and Religious Education.

The children have a 10 minute break in the morning and afternoon and have 1 hour 15 minutes for lunch. Fruit is offered at playtime and water fountains are in the playground for children to use. Children may also bring a drink of water in a plastic container (with their name on) to drink throughout the day.



The school day ends at 3.30 p.m. The class teacher will bring the children out to be collected from the small playground. Each teacher has a designated meeting point where you should collect them from. It is important for the children to follow the teacher to their designated area before being collected. This is so their teacher knows who they have gone with. Please ensure that your child knows who is collecting them or phone the office if this changes during the day.

## **Literacy**

Literacy lessons are planned, taking guidance from the new National Curriculum. During this session, part of the learning takes place on the carpet, as whole class teaching, and part takes place at tables, where children work either as part of a group or independently. Work is differentiated to reflect the different ability levels within the class. At the

end of each lesson we review the learning that has taken place, address any misconceptions and discuss the next steps.

Each term we have a topic that we try to link with our literacy wherever possible. For example we have used our current 'Rainforests' topic to inspire a retell, painting description, postcard, poetry and story-writing.



## Reading



There is a half hour guided reading session each day. Your child will be given a set day on which the teacher will hear them read. During the guided reading session, children will be given the opportunity to explore a range of genres from books kept in our library area, such as play scripts, picture books, non-fiction texts, and poetry. Guided reading sessions give children the opportunity to celebrate reading with one another and to explore and discuss the different books. The following day, your child will be given a follow up activity that relates to their guided reading book, for example, a comprehension activity, a book review or a story board.

On your child's reading day, the teacher will write in their reading home contact book. This gives the teacher the opportunity to monitor, support and develop your child's progress in reading. The teacher will also respond to any comments or queries you have written in the home contact book. During the session, children are reminded to change their home reading book for a new one, although if they would like to do this more frequently, they can. Book bags can be purchased from the school office.

It is important for your child to bring their book bag to school every day as they will have the opportunity to read their books when it is not their reading day. Additionally, when letters go home we ask the children to put them in their book bag to keep safe.

## **Handwriting**

At Halstow, we follow the continuous cursive style of handwriting. This means that all lower case letters start from the line with a leading in stroke and end with a leading out stroke. Once the children are forming all letters correctly, they progress to joining.

Handwriting is incorporated into our phonics teaching to make it relevant to the children and ensure they are given a chance to practice it every day.

## **Numeracy**

As with Literacy, we use the new National Curriculum to help plan our Numeracy lessons. Lessons usually begin with a ten minute session of 'mental' maths, where children focus on practising quick recall of number facts, such as number bonds to ten and twenty, mental arithmetic and times tables. We especially focus on 2s, 3s,



5s, and 10s which they are expected to know by the end of KS1. We then move on to the main teaching session where a specific strategy or skill is focused on. The children will have opportunities to put these skills into practice at their tables, either independently or collaboratively. Much of our maths teaching focuses on 'open questions', investigating and exploring and creating explanations, which enables children to draw on prior knowledge and make links between concepts.

## **Topics**

At Halstow, we firmly believe that children learn best when they are able to make connections in their learning. Each term we will be looking at a topic which will encompass many curriculum areas. We review the topics each year and topics may even change during the year as the curriculum is an organic process that is often affected by previous topics/learning and children's interests. We have chosen topics for this



year that we hope will captivate the children's interest and their enthusiasm for learning.

<b>Autumn</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
<u>Term 1</u> Rainforests	<u>Term 1</u> Around the World	<u>Term 1</u> London
<u>Term 2</u> Let Me Entertain You	<u>Term 2</u> Once Upon a Time	<u>Term 2</u> Monster Madness

All planning is written carefully using the new national curriculum to ensure that there is breadth and balance in the children's learning and that all objectives are being covered.

Some subjects, such as Physical Education, Religious Education, Computing and Music may not always link in with the theme being taught and may be taught as separate units of work during those times.

### **Computing**

Computing is used throughout the curriculum where appropriate, as well as being taught explicitly once a week. Children develop their skills in painting, word processing, information handling and control technology, through initial teaching input sessions followed by short independent tasks. Computing teaching and learning takes place in the classroom using laptops, tablets or pro-bots. We also allocate one lesson per term to discuss e-safety, as well as reinforcing this whenever laptops are used.



### **Science**

Where possible, Science is linked to our termly topic but is often taught explicitly on its own. Key Stage One Science focuses primarily on exploring

materials and living things as well as developing the skills for scientific enquiry, which can be taught in other curriculum areas, for example Geography and Forest Schools.

## **Music**



The children have a half hour music lesson with our specialist music teacher each week. We also have a half hour singing session each week, which is led by our specialist music teacher.

Children in Year 2 have the opportunity to begin tuition for the violin and piano.

## **Art**

The children will experience a wide range of art activities and be able to handle a range of media over the year working in both 2D and 3D form.

In the Summer term there is 'Arts Fortnight' where the children create a variety of art using different media, which is then celebrated at the 'Arts Festival' and displayed on the top floor.

## **Design and Technology**

The children participate in planning, designing and making a product to match a design brief; they then evaluate the process and the finished product. One unit of this will be food technology, where they will visit the cookery room on our top floor.



## **Geography/History**

Geography and History are planned for within the chosen topics for each year. Some topics will include both Geography and History, whilst others may only include one or the other. Our planning across the year ensures there is an equal balance of learning in the two subjects.

## Physical Education

PE is a compulsory part of the curriculum. It is planned in blocks and consists of four main elements:-

1. Dance
2. Gymnastics
3. Games
4. Athletics



For health and safety reasons, children are required to change into comfortable clothing for PE lessons. They will need shorts/tracksuit bottoms and a T- shirt for indoor PE, with the addition of trainers or plimsolls for outdoor lessons. Long hair must be tied back and earrings either removed or covered. **Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name!**

The children's PE kit is kept in the boxes outside their classroom. It can be brought in at the beginning of term and then taken home at the end of each term for washing.

## PE Timetable

Miss Holmes	Thursday and Friday
Miss Taylor	Tuesday and Thursday
Mr Clayton	Monday and Friday
Mrs Sneller	Monday and Tuesday

## Spanish



At Halstow we have a desire for our children to build an interest in and develop a love of language. We have chosen to teach Spanish as our Modern Foreign Language. Our learning is based on the new curriculum, using the Rachel Hawkes scheme of work as a framework to support our planning in a range of topics which progress from Reception to Year 6.

The focus is on children speaking Spanish; the key aspects of our teaching are:

- The desire to communicate.
- Opportunities for speaking and listening.
- Intercultural understanding.
- Repetition, Reinforcement and encouragement.
- Increasing confidence in reading and writing.



Class teachers follow the structured scheme from Reception to Year Six, teaching approximately thirty minutes per week. We are fortunate at Halstow to have confident Spanish speakers on teams across the key stages. In Key Stage One, Miss Taylor is fluent in Spanish and is able to extend learning, both in class and planning sessions.

### **Religious Education**

We are currently following the Greenwich Education Authority's recommended syllabus. During the year the children will learn about Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Sikhism.

Children also develop their independent thinking skills during these sessions and are encouraged to reflect on philosophical questions that may accompany the lesson.

### **Personal Social and Health Development**

At Halstow, we believe it is important to develop the children's personal and social skills. This enables them to be able to work and play cooperatively with their peers and treat others with care and respect. The children participate in a weekly 'circle time' activity which helps develop self-esteem, speaking and listening skills and also gives an opportunity to share feelings and views. The same theme is explored and expanded upon during assembly time throughout the week.

### **Home Learning**

The children have a busy day at school and will probably come home tired out! Home learning for the young children at Halstow should be done in short bursts and takes the form of supporting reading and spelling at home. The children should be aiming to read for about ten minutes each night – regularly recording home reading in your child's home reading record enables their class teacher to monitor their progress.

Spellings will be identified from the high frequency word lists, which you will find attached in your child's reading diary. These will be reviewed and ticked off the list once your child has mastered the spelling. When your child is confident with the high frequency word list, spellings will be taken from your child's literacy book and recorded in their reading home contact book. These words will be specific to your child and we ask that you help them learn these at home and we will support them in school. Teachers will also check these words with children when we read once a week.

## Assessment



Assessment is a continuous process that takes place throughout all of our lessons, for example through the use of open questioning, observations of the children and listening to explanations. These assessments are used to inform our next lessons and targets for the children.

Assessments in reading, writing, spelling and maths are carried out at various points of the year to ensure that the children are making the expected progress and to pinpoint areas in which they may need further support. During the summer term Year Two children are assessed using school based and external assessment tasks in reading, spelling, grammar and maths. However, teachers make the final assessments of children against the expected standard which can be found on the website. Additionally Year One children are now assessed in Phonics in the summer term and parents are informed of the results of this assessment in the end of year report.

## Attendance

At Halstow we emphasise the importance of coming to school **every day** and arriving on time, ready to learn. Our attendance target for this academic year is 97.5% for each child. Each week, we publish the weekly school attendance figure in the newsletter.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend, please contact the school to inform us of the absence as early as possible. We have a school attendance officer who visits regularly to monitor the attendance and punctuality of all our pupils.

## Important Dates

Learning outside the classroom is a wonderful opportunity for the children and we feel it really enriches our topics. We have several exciting trips planned this year, so please let your child's class teacher know if you are able to come along. As always, we appreciate adult support on trips and in fact rely on adult volunteers to go on planned trips.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Rainforest Day. Children are invited to dress up as rainforest animals or any sort of rainforest themed dress. We will have a day full of special activities to celebrate our first topic!

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November-  
Circus Skills workshop

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November- RE trip to  
St. John's Church in Blackheath for Mrs  
Sneller and Miss Taylor

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November- RE trip to St. James  
in Kidbrooke for Miss Homes and Mr Clayton



Summer 1: Visit to Tower of London. Dates to be confirmed.

## **Communication**



We value the relationships with our parents. Please check our website and twitter feed for information about school events and fantastic pictures from the week. A weekly newsletter will be emailed for any important information and dates.

We welcome communication with parents and value your contributions with regards to your child's social and academic progress. It is important that if you have any queries, issues or concerns you speak to your child's teacher in the first instance so that an appropriate course of action can be taken straight away. If you need to speak to your child's teacher please do not hesitate to make an appointment either before or after school by speaking to them at home time or phoning the school office.

We encourage parent/family volunteers to support us both in projects throughout the year, such as Arts Fortnight, and on a more regular basis, such as hearing children read. Do let your child's class teacher know if you would like to be involved in such things.

We hope that you find this information booklet useful. We look forward to an exciting and productive year!

**Miss Taylor, Mr Clayton, Mrs Sneller and Miss Holmes**

**The Year One and Two Team**